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CONTACT: Clint Deschene, Director of Innovation

PHONE: (207) 478-5069

EMAIL: info@ignitepi.org

IGNITE PI ESTABLISHES LEADERSHIP ROLE IN PRESQUE ISLE

*Clint Deschene to Head New Non-Profit for Economic Development Highlighting
Co-Workspace, Innovation Center and Think Tank*

Presque Isle, ME, January 4, 2021 —Ignite Presque Isle (IGNITE PI) is a newly formed community development nonprofit organization working to establish a physical business location in the City of Presque Isle to serve as a co-workspace, networking hub, and innovation center. Federal accreditation status as a 501c3 non-profit is pending from the Internal Revenue Service and is expected in mid-2021. Established in late 2020, Ignite PI is also exploring status as a Maine Benefit Corporation, which are required to have a purpose that is not only mission driven, but also a tangible positive impact on society and the environment.

Clint Deschene will serve as Director of Community Innovation for IGNITE PI. Clint has worked behind the scenes to bring this much needed resource to fruition. Ignite PI will formally make its debut in Presque Isle in early 2021. As a visionary, Clint will bring a passion for his hometown in the establishment of Ignite PI as a forward-thinking entity that will instill a progressive attitude with integrity in every initiative and project they undertake. “The future of Presque Isle is up to us. Hoping for a better future or waiting for something to happen is not a plan. It is my dream and goal to set a direction for success. Every project or program that Ignite PI undertakes will be a testament to the never quit attitude, the work-ethic, and the love we all have for our home!”

Ignite PI will be governed by a seven-member board of directors. The founding four board members have been working diligently to secure nonprofit status with State and Federal entities. The Board members are Ryan D. Pelletier, chairperson, and three board members Julie French, Bruce Sargent, and Patricia Sutherland. These four are working to round out the full board with daring, dedicated people that share the common goal to set a path forward for the City of Presque Isle. “When I was approached to be a part of this innovative approach, I couldn’t say no. For years we have looked to others to step up and volunteer to make a difference. Ignite PI brings the support structure and the capacity to make these dreams a reality.” said Pat Sutherland, board member. “The establishment of Ignite PI will bring sustainability and new ideas while keeping the integrity of our Star City values in place.”

It is the goal of Ignite PI to use fundraising revenues, donations, membership fees, and grant proceeds to build the structure of an economic development agency that prioritizes the City of Presque Isle. Ignite PI will be developed as a place for aspiring entrepreneurs to work and network as they establish a new business to create a synergy that will be contagious in the City. As the organization waits for their official 501c3 status, the Northern Maine Development Commission will serve as their fiscal sponsor. Together with Ignite PI, NMDC is pleased to announce a \$300,000 grant award from the Rodney and Mary Barton Smith Family Foundation for this new, innovative nonprofit. “It is an honor to work with the Rodney and Mary Barton Smith Family Foundation to bring a vision and future to the City of Presque Isle. Throughout

my career I have felt that localized efforts were the missing piece to economic vitality. It is my pleasure to administer this grant as fiscal sponsor on behalf of Ignite PI and the Foundation.” Bob Clark, Executive Director, NMDC.

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Ignite PI (IGNITE PI) is a 501c3 nonprofit organization registered with the State of Maine. Federal accreditation is pending and is expected in mid-2021. Ignite PI is working to establish a physical business location in the City of Presque Isle to serve as a co-workspace, networking hub, and innovation center. Ignite PI envisions itself as the compliment to all organizations dedicated to make the City of Presque Isle succeed. It is the goal of Ignite PI to use fundraising revenues, donations, membership fees, and grant proceeds to build the structure of an economic development agency that prioritizes the City of Presque Isle. Ignite PI will be developed as a place for aspiring entrepreneurs to work and network as they establish a new business to create a synergy that will be contagious in the City.

If you would like more information, please contact Clint Deschene, Director of Community Innovation at (207) 478-5069, or email info@ignitepi.org.