



Timmins Chamber of Commerce  
Chambre de Commerce de Timmins

## **Community Outreach Committee Annual Update 2006-2007**

### **Mandate**

As a standing committee, Community Outreach provides the Timmins Chamber of Commerce with the opportunity to express its vision and carry out its mission to community members who are not our usual audience. Through community outreach, we strive to increase awareness and interest and to create opportunity for community enrichment. We extend the Chamber's expertise and resources to our broader community, including those living and working further afield through education, participation, and events.

### **Members**

Suzanne Pettigrew, NorthernTel – **Chair**  
Micheal Miller, Mamo-Nuskomitowin – **Co-chair**  
Bruce Cowan, The Daily Press  
Ken Petersen, Petersen Consulting  
Joel Bergeron, BMT Insurance and Financial Services  
Marilyn Wood, Mikro-Tek Inc.  
Diane Riopel, Ojibway and Cree Cultural Centre  
Julie Racette-Belanger, Grand & Toy

### **2006-2007 Year in Review**

- Authored Letter to re-enforce the need for a Community Development Officer position in Timmins (November 2006) The City did include this position in a recent re-structuring
- Charter Bag Program: "Ways to Get Your Cargo Home" information sheet was provided to air travellers and to the Timmins Square customer service booth Tips were included on how to best move around the City (December 2006)
- Wrote a letter to Mayor Tom Laughren, encouraging City Council to develop an efficient communications plan in regards to the people of Kashechewan in the event of emergency flooding (March 2007)
- Presentation by David Shaw on the Urban Aboriginal Entrepreneurial Study. Mr. Shaw highlighted issues and concerns regarding Aboriginal entrepreneurship in Timmins. (March 2007)
- Supported the Learning Together Conference held April 3-5 at the Days Inn, with the focus being on the mining industry (April 2007)
- Created and distributed the Aboriginal Front Line FAQ information sheet to the membership in order to increase awareness and understanding for an important, growing segment of our local consumer market (November 2006)

- Developed Francophone community FAQ - reference tool to better incorporate the French language into the every day operation of businesses (June 2007)

#### Key Issues

- Outreach to the First Nations community in order to increase the Chamber's presence within the Aboriginal Community. More promotion and participation is needed
- Lobby other Chamber of Commerce's to get involved with regionalization through partnering efforts with the Northeastern Chamber of Commerce
- Support the funding application for an Aboriginal Entrepreneurship Centre to provide more support, coaching and exposure to this demographic
- Identifying and implementing programs that promotes Aboriginal awareness in the business community
- Hosting various workshops that may further encourage Aboriginal employability, education and training