



Timmins Chamber of Commerce
Chambre de commerce de Timmins

**ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
ANNUAL UPDATE
2006-2007**

MANDATE:

The Economic and Business Development Committee is a standing committee of the Timmins Chamber of Commerce. It serves as the “Voice of Business” in developing advocacy positions to remove barriers to doing business, as well as acting as a catalyst for developing and implementing policies that will create a more appealing, self-sustaining and healthier business climate for the membership. The committee seeks to achieve its mandate through partnership with various organizations and examining all levels of government policies and/or legislation (local, regional, provincial, and federal).

MEMBERS:

Gord Conley, Riopelle Grenier Professional Corporation – Chair
Marilyn Wood, Mikro-Tek Inc. – Co-Chair
Dave Roberts, NorthernTel – Past President (2005-2006)
Amina Sohail – Bank of Montreal
Anita Damini – Downtown Timmins (BIA)
Bruce Cowan – The Daily Press
Cheryl St-Amour – Timmins Economic Development Corporation
Art Pultz – Rogers Communication (Q92/EZ Rock)
Dan Charbonneau – Gord’s Rentals
Martin Rupnik – Xstrata Copper
Gary Marriott – NorthernTel
Rodney Martin – TechKnowledge Solutions Ltd. – Xerox
Joel Bergeron – BMT Insurance
Joshua Bond - Riopelle Grenier Professional Corporation
Ken Petersen – Petersen Consulting
Marc Leroux – Realty Networks Inc.
Steve Kidd – Ontera (Past President 2003-2004)
Lorenzo Melchiorre – Xstrata Copper
Matt Duquette – Community First Credit Union
Michael Miller – Mamo-Nuskomitowin
Mike Feldman – Personal Member
Phil Barton – Algonquin Business Computers
Remi Boileau – Theriault Plumbing
Rick Briand – HSBC Bank Canada
Nancy Mageau – CIBC
Robert Riopelle – Riopelle Grenier Professional Corporation
Julie Racette – Belanger – Grand and Toy
Syl Belisle – Highgrader Magazine
Tori Hanson – Northern College of Applied Arts and Technology

Martin Godmarie – Enterprise Rent-A-Car Ltd.
Suzanne Gauthier – CIBC
Darcy Bouley – Cell-North Communications Inc.
David Bucar – Goldcorp
Tom Laughren – City of Timmins (Past President 2005-2006)
Elizabeth Lake – The Healthy Hive
Yanick Tremblay – Topper's Pizza
Gary Scripnick – Weed Man

2006-2007 YEAR IN REVIEW:

- Created Provincial/Federal Business Assistance Programs List to be used as a point of reference for businesses seeking funding assistance. (October 2006)
- Chamber organized lobbying for passing of Business Education Tax legislation, which promises to bring significant savings to businesses of up to \$3 billion by 2014 (April 2007)
- Organized a member presentation on the Provincial Budget by Minister David Ramsay (March 2007)
- Hosted Lorne Feldman Presentation on the development of the Morris A Feldman Project (April 2007)
- Received Advocacy Award from the OCC for lobbying for the lowering of Municipality business taxes (May 2007)
- Hosted a presentation on the City's new water rates system by Greg Vaillancourt, Director of Public Works, Engineering and Maintenance, City of Timmins, highlighting how the city intends to implement a revenue neutral water and sewer policy (January 2007) which allowed the committee to create a draft position paper.
- Made a presentation on the Municipal Budget to City Council, emphasizing the city's operating costs in relation to its population (March 2007)
- Distributed a booklet on the Provincial Accessibility Act. The booklet was made available with information on implementation and business compliance for the new legislation (February 2007)
- Reviewed Red Flag Issues from Business Retention and Expansion Outreach for the membership; study provided themes facing businesses in the area (November 2006)
- Created policy: Creating a Competitive Climate for the Mining Industry in Ontario as this will affect business development and attraction of mining companies to Ontario (April 2007) which was presented to the Ontario Chamber of Commerce and the Ministry of Finance
- Created policy: Reducing Energy Costs in Northeastern Ontario requesting a competitive energy rate for industry (April 2007) which was presented to the Minister of Natural Resources and the Ministry of Energy
- Created policy: Long Term Allocation of Crown Wood in an attempt to create a system (April 2007) which was presented to the Ontario Chamber of Commerce and the Ministry of Natural Resources
- Members of the Committee met with Ken Passmore, Senior Advisor with the Northeastern Ontario Export Development Initiative to discuss support for our members who would like to develop their export potential
- Continued lobbying on the RST Policy with presentations to the Chiefs of Ontario and the Ministry of Finance

- Worked with the Ontario Chamber of Commerce to have the province re-align the Business Education Tax which means a savings of more than \$2.9 million per year to businesses in Timmins starting in 2009

KEY ISSUES:

- RST collection policy: taking the burden off businesses – making the province more accountable
- Municipal Purchasing By-Law: How should the City market tenders more fairly and locally?
- City Water Rates: supporting a revenue neutral and self-sustaining system that will adequately address the City's depleting infrastructure while reflecting the price
- Red Flag Issues from Business Retention and Expansion Outreach
- Provincial Accessibility Act – how best businesses can comply with the Act
- City Operational Budget Review: presentation regarding how the City can best operate on a more cost-effective budget
- Gas Prices: discrepancy between companies and regions
- Minimum Wage Increase: how this affects businesses in Timmins
- Proportional Representation and how this new election strategy may affect this region
- Develop a plan of action on how to increase the Chamber's advocacy profile in the community
- Planning for the upcoming Provincial Meet the Candidates event
- Supporting the Timmins Economic Development Corporation and the City of Timmins in the development of BizPal, an on-line, one stop website for forms and permits required to start a business