



2011-2012 ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

1. Energy Policy Task Force

Chair: Gary Marriott

Energy needs continue to be a pressure point for development in Northern Ontario. The Chamber has a standing policy on using energy rates for economic development. The policy needs to be updated.

Proposed activities: Policy update, roundtable on issues, private sector calls.

2. Supply & Service Sector Support Committee

Chair: Bill Belanger

The continued rise in mining activity in Northern Ontario and around the world is leading to a growing number of opportunities for companies in the supply and services sector. This committee will seek to help Timmins companies to access and leverage such opportunities through programs focusing on education, networking, and business awareness. The group's work will also involve examining avenues and potential partnerships for involvement in the so-called "Ring of Fire," a metal-rich world-class find located in Ontario's Far North.

Proposed activities: Develop programs and support activities such as cultural training, list of IBA Co-ordinators in the region for use by the members, etc.

3. Vision 2020 Committee

Chair: Art Pultz

Vision 2020 is a plan that will provide direction for economic and community development over the next 10 years in Timmins. Led by Timmins Chamber of Commerce board members – both past and present – this task force will identify priorities within the plan to be championed by the business community. This project was enacted after the closure of the Xstrata Metallurgical Site. Development of this vision must be implemented strategically in order to help Timmins flourish as a great place to work, live and play.

Proposed activities: Review the CAC Vision 2020 document; make recommendations to the Board on projects to proceed with and in which priority while keeping the key areas (housing, quality of life, labour shortage, etc.) in mind.



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4. Board Special Projects Committee:

Chair: Phil Barton

Every year, the Timmins Chamber of Commerce's Board of Directors will take up a specific project to assist with the promotion or development of the community; this year, this will involve taking on a commemorative project or event to help Timmins celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2012. This task force will focus its efforts on the organization and coordination of this project, as well as helping to provide a theme to existing events to help the business community ring in this momentous occasion.

Proposed activities: research a number of potential projects to proceed with and create a budget for consideration for approval by the Board, create communication pieces with the members to encourage their support of the selected projects.

5. Transportation Task Force

Chair: Alan Thorne

Efficient transportation and appropriate infrastructure are critical to the development and sustainability of a supportive business environment, whether it be rail, road or air. A strong structural backbone is critical to the creation of jobs in Timmins, and this committee will seek to develop advocacy positions to improve related developments within the area. A series of roundtables will be hosted to develop an action plan.

Proposed activities: Update the Chamber 10 point airport plan, host a roundtable on the update, and present the findings to Council.

6. Municipal Affairs Committee

Chair: Phil Barton

This committee will focus on working with municipal agencies, officials, and administration to ensure a strong business climate at the heart of the City of Timmins. By identifying opportunities and barriers to doing business, the Municipal Affairs committee will act as a catalyst for the development and implementation of policies that will create sustainable and healthy business climate. From designated zoning to land-development-readiness and red tape reduction, this work will allow for more progressive planning as Timmins looks to the future. Roundtable discussions will include housing, development, municipal budget, among others.

Proposed activities: Identify barriers to development, investigate cause of barriers, host roundtable on development issues, discuss all municipal issues (centre of excellence, planning, etc.), develop and present the municipal budget presentation



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7. **Government Regulation and Policy Committee**

Chair: Christine Leclair

The government regulation and policy committee will work as an important umbrella group that will examine, develop and advocate for policies touching on legislative and regulatory issues identified by members of the Timmins Chamber of Commerce. This advocacy work will be focused on issues such as energy rates, forestry, the Far North Act, and FedNor policy, among others; by representing members' interests at the municipal, provincial and federal levels, this committee will ensure the stability and continued growth of Timmins' business climate.

Proposed activities: Review and update all existing Chamber policies, develop and submit provincial and federal policy for consideration by the Ontario and Canadian Chamber, communicate policies with the members

8. **Population Growth**

Chair: Claude Gagnon

The population growth taskforce will identify why contract workers do not relocate to Timmins, but rather choose to work Monday-Friday in temporary accommodations and return to their base communities on weekends. The taskforce will also work to identify which community entity is best positioned to develop an internal and external marketing campaign promoting the benefits of Timmins-living, the bilingual composition of our community and the job opportunities for skilled professionals and identify where the Chamber's role lies within this campaign.