

MEDIA RELEASE



**ONTARIO
CHAMBER of
COMMERCE**

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TIMMINS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE RECEIVES PROVINCIAL AWARD

LONDON: The Timmins Chamber of Commerce has received provincial recognition for its successful efforts to reduce the commercial property tax burden in the municipality.

The Chamber's campaign to reduce commercial tax rates was one of two initiatives from local chambers of commerce in Ontario to receive an Advocacy Award at the Ontario Chamber of Commerce Annual General Meeting in London on the weekend.

"By successfully advocating for reduced commercial tax rates, the Timmins Chamber has invested in business development and job creation in the community," explains Len Crispino, President & CEO of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce.

For several years the Timmins Chamber has been encouraging City Council to reduce the relative tax burden on commercial property taxpayers. Until recently, commercial ratepayers were paying roughly half. And Timmins was not competitive with other jurisdictions in Ontario in terms of commercial tax rates. The 2006 decision by City Council to reduce the commercial tax rates was in line with recommendations by the Timmins Chamber.

Following are some of the reasons the Timmins Chamber initiative was chosen for the Advocacy Award:

- The campaign brought significant positive results to the business community
- The campaign succeeded in achieving lower commercial tax rates of 13%
- The lower tax rates will result in savings of \$1.2 million dollars to business and will result in improved business development and job creation
- The campaign successfully raised the Chamber's profile in the community and has contributed to a 10% increase in membership

Marilyn Wood, 1st Vice-President, Mary-Lou Pollon, 2nd Vice President and Keitha Robson, General Manager, of the Timmins Chamber of Commerce were on hand to receive the award.

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The OCC represents over 57,000 businesses through 160 local Chambers of Commerce and Boards of Trade, and has been Ontario's business advocate since 1911. Its advocacy and policy initiatives focus on six areas key to the economic well-being of the province: health; education; energy; finance & taxation; transportation & infrastructure; and border issues.

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