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**For Immediate Release**

**CHAMBERS COME TO TOGETHER TO DISCUSS WHAT'S GOOD FOR THE REGION**

**[Timmins] – April 13, 2006.** On Wednesday evening, April 12<sup>th</sup>, the Cochrane Board of Trade hosted for the very first time an information session with the Timmins Chamber of Commerce. This informal meeting took place in the friendly confines of the Polar Bear Habitat and Heritage Village and was organized by Dan Cook, director of the Cochrane Board of Trade & Tom Laughren, President of the Timmins Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Luc Duval, President of the Cochrane Board of Trade welcomed Mr. Tom Laughren, its directors and its Manager.

The principal focus of the evening was to discuss opportunities and challenges facing northern communities, from the perspective of tourism and economic development. The impetus for the meeting was to establish stronger ties between Chambers, enhance regional opportunities and build on our individual successes. Both chambers felt very strongly, that they can be one of the catalysts that can enhance the overall vision of tourism and economic diversity in Northern Ontario. Several concepts and ideas were presented, which initiated very interesting results.

To instill positive changes, both Boards agreed that success is achieved by getting involved with organizations such as Economic Development Corporations and Tourism organizations. On a regional basis, this meeting proved that we have many similarities in our visions and missions. By working together, the Chambers believe that we have a great opportunity to attract new partners and provide a solid foundation to prosperity in Northern Ontario.

At the conclusion of this meeting, both organizations agreed on convening once again in the summer and a regional initiative is already in the works. It is an exciting time for both communities and we look forward to expanding our focus group by including other area Chambers to participate in this endeavor.

“We have agreed to work on one or two items that may have the highest impact for both communities and the region,” stated Luc Duval, Cochrane Board of Trade President.

“This meeting was a result of our shared desire to see our communities benefit from activity in the region. The Chamber, as a business organization, understands that what is good for Cochrane is good for Timmins and vice versa,” said Tom Laughren, Timmins Chamber President, “We are encouraged by this first step to have the business communities, through their Chamber, working together on ideas that will enhance the region.”