

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE
ANNUAL UPDATE
2008-2009**

CHAIR: BARRY MARTIN

CO-CHAIR: JOEL BERGERON

The Community Outreach Committee is a standing committee of the Timmins Chamber of Commerce. Outreach provides the Timmins Chamber of Commerce with the opportunity to express its vision and carry out its mission to community members who may not be our usual audience. Through outreach, the committee strives to instill awareness and interest and to create opportunity for community enrichment by extending the chamber's expertise and resources to our broader community, and those living and working further afield through education, participation, and events.

MEMBERS:

Barry Martin - *Genivar*
Bruce Cowan – *The Daily Press*
Diane Riopel – *Ojibway & Cree Cultural Centre*
Fred Gibbons - *Northern College of Applied Arts & Technology*
Janick Nadeau – *Northern College of Applied Arts & Technology*
Joel Bergeron – *BMT Insurance & Financial Services*
Julie Racette-Belanger – *Grand & Toy*
Micheal Miller – *Wabun Tribal Council*
Mike Metatawabin – *Five Nations Energy*
Rob Galloway – *Galloway and Galloway Executive Services*
Yanick Tremblay - *Ontario Power Generation/Topper's Pizza*

2008-2009 Year In Review:

- Discussed creation of rules / guide to “*Working with First Nations*” for business members. Encouraging members to reach out to all possible markets and how to properly conduct business with First Nations communities and put partnerships into place (November 2008);
- Investigated possible keynote speakers, including Chief Louie
- Ongoing outreach discussed. Noted need for Timmins business to reach out to First Nations and Francophone community so as not to miss out on business opportunities;
- Discussed existing joint ventures between aboriginal and non-aboriginal organizations;
- Discussed landlord/tenant issues;
- Developed concept package aimed at out of town visitors; package promotes services and special promotions of member businesses; designed to promote our region as a regional centre to outlying communities. Package for pick up at the Tourism Information Centre at the Chamber office and during in local community and city member businesses; going beyond Charter Bags at Christmas time to highlight other times of the year (December 2008-May 2009);
- Issued correspondence to Minister of Aboriginal Affairs Brad Duguid addressing the opportunity and benefits to establishing a ministry-presence (physical location) in Timmins (January 2009);
- Received response from Minister Duguid stating current economic circumstances prevent the establishment of a local presence in Timmins (March 2009);
- First Nations engagement: issued invitation to the First Nations Chiefs who are honorary members of the Timmins Chamber of Commerce to join the Community Outreach Committee and/or attend meetings as special resource persons (February);

Key Issues

- Ongoing community outreach to non-traditional audiences;
- Identifying opportunities to engage francophone and aboriginal communities;
- Promoting the Chamber, its members and its mandate to non-traditional audiences.