

# Timmins Chamber of Commerce Chambre de commerce de Timmins

June 8, 2006

The Honourable Jim Prentice, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Indian Affairs  
House of Commons, Parliament Buildings  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Honourable Minister:

The Timmins Chamber of Commerce, as the leading business organization in the City of Timmins, would like to draw your attention to the issue of crisis in and for the residents of Kashechewan First Nation. This is not only an issue for that community, or for our City as the key economic centre for the James Bay Coast, but for our region.

While the residents of many of the communities along the James Bay Coast have been undergoing training to work on the De Beers Victor Project, the First Nation of Kashechewan has dealt with water quality, fire, flood and evacuation. This instability has caused their residents to miss out on the same opportunities afforded to their neighbours for employment and community economic development.

We understand that you are currently taking action to develop a plan for the re-development of this community and we look forward to seeing the necessary investment desperately needed for the community and its residents to achieve a sustainable community and economy. The community needs stability and Federal funding support to secure a strong future and have an opportunity to benefit from the employment and business opportunities related to the Victor Diamond Mine and any future resource development.

If we, as the local business community, can play a role, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours truly,

Tom Laughren  
2005-2006 President  
Timmins Chamber of Commerce

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cc. Charlie Angus, M.P., Timmins -James Bay  
Dave McGirr, TEDC Board President  
Mayor Victor M. Power, City of Timmins  
Chief Leo Friday, Kashechewan First Nation  
Grand Chief Stan Loutitt, Mushkegowuk Council

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