

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Racism, rudeness is bad for business

Along with my wife and sons, I bought a house and moved to Timmins to provide more opportunities for my family. Frankly, I think they've done very well. We've also met many good, warm-hearted and sincere people since we've moved here, and I think we've been blessed for that.

We are an Aboriginal family from up North. Life in Timmins for the large part has been good. We have everything we need, including family and friends.

Unfortunately, we've also come across Timmins' bad side.

I know when we speak to some people, they may say every city or town has its bad people, and I think they are correct. What makes me feel bitter is

that some of those bad people are owners and employees of businesses in the city of Timmins.

Don't get me wrong. I've walked into a few businesses where the employees or owners are very friendly and we can have a friendly conversation even if they don't know me.

But there are other businesses where the employees or owners are downright rude, racist and cold. I have experienced this many times in different locations around the city. My most recent experience occurred on Dec. 28.

I consider myself as a person who can stand up for myself, but each and every time this happens, I'm a little shocked and lost for words. It totally ruined my day and every time I think about it, the thought of moving somewhere else enters my mind.

I mentioned to some friends that maybe it was because I look like an old

Indian with greying hair, wearing old blue jeans, a T-shirt, and a fleece jacket. Maybe they thought I was "one of those people" that hang around the LCBO (although I do admit to entering the place every now and again) with their hands out.

My friends all say race or appearance shouldn't matter and my money is just as good as the next person's. They are right, but the truth is that it just doesn't happen that way all of the time in the City with a Heart of Gold.

The Timmins Chamber of Commerce should really take some responsibility to address this issue with its members. If some of the businesses in this city wish to attract spending from the Aboriginal sector in Northeastern Ontario, then they have to learn that being rude and racist is not the way to accomplish that.

Pat Chilton (Sr.),  
Timmins

### LETTERS POLICY

The DAILY PRESS welcomes letters to the editor. All letters must be signed and include a daytime telephone number where the writer can be reached for verification. Letters must include a first name or two first initials. Anonymous letters will not be considered for publication.

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### A LOOK BACK

**One Year Ago** — The Canadian Red Cross and local charities were inundated with donations for victims of the Asian tsunami. Coun. Yves Malette challenged city council to answer the call for all Ontario municipalities to donate \$1,000.

**10 Years Ago** — After opening the store in 1992, Dave and Judy Kujanpaa sold Dave's Your Independent Grocer in Timmins to Phil Fleury.

**25 Years Ago** — McChesney Lumber Kings coach Frank Jezic accepted the Silver Cup from Mayor Vic Power after losing the championship game to Sudbury in the Smiling M's bantam tournament in Timmins.