

# Timmins Chamber of Commerce Chambre de commerce de Timmins

February 16, 2007

The Honourable Rick Bartolucci  
Minister of Northern Development and Mines  
99 Wellesley St. West, Whitney Block, Room 5630  
Toronto, ON M7A 1W3

Dear Minister Bartolucci,

Congratulations on the recent launch of the six new NOHFC programs. We have been busy at our Chamber actively promoting these programs to our 615 business members.

It is through that promotion that a concern has arisen from the businesses considering the programs: insurance.

Last year, our Chamber made a recommendation (see attached) that all government reduce the insurance requirement from \$5 million to \$2 million so that more businesses could afford to participate in government procurement. It is our understanding that the Ministry of Government Services has made this happen through all front line ministries in the Ontario government.

The \$5 million insurance liability coverage seems only to be maintained on NOHFC programs which can be a deterrent to some businesses wishing to access the programs. We understand that this insurance requirement is often reduced for organizations that prove hardship yet NOHFC maintains a \$5million coverage requirement for business.

We ask that the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines, through you as Chair of NOHFC, reduce the insurance requirements to \$2 million across the programs this allowing an increased participation rate and a reduced financial burden on businesses wishing access to the programs.

We thank you in advance for your consideration and we look forward to hearing from you on this matter.

Sincerely,



Ken Petersen  
2006-2007 President  
Timmins Chamber of Commerce

P.O. Box 985  
Timmins, ON  
P4N 7H6  
☎ (705) 360-1900  
📠 (705) 360-1193  
✉ krobson@timminschamber.on.ca  
🌐 www.timminschamber.on.ca



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🌐 [www.timminschamber.on.ca](http://www.timminschamber.on.ca)

