



Media Release

For Immediate Release

Business conference lends regional economic perspectives

Friday May 30, 2008 (TIMMINS) -On Wednesday, the Timmins Chamber of Commerce hosted its *Timmins Regional Economic Outlook* Conference at Northern College's Porcupine Campus, with over 120 participants in attendance. As the theme for *TREO 2008* implies, those in attendance were given the opportunity to "*Get in the Know*" about the region's current and anticipated economic development.

According to Debbie Browne, TREO Organizing Committee Co-Chair, "We are delighted to see the turnout for this event. From the outset, we planned an engaging and ambitious agenda with the hopes of sharing lessons learned and exploring ways of addressing some of the challenges that we all face as business people." According to Browne, this edition of TREO not only served as a forum in which to participate in discussions about some of the most important issues facing the northeastern Ontario business community, but also an unparalleled opportunity to share knowledge, network with colleagues and develop new contacts within the business community.

Chamber President Marilyn Wood shared Browne's enthusiasm for the event's success. "TREO is a conference that enables everyone involved to take home new information, resources and contacts. When members of the business community come out in full force to participate and share with one another, it is truly a remarkable demonstration of the strength of the network in Timmins' business community."

Two of the event's three panel presentations focused on the forestry and mining sectors, while a third panel was dedicated to other development and economic diversification in the region. Also featured at the event were presentations from Timmins Mayor Tom Laughren, Timmins Economic Development Corporation Chair Dave McGirr, and the Ministry of Northern Development's Growth Plan Advisor, Ellen Sinclair. [For a complete list of panelists and presenters, click here.](#)

The forestry panel comprised a diverse array of participants from large forestry companies, such as Grant Forest Products, to smaller organizations, such as Woodchuckers Manufacturing, which specializes in making cedar products such as Muskoka chairs, hot tubs and gazebos. Those attending the event were given insight into the various perspectives held by members of the forest industry, from the challenges of access to wood fiber, to the ever-changing and global competitive landscape. Delegates also heard the positive perspectives from panelists who have successfully adapted to the changing industry and who continue to find innovative ways to overcome obstacles to growth.

The development panel provided insight into what Timmins is doing to ensure that economic development is sustainable, and where opportunities for diversification exist. As well, delegates were given an inside look into where the commercial and industrial real estate market is headed; local realtor Stan Makuch spoke to his experiences with changes in the local real estate market, past and present, while Toronto-based property developer David White touched on why retailers are choosing Timmins as a marketplace.

TREO delegates were given an inside look into why Timmins is considered a fast-growing city in Canada and a preferred marketplace in which to invest.

The mining panel featured a diverse range of mining expertise, from the large, multinational mining perspective of Xstrata, to that of junior mining companies such as Golden Chalice Resources Inc. With the mining industry experiencing an economic boom, delegates were able to “get in the know” about future plans for exploration and manufacturing. Goldcorp and Xstrata provided an overview of their operations and the recent success that the companies have been experiencing due in part to the strong price of gold and base metals. Terry DiTullio, co-owner of NorFab Metal and Machining, gave an overview of his company, which has a global reach as a supplier.

To see more highlights from *TREO 2008: Get in the Know*, and to view presentations from the event, please visit www.timminschamber.on.ca/treocom.htm.

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About the Timmins Chamber of Commerce

With over 700 members, the Timmins Chamber of Commerce is the largest accredited chamber of commerce with distinction in northeastern Ontario. As the “Voice of Business in Timmins” since 1949, our advocacy and policy initiatives focus on ensuring a positive business climate in the City of Timmins.