



Media Release

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Science & Technology minister meets with Chamber Board of Directors

Timmins – On Friday, January 9, as part of Gary Goodyear’s visit to Timmins, the Minister of Science & Technology made his way to the Timmins Chamber of Commerce to meet with representatives from the Board of Directors. While at the Chamber, Minister Goodyear made it a point to hear the concerns brought forward by the Board on behalf of the 750-plus members of the chamber of commerce, to learn more about the issues facing businesses in the northeastern Ontario, and to understand the perspectives of northerners regarding how federal government could improve the ability for people to do business in the north.

While the current economic state is a concern for the Country, Minister Goodyear expressed optimism that the Canadian economy would get through these times; in the mean time, the Canadian government is looking to the business community for their input as to which federally-led strategies would help the economy. Board representatives freely shared a number of issues with the Minister, including the need to:

- lower the cost of energy;
- align the federal government’s lien policies with those of the provinces;
- harmonize the federal and provincial environmental assessment processes;
- make strategic investment in infrastructure;
- instate a Timmins representative on FedNor’s Ministerial Advisory Board.

Also discussed with Minister Goodyear’s were the vast opportunities existing in the north for “green” product initiatives, secondary value-added projects to make use of locally-sourced natural resources, and the benefits that could be leveraged by retrofitting unused commercial and industrial buildings. The Minister told the Chamber he would transmit these messages to the federal government. He also stated the federal government’s pledge to reduce by 20% the government-induced administrative burden on Canadian businesses.

Chamber President Rob Galloway, on meeting with the Minister, said “We appreciate that Minister Goodyear took the time to learn more about the issues facing businesses in northern Ontario. While many business issues are on a national scale, many of the challenges and obstacles faced by northern business owners differ from those of our southern counterparts. We are pleased that the Minister took the time to hear about some of our concerns as Canadians and our perspective as to how the federal government can improve our ability to conduct our businesses both within and beyond Canadian borders.”

-30-

Pictured in accompanying photo (L-R): Board member Phil Barton, Science and Technology Minister Gary Goodyear, Chamber President Rob Galloway, 1st Vice President Fred Gibbons and Board member Joel Bergeron. Pictured in front is Chamber Past President Marilyn Wood.

For more information contact:

Heather Chertow

Policy and Communications Director

hchertow@timminschamber.on.ca

Timmins Chamber of Commerce

705.360.1900



About the Timmins Chamber of Commerce

With over 750 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.