

**MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS TASK FORCE  
ANNUAL UPDATE  
2008-2009**

---

**CHAIR: SUE GAUTHIER**

**CO-CHAIR: PHIL BARTON**

The Municipal Affairs Task Force is a policy task force of the Timmins Chamber of Commerce, reporting to the Economic & Business Development Committee. It serves as the “*Voice of Business*” in lobbying, collaborating with and communicating with municipal agencies, elected officials and administration to improve the climate for business in Timmins. The task force will identify opportunities and barriers to sustainable economic development on a municipal level. The task force will develop advocacy and policy related strategies aiming to improve municipally-governed business issues, thereby improving the business climate in Timmins.

**Members:**

Phil Barton – *Algonquin Business Computers*

Julie Belanger-Racette – *Grand & Toy*

Remi Boileau – *Therault Plumbing & Heating*

Rick Briand – *HSBC Bank Canada*

Dan Charbonneau - *Gord's Rentals*

Anita Damini – *Downtown Timmins/BIA*

Rob Galloway – President; *Galloway and Galloway Executive Services*

Sue Gauthier – *CIBC*

Stephen Kidd – *Past President (2003-2004); Stephen Kidd and Associates Ltd.*

Gary Marriott - *NorthernTel*

Fred Gibbons – *Northern College of Applied Arts and Technology*

Luc Maisonneuve – *Racicot, Maisonneuve, Labelle, Gosselin*

Matt Duquette – *Scotiabank*

Yanick Tremblay – *Ontario Power Generation*

**2008 – 2009 Year In Review:**

- (November 2008);
- Presented municipal budget recommendations to City Council; surveyed members via questionnaire to gather feedback for budget presentation(November 2008);
- Discussed public sector use of buildings in Downtown Timmins. Invite Andrea Griener of City and/or member of Downtown Timmins / BIA, to learn more about Community Improvement Programs and certain funding issues (November 2008);
- Discussed installing cameras Downtown Timmins to increase safety & reduce crime. Also discussed potential new uses of Downtown buildings, other than service & retail (November 2008);
- Hosted presentation by Kelly Dewar and Ronnie Moisan from Bannerman Park Rejuvenation Committee regarding its initiative to beautify greenspace around Porcupine Lake (January 2009);
- Municipal Procurement By-Law: Met with City of Timmins representatives: Joe Torlone, CAO, Gord Deacon, Purchasing Manager, and Bernie Christian, Treasurer to discuss municipal purchasing policies and how to improve the opportunities for local businesses to do business with the city (February 2009);
- Hosted presentation by Cheryl St-Amour, Director of Business Development and Retention, Timmins Economic Development Corporation (TEDC). Presentation outlined TEDC and Business Enterprise (BEC) roles, business services and current initiatives.
- Hosted presentation by Anita Damini, Executive Director, Downtown Timmins Business Association (BIA). Presentation outlines history and roles of the BIA, such as promoting the Community Improvement Plan and attracting retail business. New developments are working on

the reconstruction and occupation of existing, unoccupied buildings. Challenges included are liens on buildings (policy developed by Timmins Chamber taken to Canadian Chamber), new business attraction and fires that lead to no new construction. BIA looking to complete parking needs study (April 2009).

**Key Issues:**

- Municipal Operational Review
- Municipal budget recommendations and review
- Municipal purchasing policy: maximizing local opportunity and ease with which a business may work with the City of Timmins
- Downtown Timmins: safety/crime, planning for new uses, changes to existing facilities
- Municipal communications
- Economic Diversification
- "Team Timmins" – who is participating; potential for networking agreement between Chamber, City and TEDC for groups to work together for information sharing purposes.
- Community development and sustainability
- Identify gaps in community services and amenities, such that filling the gaps would provide support and growth opportunities for the business community