



Timmins Chamber of Commerce
Chambre de commerce de Timmins

MEDIA RELEASE

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CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETS WITH MP CHARLIE ANGUS

TIMMINS: The Board of Directors of the Timmins Chamber of Commerce met with Timmins-James Bay MP Charlie Angus over the noon hour today to discuss some pressing issues affecting the more than 685 member businesses of the Chamber.

The meeting, held at the Chamber building, is part of the Chamber's ongoing effort to bring member concerns to elected officials. Last month, the Board held a productive meeting with Timmins-James MPP Gilles Bisson. Earlier in 2007 members concerns were brought to then Finance Minister Greg Sorbara and Natural Resource Minister Donna Cansfield in face-to-face meetings.

The issues brought forth to Mr. Angus in Friday's meeting included:

- The need for the federal government to develop a national strategy to address the mounting infrastructure debt of municipalities, brought on by years of downloading by senior levels of government. According to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Canada's infrastructure deficit is \$123 billion.
- The Timmins Chamber of Commerce asked for Mr. Angus' assistance in having a Timmins representative appointed to FedNor's Ministerial Advisory Board.
- The need for the federal government to ensure the timely and transparent processing of all Federal Environmental Assessments and move toward harmonization and streamlining the process with data being shared between federal and provincial/territorial governments to avoid duplication. The Timmins Chamber of Commerce is concerned that wait times on federal environmental assessment are too long, resulting in lost productivity for some of its members.

"As the voice of business in Timmins, the Timmins Chamber of Commerce is committed to bringing forth concerns to elected representatives at all levels of government," said 2007-08 Chamber President Marilyn Wood. "Following today's meeting with Mr. Angus, the Board feels strongly that the concerns of our members will be voiced in the House of Commons in 2008. We look forward to meeting again with Mr. Angus this year to discuss progress we've made on a variety of issues."

-30-

The Timmins Chamber of Commerce represents over 685 businesses and has been The Voice of Business in Timmins since 1949. Its advocacy and policy initiatives focus on ensuring a positive business climate in the City of Timmins.

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