



Timmins Chamber of Commerce  
Chambre de commerce de Timmins

## MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
July 12, 2007

### **TIMMINS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESIDENT KEN PETERSEN MEETS WITH PROVINCIAL FINANCE MINISTER GREG SORBARA**

**TIMMINS:** Provincial Finance Minister Greg Sorbara met this morning with Timmins Chamber of Commerce 2006-07 President Ken Petersen, Mayor Tom Laughren and other business leaders at the Chamber of Commerce office to discuss pressing economic issues affecting Timmins and Northeastern Ontario.

During the 90-minute meeting, Petersen outlined the Chamber of Commerce's position on several important issues specific to the Northeastern Ontario economy, including:

- The need to foster an attractive investment climate in the region through fair and reasonable levels of taxation on par with other jurisdictions across Canada.
- The importance of fair and reasonable energy prices in order to sustain the manufacturing sector in the region.
- The desire to see the Province consult with stakeholders in Northern Ontario when developing policy concerning wood flow.
- The hope that the Provincial Government will create an attractive investment climate to encourage further diamond mining operations in Northern Ontario to follow on the heels of the De Beers Victor Project in Attawapiskat.

"We are extremely pleased with the dialogue we had with Mr. Sorbara today," explained Petersen. "The Finance Minister was receptive to the Chamber's position on the issues we discussed. At the same time, we welcomed the opportunity to learn more the Provincial Government's position on the issues affecting our region. We feel confident going forward that the Provincial Government and stakeholders in Northeastern Ontario will continue to work together to maximize the prosperity of the region."

Also in attendance at the meeting were Dave McGirr, Chair of the Timmins Economic Development Corporation; Steve Kidd, Chair of the Northeastern Ontario Chamber of Commerce; and Fred Gibbons, Northern College Regional Director.

The Finance Minister was in Timmins to speak at a fundraising lunch in support of Timmins-James Bay Liberal candidate Pat Boucher. The event took place at the Dante Club.

The Timmins Chamber of Commerce represents over 640 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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