



# Media Release

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## ***For Immediate Release***

### **For Timmins Chamber of Commerce, 2009 marks 60 years as voice of business**

**Tuesday, January 6, 2009 (TIMMINS)** – The year of 2009 brings with it a number of significant celebrations taking place within the City of Timmins. For the Timmins Chamber of Commerce, 2009 is a landmark year: in June, the organization will celebrate its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary serving as *The Voice of Business* for Timmins.

The Timmins Chamber of Commerce originally formed in 1949, when a group of six community-minded, local businessmen joined together to advocate for the establishment of an airport to transport people and goods to and from our region. In 1950, one year after its formation, the Chamber purchased a vacant piece of land in the northern part of the city; just three short years later, that same piece of land was sold to the City of Timmins for the sum of \$1.00. By 1955, the City of Timmins used the expanse of land to construct what is known today as the Victor M. Power Airport. The Chamber's original mission statement detailed '*making a commitment to community and encouraging its growth by promoting business opportunities*'. While the statement's words have evolved somewhat, the original intent of the mission statement continues to ring true today. Sixty years later, the Chamber remains committed to representing the interests of businesses and business development within the community. As the Chamber continues to grow, it also continues to evolve as an organization: expanding its offerings to members and adapting to the ever-changing needs of the business community.

Since 1949, the Chamber has undertaken and led many community-minded initiatives, including its well-known auxiliary operations: the Licence Bureau (1956) and the Tourism Information Centre (1958). The Timmins Chamber of Commerce also maintains a long-standing working relationship with the Corporation of the City Timmins; in the past, the Chamber advocated for the establishment of such entities like the Timmins Economic Development Corporation. Active committees remain a staple at the Chamber. Committees comprise Chamber members and volunteers who meet regularly to develop, lead and guide Chamber initiatives. It is through committees that the organization is able to accurately reflect the needs and goals of its member businesses. Examples of committee initiatives include policy development, workshop and seminar planning, member-recognition programs, and member benefit programs. The Timmins Chamber is well-known for its member-focused events, which take place throughout the year. Annual events such as the Curling Funspiel, Evening in Italy, the Nova Business Excellence Awards and the Chamber Golf Tournament are long-standing events that never fail to draw an abundance of member participation and community interest.

Chamber President Rob Galloway is proud of the Chamber's accomplishments. "This is an important milestone for the Chamber. To be trusted to serve the businesses of our community for sixty years is a fantastic achievement and I am proud to be a part of this wonderful organization." As for the key to the Chamber's success, Mr. Galloway states that having an engaged membership base is paramount. "We have a great membership and fantastic volunteers. Our members are what empower us to be an organization that can continually evolve, so that we may accurately represent views of our member businesses and work accordingly to meet their needs."

Throughout 2009, many Chamber events will pay tribute to the organization's illustrious history. All Chamber members and interested members of the public are encouraged to take the time to learn more about the Chamber and its role in the development of our city.

To read a brief historical timeline of the Timmins Chamber of Commerce, visit <http://www.timminschamber.on.ca/AboutUs/ChamberHistory.pdf>.

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***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.*