

Economic & Business Development Committee
Annual Update
2009-2010

Chair: Gary Marriott

Mandate

The Economic & Business Development Committee is a standing policy committee of the Timmins Chamber of Commerce. It serves as the "*Voice of Business*" in developing advocacy positions to remove barriers to business and promote a healthy business climate. Initiatives include lobbying, corresponding and collaborating with all levels of government: municipal, regional, provincial and federal. The committee monitors publicly funded organizations that impact our members and identifies areas that may be limiting the economic potential and/or growth of our member businesses. The committee serves to ensure that economically sustainable development activities are realized for the betterment of all business in the City of Timmins and the region.

Members

Phil Barton, *Algonquin Business Computers*
Remi Boileau, *Theriacult Plumbing & Heating Limited*
Rick Briand, *BDC*
Dan Charbonneau, *Gord's Rentals*
Rob Galloway, *Galloway & Galloway Executive Services*
Fred Gibbons, *Northern College of Applied Arts & Technology*
Larry Gubbels, *Wyatt Image Solutions*
Karen Guillemette, *ANO Architects/Architectes Inc.*
Stephen Kidd, *Yellow Pages Group*
Mike Kornell, *RBC*
Nancy Mageau, *CIBC*
Gary Marriott, *Mtel Consulting*
Rodney Martin, *Core Business Solutions – Xerox Authorized Dealer*
Bill McMillan, *Porcupine Gold Mines – Goldcorp Canada Ltd.*
Janick Nadeau, *Northern College of Applied Arts & Technology*
Julie Belanger-Racette, *Grand & Toy*
Cheryl St-Amour, *Timmins Economic Development Corporation*
Nicole Turgeon, *HSBC Bank Canada*
Marilyn Wood, *Mikro-Tek Inc.*

Municipal

- Reviewed "Communities in Boom" study from CFIB (October 2009);
- Requested feedback from the Far Northeast Training Board on the effectiveness of their Local Labour Market Study report (October 2009);
- Explored the idea of launching an "I'm in business" campaign to promote entrepreneurship and diversification in the local economy (November 2009);
- Supported the efforts of Northern College and the TEDC to secure, attract and establish an English-language university in Timmins (November 2009);
- Hosted presentation by Debbie Pell and Dixie St. Gelais regarding the local campaign to reinstate rail service to Timmins (January 2010);
- Surveyed membership on the projected impact of the pending Xstrata closure on their businesses (February 2010);

- Hosted presentation by Christy Marinig, CEO of the Timmins Economic Development Corporation, regarding value-added incentive programs, the Xstrata closure, leakage study/gap analysis, and job creation programs (March 2010);
- Reviewed Xstrata Action Plan (March 2010);
- Hosted presentation by Marc Serré, Jack Nolan and Rolly Magnan regarding Eastlink's expanding business and residential phone, cable and internet services (April 2010).

Provincial

- Monitored and promoted chamber- and Canada Revenue Agency-led HST sessions in the region (ongoing);
- Requested status update on the report on the Five-Year Automobile Insurance Review from the Superintendent of Financial Services Commission of Ontario (October 2009);
- Requested input from Natural Resources Committee on changes to forestry tenure review (October 2009);
- Monitored Bill C-309 and advocated for the establishment of an independent federal development agency for northern Ontario (November 2009);
- Requested cost/benefit analysis from the Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, and Forestry on the feasibility of reinstating the rail line to Timmins (December 2009);
- Drafted Environmental Assessment Policy for submission to the Ontario Chamber of Commerce (December 2009);
- Requested input from First Nation groups regarding their concerns about First Nation HST exemption rules (January 2010);

Federal

- Reviewed Federal Liens Removal Policy (October 2009).
- Developed policy regarding business implications as a result of serving as point of sale HST-collectors (April 2010) for submission to the Canadian Chamber of Commerce;
- Developed policy entitled "Creating Equality in Federal Economic Development Agencies in Canada" for submission to the Canadian Chamber of Commerce (April 2010).

Key Issues

- Reviewing Chamber policy development and keeping up to date with respect to policies developed by other Chamber committees;
- Ensuring that Timmins and northern Ontario has adequate representation on provincial and federal agencies designed to encourage the region's economic development, diversification and prosperity;
- Ensuring that government policy, programs and agencies are fair to business owners, conducive to regional economic development and sustenance, and accountable to northerners;
- Monitoring and participating in strategic planning initiatives, such as the Northern Ontario Growth Plan;
- Monitoring municipal economic and business development issues, such as municipal purchasing, municipal taxation and budget, strategic planning;
- Identifying barriers to business development;
- Identifying current or forthcoming policies or laws that place undue pressures on businesses ;
- Monitoring programs and information sessions to help businesses transition to a single sales tax;
- Monitoring regulatory and taxation issues to ensure that laws are conducive and favourable to economic investment within the city and province;
- Ensuring the Chamber's advocacy role is well-known and highlighted within the community;
- Monitoring subsequent developments surrounding existing policies; tracking progress made by fellow organizations, such as the Ontario and Canadian Chambers of Commerce.

