

**Municipal Affairs Committee
Annual Update
2009-2010**

Chair: Phil Barton

Mandate

The Municipal Affairs Committee is a standing committee of the Timmins Chamber of Commerce. 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 committee will identify opportunities and barriers to sustainable economic development on a municipal level. The committee 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, *Theriault Plumbing & Heating Limited*
Rick Briand, *BDC*
Dan Charbonneau, *Gord's Rentals*
Anita Damini, *Downtown Timmins BIA*
Terry DiTullio, *NorFab Metal and Machine*
Rob Galloway, *Galloway & Galloway Executive Services*
Fred Gibbons, *Northern College of Applied Arts & Technology*
Stephen Kidd, *Yellow Pages Group*
Mike Kornell, *RBC*
Nicole Turgeon, *HSBC Bank Canada*

2009-2010 Year in Review

- Monitored the relocation of Timmins Transit and the Timmins Economic Development Corporation (ongoing);
- Brainstormed ideas for creating a community vision "Prosperity List" (October 2009);
- Requested report from the City on the amount of funding they requested and received over the past three years (October 2009);
- Discussed ways to attract and retain professionals (October 2009);
- Discussed the need for transparency regarding municipal debt and how this could impact funding opportunities at both the federal and provincial levels (October 2009);
- Requested update from the City on their operational review conducted five years ago (October 2009);
- Discussed factors that contribute to long-term vacancy issues downtown (October 2009);
- Reviewed results from the "Business Satisfaction Survey" for members (October 2009);
- Monitored status of Downtown Timmins transformer relocations, which had the potential to negatively affect the streetscape, business visibility and access (October 2009-ongoing);
- Discussed municipal purchasing policies & procedures with CAO Joe Torlone (January 2010);
- Encouraged municipal administration to implement a "report card" communications tool to show progress and initiatives underway to businesses and the broader community (January 2010);
- Presented municipal budget recommendations to the City (February 2010);
- Requested that the TEDC perform a leakage analysis – which goods are being purchased non-locally that could be sourced from a local business (March 2010);

- Reviewed BMA Tax Rate Study/Comparison (March 2010);
- Planned & organized August 4th information session “So You Want to be a Candidate” - Candidate School for citizens wishing to, or considering, running for municipal office (April 2010 - ongoing).
- July meeting planned with Bernie Christian and Joe Torlone regarding BMA’s municipal tax comparison study and the city’s move to a different waste management pick-up system.

Key Issues

- Municipal Operational Review
- Municipal budget recommendations and review
- Municipal purchasing policy: maximizing local opportunity and ease with which local organizations and entrepreneurs may do business with the City of Timmins
- Downtown Timmins: safety/crime, planning for new uses, changes to existing facilities and infrastructure
- Municipal communications
- Economic Diversification
- 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