

**Natural Resources Committee
Annual Update
2009-2010**

Chair: Rob Galloway

Mandate

The Natural Resources Committee identifies, monitors, promotes awareness and addresses issues relating to the development, management and regulation of natural resources in our region. The committee initiates informational and advocacy activities to encourage the sustainable development of resources in our region, with a focus on advocating for a competitive and economically viable climate for Timmins' resource-based businesses.

Members

Brian Atkinson, *Ministry of Natural Resources*
Wally Bidwell, *Bidwell & Associates*
Robert Calhoun, *Timmins Economic Development Corporation*
Mario Colantonio, *Porcupine Engineering Services Inc.*
Dan Cook, *Trow Associates*
Heather Duhn, *De Beers Canada Victor Mine*
Jim Duncan, *Ministry of Natural Resources*
Jocelyn Gagne, *Collège Boréal*
Rob Galloway, *Galloway & Galloway Executive Services*
Fred Gibbons, *Northern College of Applied Arts & Technology*
David Ligocki, *Advantek Inc.*
Peter Murray, *Ontario Power Generation*
Michael O'Blenis, *Domtar Inc. Wood Products Division*
Ken Petersen, *Petersen Consulting*
Heather Roberts, *Ministry of Northern Development, Mines and Forestry*
Rob Tomchick, *AbitibiBowater*
Marilyn Wood, *Mikro-Tek Inc.*

Energy

- Reviewed & updated Chamber energy policy (October 2009);
- Reviewed the Canadian Chamber's call for a sustainable energy strategy (November 2009);
- Investigated Hydro Smart Meters impact on local businesses (December 2009);
- Reviewed and provided input on the Chamber's action plan for dealing with the Xstrata closure (March 2010).

Mining

- Reviewed Chamber presentation on the Mining Act (October 2009);
- Reviewed Timmins' submission on the Mining Act (October 2009);
- Monitored the progress of regulation development of the Mining Act (ongoing);
- Requested of the Ministry of Northern Development, Mines and Forestry that regional stakeholders in the mining industry have input in the regulation-setting process (November 2009);
- Discussed which recommendations should be included in the regulations for the Mining Act (January 2010);
- Encouraged the Ontario government to base the Ring of Fire Coordinator out of Timmins (April 2010).

Far North Act

- Reviewed Chamber presentation on the Far North Act (October 2009);
- Monitored the progress of the Far North Act (ongoing);
- Hosted presentation by Connie Buck, Far North Planning and Information Manager at the Ministry of Natural Resources, regarding the status of Bill 191 (March 2010);
- Explored hosting a Lunch 'N' Learn session on the Far North Act and Endangered Species Act with the Ministry of Natural Resources (April 2010).

Forestry

- Monitored Co-op SFL – Sustainable Forest Licence development (ongoing);
- Reviewed discussion paper on the modernization of Ontario's forest tenure system (October 2009);
- Submitted comment on the modernization of the forest tenure system (October 2009);
- Reviewed the proposed framework for tenure reform and drafted a formal position on the framework as proposed (May-June 2010).
- Hosted presentation by Paul Glassford (MNR Forests Branch, Policy Division) regarding proposed changes to forest management and Environmental Assessment Act approvals for forestry in Ontario (June 2010).

Northern Ontario Growth Plan

- Discussed the need for "solutions-focused" recommendations in the Growth Plan (January 2010);
- Provided input for the Chamber's submission on the Growth Plan (January 2010);
- Considered what role the Chamber should play in making Timmins a "Centre of Excellence" (February 2010).

Other

- Requested that the Chamber receive information on the proposed construction of permanent roadways up to Moosonee (February 2010);

Key Issues

- Energy (hydro, biofibre) development as an economic development opportunity;
- Improving energy pricing and competitiveness for northern Ontario;
- New uses for biomass;
- Forestry – tenure, access to fibre;
- Government initiatives, including the Mining Act Modernization, Northern Ontario Growth Plan and the Far North Planning Initiative;
- Diamond mine taxation;
- Energy pricing, supply and changes;
- Co-op Sustainable Forest Licenses;
- Resource revenue sharing;
- Clarification on rules and approaches to consultation with First Nations.