

Chair: Kurt Bigeau
Co-Chair: Lori Murphy

Purpose

The Young Professionals Committee of the Timmins Chamber of Commerce serves as a committee for young professionals, young entrepreneurs and those new to the community who are seeking to build their business networks by getting involved in the Timmins Chamber of Commerce and connecting with other young professionals. The committee aspires to assist in the engagement and retention of young professionals by organizing networking and professional development initiatives. The Young Professionals Committee identifies and addresses issues of importance to our generation, promoting Timmins as a great place for young professionals to live and work, as well as identifying opportunities for growth as a talent magnet.

Committee Objectives

The scope of the responsibilities of the Young Professionals Committee reflects the values of newer generations in the workforce. Recognizing that many young professionals choose where they want to live first, and where they want to work second, the Young Professionals Committee aims to offer amenities and programs geared at promoting Timmins as a great place to work, live and have fun. By the same logic, the committee also aims to identify opportunities that would improve Timmins as a destination of choice. As demographic changes place increasing pressure on businesses to meet their employment needs, it is essential that Timmins promote and develop itself as a community of choice for young professionals and their families. Responsibilities within this role generally relate to acting as a steering committee to provide programs and activities directed at (but not limited to) young professionals and communicating the perspective and ideals of young professionals to the broader community. The objectives of the Young Professionals Committee, for the 2009-2010 chamber year, include:

- Identify, organize and host, at a minimum, two special networking events (e.g. "Top 40 Under 40" professional luncheon, special guest speaker event);
- Identify, organize and host, at a minimum, two professional and/or personal development sessions;
- Develop, with a community partner or business, a monthly "5 à 7" or Young Professional Business After 5;
- Identify opportunities to promote Timmins as a talent magnet for youth and young professionals;
- Identify and promote amenities and features in the community that make Timmins a great place to live, work and have fun;
- Identify, promote and advocate for proposed amenities and features that, if implemented, would make Timmins a greater place in which to live, work and have fun;
- Provide input and perspectives into plans and policy (e.g. municipal budget, Proposed Growth Plan for Northern Ontario);
- Continue to grow contacts database of young professionals in the community in order to provide input, feedback and suggestions for the steering committee;
- Continue to seek out and engage new and diverse committee members;
- Serve as a 'sounding board' for new initiatives within the community;
- Identify and promote opportunities for participation with other community-minded organizations, such as collaborative projects, volunteer opportunities, etc.

Reporting Structure

The Young Professionals Committee Chairperson reports and is accountable directly to the Chamber of Commerce president for the effective operation of the committee and for all committee decisions. The president, in turn, is accountable to the board for the operation of the Young Professionals Committee within Timmins Chamber of Commerce board policies.

Authority

The Young Professionals Committee is empowered by the board of the Timmins Chamber of Commerce to make decisions within the mandate established in this document and within the context of the board's organizational policies.

The Young Professionals Committee may develop advocacy initiatives and position statements about local initiatives so long as they fall within general policy as set by the board and are approved by the Board of Directors as required. The president may provide guidance and direction to the Young Professionals Committee through its chairperson, but cannot over-ride decisions of the committee provided that those decisions conform to board policy.

Responsibilities of Chairperson - Young Professionals Committee

The Chairperson of the Young Professionals Committee provides leadership to the Committee and is responsible for assigning and coordinating the Committee's work. In addition, the Chairperson is responsible for:

- receiving and responding to questions and issues concerning the Young Professionals Committee and its activities from members of the Chamber;
- developing and managing an operating budget to support committee initiatives, as necessary;
- ensuring that meetings are properly documented, with the assistance of the Chamber Manager and/or staff.

The Chairperson of the Young Professionals Committee is authorized to:

- act as the spokesperson for the Young Professionals Committee within the Chamber of Commerce;
- speak externally on behalf of the Chamber if it is on matters within the committee's mandate;
- commit funds within the parameters of the approved operating budget of the Young Professionals Committee.

Membership

The Chair and Co-Chair of the Young Professionals Committee are elected by the committee from the eligible committee members and a minimum of one of these positions must be held by a Board member. It is important to note that the committee has a broad interpretation of "young professional". Typically, our participants range in age from 25 to 40. However, to encourage an open and inclusive atmosphere, age and/or generational guidelines are not specified. 'Professionals' include individuals working in all fields in Timmins, from bankers, financial advisors, nurses, trades people, engineers and teachers, to name a few. The members of the Young Professionals Committee may consist of:

- Interested members of the Chamber of Commerce, including employees of member businesses;
- Sitting members of the Timmins Chamber of Commerce Board;
- Young Professionals in the community, who have no affiliation with the Timmins Chamber of Commerce but wish to establish one;
- The Chamber Manager and/or other Chamber staff (ex-officio).