

**Press Release
May 9th, 2005**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**“BUILDING OUR FUTURE”
“ Community Partners are sponsoring a Business Outreach Project”**

TIMMINS, ON – May 9th, 2005 – Building Our Future is launching a Business Outreach Project in co-operation with The Venture Centre/ Le Centre de Développement, the Timmins Economic Development Corporation (TEDC), the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines, and the Timmins Chamber of Commerce.

The goals of the project are to gain a better understanding of the capabilities of our businesses, determine the difficulties they may encounter and inquire about opportunities for expansion. The project will see community partners along with the coordinator conduct informal meetings with businesses in the city of Timmins. The aim is to visit a minimum of one hundred businesses over the next ten months, focusing on the industrial and service sectors.

Gerry Talbot, the chair of The Venture Centre/ Le Centre de Développement stated, “The most significant contribution to the Timmins economy is made by our existing businesses. When they develop and expand, Timmins grows. The Business Outreach Program capitalizes on what we already have in our own backyard.”

Business Outreach benefits local businesses and the community by encouraging job growth, new investment and improved public relations. It is an action-oriented project that engages the business community on issues that influence businesses decisions to stay and grow.

Keitha Robson, Manager of the Timmins Chamber, stated, " The project will allow us to take the pulse of our local businesses and allow the partners, as business development organizations, the ability to design programs and services to better suit their needs. Taking the time to hear the needs of businesses and allow them the opportunity to tell us about the uniqueness of their business will improve our ability to promote and refer our business community."

The Business Outreach Project will also act as an awareness program that will familiarize local businesses with funding programs and support services. During the visits, the partners will be taking the opportunity to review and update the “Business On-Line” database which can be found on the City of Timmins website. This is an excellent medium that provides the opportunity for local businesses to promote their products and services to a larger market free of charge.

Dave McGirr, the President of the TEDC, stated, “The TEDC is pleased that we were able to secure funds for this project through the Government of Canada’s Job Creation

Partnerships program. This was one of the ideas that were highlighted in the last community strategic planning process. Interacting with local businesses will provide our staff with great insight and allow us to market their capabilities on a regional and national scale.

Over the next few weeks and the following months, the project coordinator will be contacting businesses to set up a mutually convenient date and time to conduct the meetings.



On the left, Mark Bednarz the Principal Consultant of BZ Environmental Consulting speaking with Tamara LeRiche (In the Middle), the Business Outreach Coordinator along with Keitha Robson (on the right) from the Timmins Chamber of Commerce. It was the first of many visits that will be taking place over the next ten months. In the next few weeks and the following months, the project coordinator will be contacting businesses to set up a mutually convenient date and time to conduct these informal meetings.