
2008-
2009

*Membership
Survey
Results
Municipal Responses*

Summary - Municipal Issues

Municipal

Top 3-cited “Number 1 issue facing business” in Timmins:

- 1) Challenges posed by a fluctuating/cyclical economy (50.9% of respondents)
- 2) Attracting & retaining employees (25.7% of respondents)
- 3) Other (please specify) (16.1% of respondents); of the other reasons specified: The City of Timmins government, regulations, cost of hydro and taxes were top-mentioned in responses.

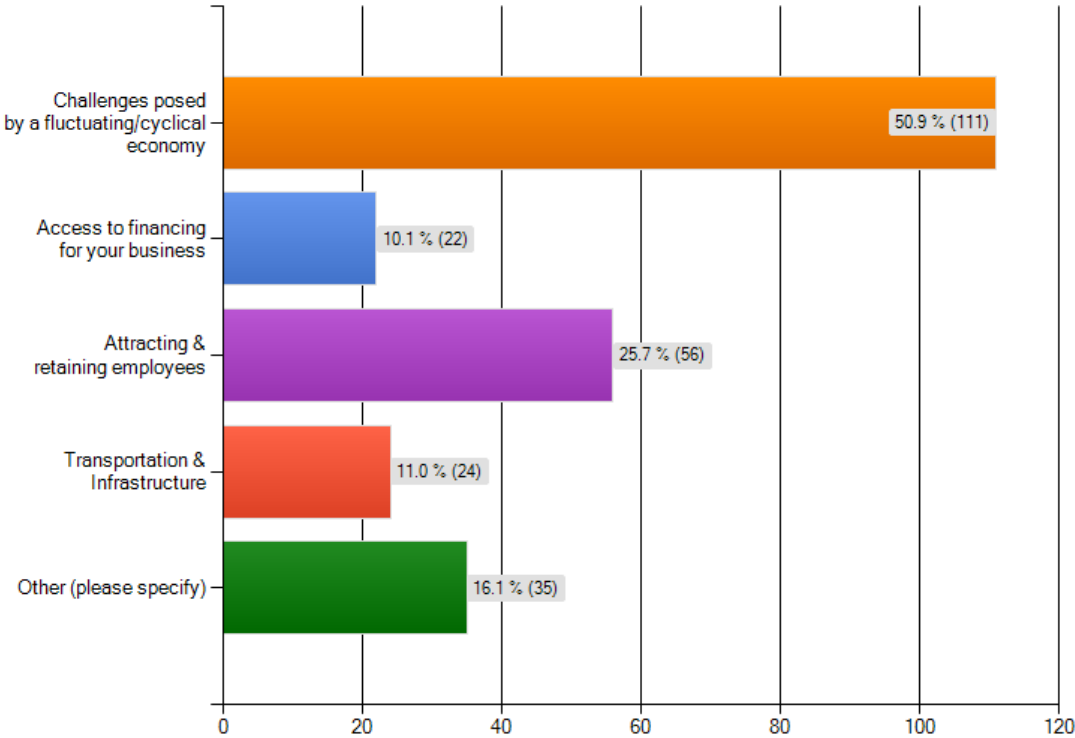
Other important issues (same options provided in the next question) followed the same trend as the responses given in the previous question.

Top 3 “City of Timmins” issues the Chamber should advocate to change (score = highly important – not very important + somewhat important):

- 1) Government Accountability/Governance (197 score)
- 2) Municipal Regulations/Red Tape (187 score)
- 3) Property Taxes (180 score)

From the Survey...

In your opinion, what is the NUMBER 1 issue facing business in Timmins? (Please select only one response.)



“OTHER” COMMENTS:

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

- The City of Timmins
- Our municipal government - not pro business
- Small mindedness at city hall as well as being very shortsighted in the future development our city. Not attracting the proper personnel at city hall ex. nepotism, insider deals for the benefit of a few, lack of cooperation between various departments. Lots more but not enough time to write it all down as well from past experience...nothing changes!!!
- municipality not very active to deal with local businesses
- Too many regulations

COST OF DOING BUSINESS

- Cost of doing business here - 1: Hydro 2: Taxes
- Taxes
- Too high taxes in the City and the Province. Both equal
- High municipal taxes.
- Hydro Cost.
- High cost of hydro.
- Electricity
- Reduce spending. We can't attract anyone here, the taxes are the highest in Canada.

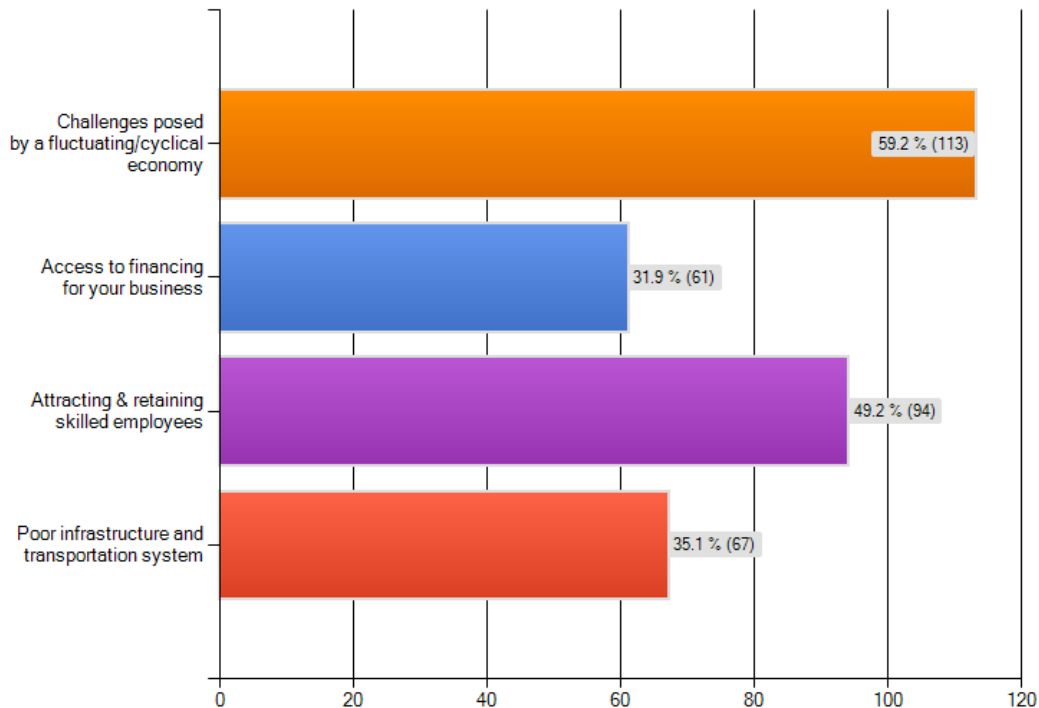
DOWNTOWN

- More should be done to attract businesses in the downtown sector. Bring business in. If there is more encouragement for the businesses, the downtown could be more of a happening place for small businesses.
- Parking availability. I would like to see some sort of free customer parking implemented by the city for the downtown businesses, which would in turn increase and benefit all businesses, tourism and general popularity of the Downtown Timmins business community. I feel this would reflect Timmins kindness, understanding, popularity and would generate an increased number of customers and sales leading to a stronger economy.
- I like the way people are refacing all their businesses downtown. It looks like a ghost town sometimes, but people are starting to work on it. So I'm encouraging businesses to develop downtown.
- Business should be encouraged to develop in all areas of the city, not just Mountjoy Twp.
- stimulating new business

GENERAL COMMENTS

- Culture is lacking. But that's not something that can be fixed in a small amount of time. There's nothing for people to do.
- Government assistance seems to only be available for large businesses, not small ones.
- Not enough land dedicated to multi dwelling housing.
- A bit hard to work sometimes. For campgrounds, there are problems not being allowed to by land...
- Snowmobilers! Trails aren't done well and people would rather not say in Timmins. Only certain places they can go and they find it confusing. Trails aren't marked well enough.

In your opinion, what are other important issues facing business in Timmins? (Choose all that apply.)



ENERGY, REGULATIONS & POLICY:

- Energy rates, mining act, forest tenure - wood going to Quebec, investment climate, access to equity money
- Energy costs, No English University, Long-term stability of natural resources
- Diversity and long term planning (vision) for City of Timmins to supplement resource based economy.

COST OF DOING BUSINESS:

- Taxation - local, provincial, federal
- municipal taxes are very high, this is why i will not expand my business
- High cost of municipal taxation and services.

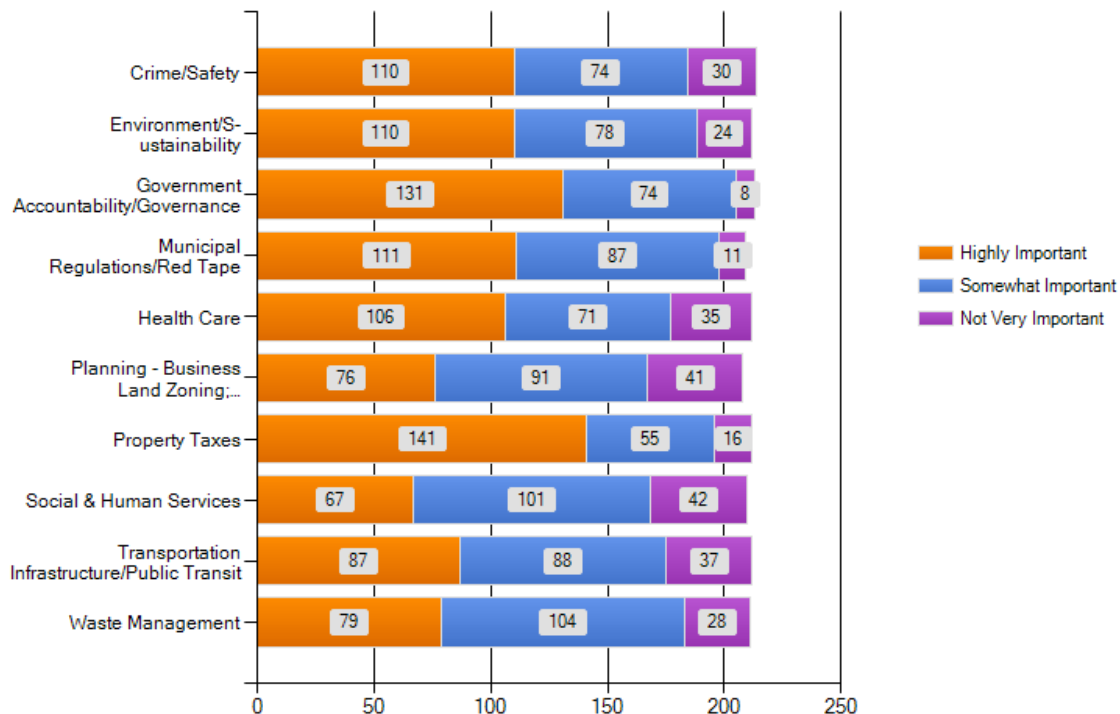
GEOGRAPHIC & INFRASTRUCTURE ISSUES:

- Timmins was not designed to accommodate the growing population. Traffic is getting heavy, our roads are atrocious and none of the businesses are centralized making it difficult to cross town to go shopping.
- Geographic limitations.
- People ignoring downtown
- Put the rail system back.
- Gas prices are way too high.

OTHER:

- The Shania Twain center is costing tax payers money that should be put on road repair and infrastructure.
- Size. You're competing globally: Do you have the buying power?
- Promoting small businesses in town. I look for local guy because I want to keep it local, keep our economy strong.
- Retail Issues - Competition

What City of Timmins issue(s) would you like to see the Chamber advocate for next year? Please rank the topics according to how important they are to your BUSINESS. For example, a "Highly Important" issue is one that you would like the Chamber to advocate for, while a "Not Very Important" issue is one that you do not care to see the Chamber advocate for.



OTHER MUNICIPAL ISSUES THE CHAMBER SHOULD ADDRESS:

MUNICIPAL LEADERSHIP/GOVERNANCE

Strategic plan that includes performance measures

Post secondary education

Education is so important to maintain and sustain our economy.

Economic diversity. E.g. Nuclear Waste Management Organization initiatives.

Diversification of economy. Work with City to make Timmins more inviting to new businesses. The City of Timmins needs to have a clear vision of what our city is going to be like in 20 years when the resources upon which this city was built are no longer viable. What is the plan? I'm not confident there is a long term vision and I have little confidence that there is a viable future for my children in Northeastern Ontario - Timmins in particular.

Northern Ontario should have more say about our natural resources such as having more value added products from our resources and our fair share of taxes collected from resources taken from the north Forestry/mining/electricity policies

MUNICIPAL SPENDING:

Larger budget for TEDC

Time for the city to start reining in their spending, let's have % of annual decreases. lets get the city to stop the empire building and living within our means. The chamber should be fighting and increases and getting the membership to fight for stability .

Reduce the size of the buses by 2/3. Once again, to reduce spending. We don't need it all.

Getting the municipality reduce spending.

MUNICIPAL SERVICES:

Waste management: Do more for recycling.

Tourism/hospitality promoting & event planning for City

Waste issue : money scam charging people when they're overloaded.

East end business and recreation development. Keep up efforts in cleaning our lakes in town.

INFRASTRUCTURE:

Need for QUALITY infrastructure: better streetscapes, not just better paved surfacing. Need for QUALITY community design rather than asphalt, concrete, and turf grass. Need for a better AESTHETIC of the community and more TREES within the community.

Poor condition of Kraft Creek Road.

Road infrastructure.

Bypass

Road conditions in Timmins

TAXATION:

Over taxed and over regulated.

Far too many regulations. Taxes too high.

High taxes!!

Property Taxes

OTHER:

Attracting professionals and keeping them in the city.

Municipal regulations: Allow snowmobiles on street

No such thing as government accountability.

Taking care of people who are working under the table. Taking care of people who are not registered, don't pay compensation.