



**Timmins Chamber of Commerce
Chambre de commerce de Timmins**

**2019 Pre-Budget Presentation to the
Ontario Standing Committee on Finance and Economic
Affairs**

January 22, 2019

Timmins Chamber of Commerce Representatives:

**Nancy Mageau, 2018-19 Board President
Keitha Robson, Chief Administrative Officer
Cameron Grant, Policy and Engagement Lead**



Welcome to the Chair and Member of the Standing Committee.

My name is Nancy Mageau, president of the Timmins Chamber of Commerce. Here with me today are Keitha Robson, Chief Administrative Officer and Cameron Grant, Policy and Engagement Lead. The Chamber is proactive in voicing the concerns of our 650 members with respect to local, provincial and federal government policy while actively addressing educational, civic, social and economic issues. It is in that role that we present our priorities for the 2019 Provincial pre-budget hearing.

Timmins is an established resource community, driven by a century-old tradition of mining and forestry. As a result, many of our policy concerns tend to revolve around those particular issues.

I am here today to speak to you of the Chambers' priorities for the 2019 budget produced in consultation with our membership:

TOURISM:

Sudbury Tourism – Sudbury has a tourism development fund Dana Jennings.

[Increasing Broadband to Business in Northern Communities](#)

Many within the Timmins Chamber membership lack adequate access to high-speed internet. These include rural, remote and last-mile businesses, some still within the limits of the City of Timmins. A lack of broadband and internet capabilities heavily impacts business decisions growth, location, and inability to continue providing services as a result. This compromises the ability of our business community to innovate and modernize their enterprises and remain competitive.

In today's economy, access to broadband services is considered a basic infrastructure requirement. In its 2018 Fall Economic Statement, the Government of Ontario committed to releasing a broadband strategy in early 2019. The Chamber urges the Province to invest in digital infrastructure across Northern Ontario so business can remain competitive. The government can look for investment from the private sector and alternate funding sources for last-mile connectivity.

Northern Ontario has a unique economy prone to boom and bust cycles. Our economy largely depends on non-renewable natural resources, and we must balance the need for sustainability of our economy with sustainability of our communities. While Northerners often feel alienated and left out of the decision-making process, the future is the one thing we all have in common, and in closing we would like to remind the provincial government that what is good for the north is also good for the south.

I would like to thank all Members of the Standing Committee for your attention and consideration. Best wishes for productive consultations.

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