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A TIMMINS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PUBLICATION

Timmins Chamber celebrates best of business

The best of local business was on full display at the McIntyre Arena on May 11 as more than 700 people came out to celebrate the 2017 Nova Business Excellence Awards.

Hosted by the Timmins Chamber of Commerce, the sold-out gala event saw 16 awards given to local firms and entrepreneurs across a range of categories. The ceremony was once again emceed by Art Pultz, a Chamber past president who has overseen the awards portion of the event for all but one of the event's 15 years.

The slate of 45 finalists – including 16 local young professionals -- that were honoured throughout the evening was a testament to Timmins' tradition of excellence.

"The recipients of tonight's Nova Awards are tremendous examples of the unique talent and passion at the very heart of Timmins' business community," said Bender.

"Their achievements are as impressive as they are inspirational, and clearly demonstrate why our entrepreneurs are in a class all their own."

The recipients of the 2017 Nova Awards were carefully selected from 130 by a committee of six independent community judges. As every year, the judges determine the award recipients based

on the quality of the submissions. This is done without any input, influence or oversight from the Chamber Board of Directors or staff, thereby ensuring the validity of the process and the results.

To appropriately celebrate these nominees, the Chamber transformed the McIntyre Arena with a theme of "Where Business Fits Together", with puzzle pieces being used as a visual motif to show how Timmins organizations and entrepreneurs work together to make Timmins a better place to live, work and play.

"For 15 years, the Timmins Chamber has been proud to use the Nova Awards to showcase the incredible work being done by our business leaders," said Bender. "When you step back and look at the larger picture of Timmins' economy, you can see how each one contributes, whether it's providing jobs, sponsoring sports teams, or funding community projects. It's why shining a light on these efforts has become an important tradition, and we're thrilled to see so many attendees join us in celebrating them."

See pages 6 and 7 for a complete list of winners and event photos. To view a full photo gallery of the 2017 Nova Awards, spanning the finalists' reception to the awards ceremony and post-event celebration, visit the Chamber's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/TimmisChamber



The 2017 Nova Business Excellence Awards were handed out to 16 recipients from throughout Timmins' business community at a gala held at the McIntyre Arena on May 11.

Elections heating up for Timmins Chamber board of directors

Voting is now officially open for the Timmins Chamber of Commerce's 2017-2018 Board of Directors election, and there's still plenty of time for members to ensure their voices are heard.

Twelve members have been nominated to fill six open slots for the coming Chamber year. They are running for the right to represent the Chamber membership and the greater business community on the 21-member board.

Each of the Chamber's voting members still has the opportunity to cast their ballot, with the elections due to close on July 10 at 5 p.m.

Board members also chair each of the Chamber committees, matching their expertise with those of the participating committee members to help determine ways to improve the business climate through action plans.

To help strengthen the members' collective voice on these subjects, the Timmins Chamber also works collaboratively with countless partners – government representatives, community organizations, industry stakeholders – on building consensus and support.

Voting for your 2017-2018 board

Once again this year, voting members of the Timmins Chamber are offered electronic means to cast their ballot. Each voting member who has registered an email address with the Chamber has received an email with voting instructions from the Chamber's election software. This includes a unique link that takes the voting member to a secure site where they can review nominees' biographies and place a vote in confidence.

Members without an email address on file, or whose emails could not receive their digital ballot – approximately five percent of the total membership – have been sent a print ballot.

For a full list of the nominees for the Timmins Chamber of Commerce's 2017-2018 Board of Directors, complete with bios and photographs, see pages 2 and 3.



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Timmins Chamber of Commerce's 2017-2018 Board of Directors nominees



**Tom Faught, Associate Advisor,
RBC Dominion Securities**

Tom began his career within the manufacturing sector as a welding engineer for Bombardier Transportation. During his tenure at Bombardier, he began correspondence courses to gain licensing for his passion: the investment industry. Tom moved back to Timmins four years ago and began working for his father and his business, Faught Wealth Management, which operates in partnership with RBC Dominion Securities. Throughout his career, Tom has gained vast experience in people management, problem solving, time management and practical trade experience. He assists with many local and out-of-town fundraising events with organizations such as Rainbow Stables, Crossfit Timmins, Crossfit Sudbury, Pinewood Park Motors, Artemis Youth Center and most recently, the Timmins Festivals and Events Committee.



**Renee Palmateer, Client Executive,
Northern Tel**

Renee has 25 years of experience in the following roles: client executive, wholesale, regulatory, administrative assistant and service representative. In her current role, she works with NorthernTel's larger clients to ensure all their telecommunication needs are met. She has gained excellent customer service, leadership, organizational and communication skills. Before moving to Timmins a few years ago, Renee served on the hospital board, municipal council, doctor recruitment committee, recreation, and minor hockey executive. She enjoys working for her community and would love to be a part of the Chamber Board.



**Jason Perratt, Owner,
Logikal Code**

Jason owns and operates Logikal Code, a digital marketing agency in Timmins. Jason has worked with NEOnet, the Timmins Chamber of Commerce, Starter Company and various regional Chambers to present seminars and workshops.

His involvement in the community includes organizations such as the United Way, the Canadian Cancer Society, and the TADH Foundation. He is currently a member of the Board and is seeking re-election.



**Chantal Magny, Owner,
Narrative Interiors**

An entrepreneur, decorator, leader and a woman of action, Chantal Magny is the owner of Narrative Interiors. Narrative Interiors is a Northern Ontario décor and design studio that provides interior design solutions to residential and commercial projects, and has successfully grown into its fifth year by maintaining ambitious goals and by becoming an industry leader. While continuously striving for innovation, growth and development, Chantal discovered that she also has a passion for entrepreneurship and women in business. Her respect for all entrepreneurs has brought her to the Timmins Chamber of Commerce with a desire to positively influence change. She wishes to be a part of creating solutions for the many challenges that businesses face.

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Timmins Chamber of Commerce's 2017-2018 Board of Directors nominees



Eddy Lamontagne, Sales Manager, DJB Mining Products & Services

Eddy currently serves as the sales manager at DJB Mining Products & Services (a 2017 Nova Award recipient). He also has the following experience:

- 38+ years of mining: tradesman, budget and management, specialised in maintenance and accounting
- 5+ years sales experience (Nighthawk Trailer Sales, TES and DJB)
- 15 years as a personal business owner
- Spearheaded fundraising campaigns raising \$50,000 (cancer research, hospital foundation, and Timmins Bow Hunters) and events supporting alternately abled people (Knights of Columbus)
- Organized celebratory events (mining achievements, Kidd Mine), catered meals to 8,000 people and 4,900 feet underground
- Treasurer and secretary of Timmins Bow Hunters Club
- Frequented Ducks Unlimited events, donating thousands
- Timmins Santa Claus Parade volunteers (3 years)



Jean-Pierre Nadon, Director, Collège Boréal

After obtaining his university degree, Jean-Pierre worked for various sectors, from not-for-profits to health care, including sixteen years as the Executive Director of the Timmins and District Hospital Foundation. Since 2013, he has worked in the post-secondary education sector, serving as the Director of Collège Boréal in Timmins. Overall, he has over 20 years of management experience in non-unionized and unionized environments.

During his leisure time, Jean-Pierre has been involved with numerous organizations in various capacities, from volunteering to coaching, and serving as treasurer and chairperson of various committees, including the Timmins Ski Racers, the Timmins Cycling Club, and the Far North East Training Board, to name a few. During all these years of community involvement in Timmins, he has developed a wide network of individuals from a variety of sectors. He would be honoured to continue to share his experience and knowledge with a team of dedicated individuals that has the community at heart.



Donna Dorrington, Senior Counsel and Owner, Dorrington and Associates Professional Corp.

It is with enthusiasm that Donna respectfully submits her name to serve on the Board of Directors for the Timmins Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber has a long history of involvement within the business community. Over the years, local businesses have looked to the Chamber for information, support and resources on many important issues.

Donna has over a decade of experience as a legal professional and a business owner. Those that have worked with her over the years can attest to both her passion for and involvement in the community, advocacy and collaboration at the local level.

Through Donna's experience serving on multiple boards and committees, including serving as the present treasurer of the Downtown Timmins BIA, she has gained insight and a deep understanding of the many challenges businesses grapple with on an ongoing basis. If elected to the board, Donna plans to bring a deep commitment to the work of the Chamber as it moves forward to build a vibrant and effective voice for all local businesses. Donna feels it would be her honour to contribute to that work.



Alicia Pirie, Owner, Chic Baby & Kids

Alicia Pirie is the owner of Chic Baby & Kids, a downtown Timmins business that serves parents and their children through unique retail offerings in addition to various classes and workshops throughout the year. Alicia has enthusiasm and fresh perspectives on business practices, as well as unique ideas that can be a great asset to the Timmins Chamber of Commerce.



Marc Lapalme, Financial Advisor, AI Poulin Financial Services

Marc is a financial advisor, runs his own business, and is an associate advisor for AI Poulin. He takes customer service very seriously. Marc appreciates that our business community needs to be heard, to be informed, to be seen, to save money and especially to make money!

As volunteer Vice President with the Timmins Snowmobile Club and District, Marc has gained experience that has brought him closer to the region, participating in tourism discussions, transportation discussions, and lobbying at all levels of government. He also is a member of the Club Richelieu which raises money for local children in need. Marc is also an active member of the Chamber's Municipal Affairs Committee, which has given him the opportunity to voice and exchange ideas relevant to Timmins.



Frank Haasen, Co-Owner, Haasen Farms Limited

After serving four years on the Chamber Board, Frank is seeking re-election.

Having worked as owner/operator of Haasen Farms Limited (HFL) since graduating from college in 1975, first with his parents and now with his wife Ivy and son Eddy. Their farm is a 110 dairy-cow, 600-acre operation whose many products are milk, canola, barley and hay.

In 2007, HFL won the Nova Award for "Business of the Year (1-5 employees)", and they won the Northern Ontario Business Award for a similar category that same year. In 2013, they once again achieved recognition from the Nova judges and were presented with the Technology Award.

Frank has held various positions on a number of agricultural organizations over the years. From 2007 to 2011, he represented Northern Ontario as board member at Dairy Farmers of Ontario. In the community, Frank was a Rotarian for twenty years, serving two years as president and two years as assistant governor. Currently, he sits on the board of Credit Counselling Services of Cochrane District.



Dan Ayotte, President, PAIB Insurance Inc.

With a quarter-century of experience in the insurance industry, Dan serves as the president and leader of PAIB Insurance Inc. A past student of Cambrian College and a member of the Registered Insurance Brokers of Ontario and the Insurance Brokers Association of Ontario, you may also recognize Dan through his community work, whether it is with the Chamber of Commerce, the Lions Club Timmins Telethon, or elsewhere.

A member of the Aviva President's club, he takes pride in being able to provide fitting and timely resolutions within increasingly complex scenarios. Outside the office, Dan enjoys motorsports, winter sports, camping and any other activity involving his family.

Most of all, Dan sincerely appreciates your vote and confidence in allowing him to continue to serve as a board member with the Timmins Chamber of Commerce.



Dauda Raji, President, Northern Taxi

Dauda Raji is an entrepreneur with a strong passion for building businesses to success. Dauda has resided in Northern Ontario for over eight years and has great strength in building relationships with business partners and community stakeholders.

He is a proven business leader, demonstrating success in driving multi-million-dollar growth in top line sales and bottom line profits. He has over 13 years of experience managing big box general merchandise and grocery retail with annual revenue in excess of \$85 million.

Dauda is a strong believer of achieving business success through collaboration, engagement, simplicity and social consciousness. He has served in the following volunteer roles:

- Advisory Committee, Timmins Local Immigration Partnership (2017)
- Board of Directors, Timmins Islamic Centre (2014-current)
- Board of Directors, The Good Samaritan Inn (2014)
- Employer Council, Timmins 2020 (2012-2013)
- Board of Directors, Kapuskasing Chamber of Commerce (2009-2010)

Timmins Chamber secures major provincial partner in fight for region's business issues

The Timmins Chamber of Commerce has secured the support of the province's largest business advocacy group to assist in taking on six key regional issues, ranging from mining and forestry to workforce development.

At the Ontario Chamber of Commerce's (OCC) annual general meeting in Sarnia on May 4-7, Timmins Chamber representatives successfully urged more than 100 conference attendees to support policies designed to take action on these provincial issues:

- Improving Indigenous post-secondary educational opportunities
- Reducing permitting delays related to mining exploration
- Clarifying the duty to consult
- Addressing the impact of climate change on the Far North winter road network
- Conducting socio-economic impact studies prior to divesting Crown corporations
- Ensuring the use of scientific data and socio-economic impact studies in the development of conservation plans under the Endangered Species Act / Crown Forest Sustainability Act

This success means that the Timmins Chamber policies are now official policy positions of the OCC. As such, the OCC will actively use these positions to push the government for change, supported by the full weight of the 60,000 businesses represented by the organization.

"This is a significant victory for Timmins

businesses, and our regional economy as a whole," said Christine Bender, president of the Timmins Chamber of Commerce.

"The Ontario Chamber is the province's most influential business advocacy group, and the adoption of our policies in Sarnia means that the organization will actively lobby for these positions with the provincial government over the next three years. In other words, Timmins Chamber members' concerns will be heard at the highest levels as a result of this success, which is crucial to help protect our business competitiveness."

The six policy resolutions posed and adopted in Sarnia are a continuation of the Timmins Chamber's longstanding efforts to address its members' concerns regarding issues that matter to them. For instance, workforce shortages are among the most significant challenges for local businesses, and it is widely recognized that Canada's Indigenous people – the fastest-growing population in the country – must be a key component of Ontario's strategy. To that end, one of Timmins' newly adopted resolutions urges the province to do more to provide consistent, improved post-secondary educational opportunities for Indigenous people. Similarly, to help Timmins benefit from its natural advantages in mining and forestry, resolutions were developed to address undue, Ontario-specific obstacles faced by those respective industries.

The Timmins Chamber developed these resolutions based on input from its members as well as its Government Regulation and Policy Committee. As a sign of their broader impact on Northern Ontario, the policies were also co-sponsored at the event by the Greater Sudbury Chamber of Commerce, Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce, North Bay and District Chamber of Commerce, and the Sault Ste. Marie Chamber of Commerce.

"Given the importance that each of these issues has for our members, we're very pleased to be able to advance them at the provincial level," said Bender. "With the Ontario Chamber network now in full support of Timmins' priorities, we look forward to working with our partners across the province to push for meaningful change."

The Ontario Chamber event also saw the successful passage of several policies put forward by other Northern Ontario chambers and on which the Timmins Chamber had partnered in the interests of its members. This includes resolutions insisting that the province reinvest cap and trade revenues into industries and communities affected by the program, and that the province create concierge service to make it easier for small business to understand and comply to Ontario regulations.

The Sarnia conference also gave Timmins Chamber representatives the opportunity to hear directly from Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne,

PC Leader Patrick Brown and NDP Leader Andrea Horwath on these and other key issues for local businesses.

To view the full versions of the policy that will now be championed by the CCC, please visit the Chamber's website at www.timminschamber.on.ca, or view them directly at www.tinyurl.com/OCC-AGM-2017



Nick Stewart, the Timmins Chamber's Manager of Policy, Research and Communications, helped to advocate for made-in-Timmins resolutions at the Ontario Chamber's annual general meeting in May.

Timmins Chamber warns against potential changes to Ontario's labour laws

Changes to provincial labour laws proposed today by the Ontario government -- including a \$15 minimum wage -- may prove devastating for local job creation and business competitiveness, according to the Timmins Chamber of Commerce.

The Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act, as brought forward by Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne, includes a range of changes to the Labour Relations Act and Employment Standards Act, and is expected to be reviewed by government committees through the summer in anticipation of being passed as legislation this fall. In a letter issued to the Premier last week in partnership with the Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC), the Timmins Chamber suggested these exact changes could have unintended consequences such as job losses, rising consumer costs, and economic hardship.

The letter warned that these reforms would be particularly challenging for small and medium-sized businesses, which employ 87.3 percent of Ontario residents. Among other issues, applying a flat increase to the minimum wage rather than gradual increases tied to the consumer Price Index (CPI) would remove the transparency, predictability and fairness that businesses require; this would threaten their ability to expand and maintain their workforce while increasing costs for consumers.

The potential reforms are coming at a time when the costs of doing business in Ontario is high, and stand to put Ontario at a greater competitive disadvantage. Ontario has experienced slower growth in GDP and job creation than in the past, and drastic reforms to labour and employment run the risk of causing



"These sweeping changes could seriously impact job creation and the health of our local economy," said Christine Bender, president of the Timmins Chamber of Commerce. "There is very real potential for the proposed changes to reduce economic opportunities in Timmins and discourage investment in Ontario. Such decisions must be based on evidence rather than politics."

The proposed changes also include the implementation of a one-size-fits-all approach by removing all specific exemptions for certain industries and mandating a unified approach to employee scheduling, a move that would ignore

To address these concerns and protect Ontario's businesses and its economy, the Timmins Chamber is insisting alongside the Ontario Chamber that the provincial government spend the coming months examining the economic impact of each proposed change, with an eye on implementing only those that are proven to meet certain economic thresholds, or that are offset by other economic measures.

The letter argues that workplace law reform conducted in absence of an economic risk assessment will discourage investment and compromise the competitiveness of businesses

in the province which are already struggling to maintain profitability amidst rising input costs. It points out that there is a sense within the employer community that politicians are either unaware or significantly underestimating the cumulative financial burden of recent policies that have increased the cost of doing business in the province.

"We are urging Premier Wynne to complete an economic impact analysis of the proposed reforms to limit potential consequences that could seriously jeopardize our future growth," said Richard Koroscil, interim president and CEO of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce. "We support reform where and when it is needed, but we caution against change for change's sake."

The OCC's letter reminds the Premier that Ontario's employer community is doing its part to create a better jobs and working conditions in the province. Budget 2017 points out that 98 percent of all new jobs created since the recession have been full time, and 78 percent have had an above-average wage for their respective industries.

The letter also notes that the goals of economic growth and improved employee rights are not mutually exclusive. The OCC and the Timmins Chamber argue that supporting the competitiveness of Ontario's economy can also help enhance the quality of work. Increased education and enforcement may assist in complying with government regulations and improving worker environments, but it is counterproductive to establish regulatory reform that significantly impedes business' ability to grow.

Read the OCC's previous letter to Premier Wynne at <http://tinyurl.com/ONLabourConcerns>

Timmins Chamber has mixed reaction to 2017 provincial budget

Though some measures in the 2017 provincial budget may benefit Timmins businesses, the lack of long-term solutions for rising costs for electricity, cap and trade, and debt interest payments is a concern for the Timmins Chamber of Commerce.

The recent presentation of the 2017 provincial budget by Finance Minister Charles Sousa proposed several items relevant to the Timmins businesses, including:

- A commitment of \$190 billion in infrastructure spending over 13 years, including a continued commitment to increase the Connecting Links Funding program from \$15 million to \$30 million in 2018;
- Establishing the 2017 budget as a balanced budget, the first since 2008-2009, with commitments to set a trend of balanced budgets in coming years;
- Investing \$200 million over three years to support First Nation, Métis, and Inuit learners' access to post-secondary education and training, including \$56 million for Aboriginal Institutes;
- Creating a Career Kick-Start Strategy, which invests \$190 million over three years to create opportunities for graduates and to create more internships; and
- The previously announced Fair Hydro Plan, which would allow 25 percent rate reduction for some small businesses.

"There are some elements of the 2017 budget that stand to have some positive impact on Timmins businesses, but what's not included is a much greater issue," said Bender. "Namely, energy rates continue to be among our members' largest concerns, and while previously announced

measures to reduce those rates through the Fair Hydro Plan are certainly appreciated, much more needs to be done. Although some of the announced investments are a step in the right direction, stronger measures must be taken to protect and grow our economy."

Some positive measures being taken this year include a focus on increasing post-secondary education and training support as a means of addressing workforce shortages -- one of the largest obstacles for Timmins Chamber members, added Bender. Funding new opportunities for graduates through the Career Kick-Start Strategy will help to tackle this issue, as will the \$200 million for First Nation, Métis and Inuit learners' access to education and training.

Similarly, the commitment to increase the Connecting Link funding program to \$30 million is welcome, but remains insufficient for communities' needs, said Bender. This fund assists the 77 municipalities to which the province has downloaded the responsibility of maintaining 350 kilometres of Connecting Links -- portions of provincial highways traveling through municipalities. The cost to repair Timmins' 21.2 kilometres of Connecting Link is estimated at roughly \$120 million, but the city was recently refused any funding for its planned 2017 work.

"These issues must be addressed, and we look forward to working with the provincial government to undertake measures that will support our businesses and our economy," said Bender.

The government's elimination of the deficit



in this budget represents a step in the right direction, but there remains no indication of whether Ontario would seek to pay down its debt. At roughly \$318 billion, the province's debt load means that interest payments will consume ever-greater portions of the budget; currently, interest payments are \$11.6 billion per year, and represent the province's largest expense. This has already led credit rating agencies to downgrade Ontario's outlook from stable to negative in recent years.

The Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC) shared similar concerns about the growing

provincial debt load, which contributes to lower business confidence, according to Richard Koroscil, Interim President & CEO, Ontario Chamber of Commerce.

"Budget 2017 demonstrates that much of Ontario's fiscal outlook will depend on the prosperity of our private sector," said Koroscil. "The government acknowledged that business investment spending slowed in 2016, though expects firms to increase investment by 3.1 percent, annually, to 2020 -- an amount that would outpace growth in real GDP growth and household spending."

2017-2018 CHAMBER EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE

SEPTEMBER 13 Annual General Meeting President's Dinner	SEPTEMBER 27 Women in Business Luncheon	OCTOBER 16-20 SMALL BUSINESS WEEK	OCTOBER 18 Mayor's State of the City Address	NOVEMBER 25 & DECEMBER 2 Member Holiday Parties	DECEMBER 14 General Member Meeting and Holiday Social	JANUARY 16 Meet the Purchasers
JANUARY 25 Women in Business	MARCH 8 Women in Business	MARCH 9 General Member Meeting	APRIL 25 Administrative Professionals' Day	MAY 10 NOVA BUSINESS AWARDS	MAY 24 Women in Business	JUNE 7 General Member Meeting and BBQ



Celebrating the best of business

With more than 700 attendees, the 2017 Nova Awards marked another spectacular evening for this important annual celebration, as another sold-out crowd came out to the McIntyre Arena on May 11 to celebrate the best of Timmins business.

Here are a handful of snapshots of this special evening. For a more complete view of the many memories, please visit the Timmins Chamber's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/TimmisChamber. The complete list of award recipients is available on Page 7.



THE TIMMINS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESENTS
Nova '17 AWARDS

Congratulations to this year's recipients!

Timmins Economic Development Corporation
Corporation du développement économique de Timmins

May 11, 2017



Tree Bandit



Business Contribution to the Community Award (1-5 Employees)

Awarded to a business with up to five employees and which chooses to make Timmins a better place by committing financial and human resources to support community goals.



Northern Windows & Doors



Business Contribution to the Community Award (6-10 Employees)

Awarded to a business with 6-10 employees and which chooses to make Timmins a better place by committing financial and human resources to support community goals.



Fountain Tire



Business Contribution to the Community Award (11+ Employees)

Awarded to a business with 11+ employees and which chooses to make Timmins a better place by committing financial and human resources to support community goals.



Family Eye Care



Business Contribution to the Community Award (1-5 Employees)

Awarded to a business that has demonstrated a commitment to fostering a positive work environment and has proven success in employee satisfaction and retention.



Katelyn Malo, Black Spruce Gallery & Framing



Young Professional Award (Under 40)

Awarded to a young professional under the age of 40 who has demonstrated leadership and ability in operating a business in a management or ownership position.



Tree Bandit



Marketing Award

Awarded to a business that has successfully raised awareness of their products and/or services with a creative, unique marketing campaign in traditional or social media.



NORMAP



Productivity, Innovation & Diversification Award

Awarded to a business that has improved productivity through the use of an innovative product, technology or system, or has increased sales either by introducing new products and/or services, or by expanding into new markets.



Chic Baby & Kids



Service Excellence Award

Awarded to a business that has demonstrated a commitment to providing top-quality customer service.



The Working Class



New Business Award (Under 2 Years)

Awarded to a business that has been in operation (or with new ownership) for up to two years and has demonstrated growth and success.



Timmins Gracie Jiu-Jitsu and Muay Thai Academy



Business of the Year Award (1-5 Employees)

Awarded to a "best in class" business with up to five employees and which had noteworthy milestones, growth and/or other significant achievements in 2016.



Rainville Health



Business of the Year Award (6-10 Employees)

Awarded to a "best in class" business with 6-10 employees and which had noteworthy milestones, growth and/or other significant achievements in 2016.



DJB Mining Products & Services Ltd.



Business of the Year Award (11+ Employees)

Awarded to a "best in class" business with 11 or more employees and which had noteworthy milestones, growth and/or significant achievements in 2016.



CreeQuest



Indigenous Partnership Award

Awarded to a business and Indigenous partners that have demonstrated excellence in innovation, employment and relationship building, while driving the sustainability of Indigenous businesses and communities.



Timmins Festivals and Events Committee



Non-Profit Organization Award

Awarded to a non-profit organization which is committed to sustainability and which exemplifies entrepreneurial spirit.



Congratulations to all of this year's recipients

Photos by: David Fong Photography



Mascioli Construction Co. Ltd.

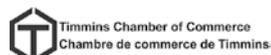


Lifetime Business Achievement Award

Awarded to a private-sector business that has been in operation for over 20 years and which has contributed positively to Timmins' economic landscape.



The Bucket Shop



President's Award

Awarded to a business that displays excellence in all Nova Awards categories.

Friends of the Novas

Adrienne Hart Esthetics
Andy Goddard, Rogers Communications Inc.
Art Pultz
Elegant Awards
Emilie Deschene, Caisse Populaire de Timmins
Full Beard Brewing Co.
Gord's Rentals
Ice Cream Friendz

Love Bug Flowers
McIntyre Coffee Shop
Morandin's Dry Cleaners
Porcupine Springs
Radical Gardens
Steinberg & Mahn
Super City Cleaning
Tap It! Draught Services and Supplies
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Ontario must do more to help business adapt to cap and trade: Timmins Chamber

The Ontario's upcoming 2017 budget should direct proceeds from the new cap and trade system to help reduce the burden on the province's business community, according to a letter issued today by the Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC) with the support of the Timmins Chamber of Commerce.

Issued to Premier Kathleen Wynne, the letter highlights the considerable challenges that businesses across Ontario already face in the form of energy rates, workforce recruitment and retention, and provincial red tape. The addition of cap and trade adds to the cost of doing business in Ontario, and risks further investments and jobs in Timmins and across the province.

To address the issue, the province should use cap and trade revenues to help offset the overall increase in the cost of doing business in Ontario, according to the letter's recommendations. This is especially important for global competitiveness, as Ontario businesses are competing with firms in many jurisdictions, including most of the United States, which are not subject to similar programs. This means that businesses in Ontario who face cap and trade costs are at a distinct disadvantage – something the provincial government should rectify within the 2017 budget, said Timmins Chamber President Christine Bender.

"Cap and trade costs represent another major challenge to Timmins businesses' competitiveness at a time where the cumulative regulatory burden in Ontario is already quite significant," said Bender.

"Careful reinvestment of cap and trade funds could help businesses to reduce their carbon footprint and therefore their costs under this system. It is for this reason that, along with the



Ontario Chamber of Commerce, we are calling on the Premier to take action and support our businesses and our economy."

In the letter to Premier Wynne, the OCC has identified four priority actions that would assist the business community to better navigate the cap and trade system:

1. Prioritize the allocation of cap and trade revenue for businesses, in addition to other efforts to offset the cost of cap and trade. Making the process to access resources as quickly as possible will be important, especially for smaller businesses who have little time or money to dedicate to program applications.
2. Prioritize innovation funding. Many Ontario businesses have already taken steps to reduce

their carbon footprint. Achieving further reductions could be difficult and will often require the implementation of new technologies.

3. Create greater post-2020 design certainty. Post-2020 certainty is important for businesses looking to make long-term investments in Ontario. While discussions have begun on this subject, the government must consider widening the scope and establish a clear, public timeline for this process. This is particularly critical for trade exposed sectors. A plan to combat carbon leakage is necessary.
4. Monitor and respond to regional impacts. To ensure the strategic allocation of cap and trade revenues, government should conduct a

regional analysis of the impacts. This analysis should consider the carbon footprint of local economies, the severity of the impact of carbon pricing, and the capacity of economies to respond.

"Increased input costs imposed on the private sector mean that Ontario risks losing out on jobs and investment, and risks an economically and environmentally damaging shift in production to jurisdictions that are not taking action to reduce their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions," said Graham Henderson, Chair of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce. "More action must be taken. In all policy decisions, the provincial government must consider how we can prevent exporting jobs while importing pollution."

The letter is aimed at impacting government policy, and builds on the OCC's meetings with senior government officials. These meetings have emphasized the need to ensure Ontario's businesses remain competitive and confident in the face of a changing economy.

The Timmins Chamber of Commerce and Ontario's Chamber network have engaged in significant advocacy on the cap and trade issue since 2015. This letter builds on the Timmins Chamber's partnership with the OCC to call on the Ontario Energy Board to disclose cap and trade costs to taxpayers as a line-item on natural gas bills. Last year, the Timmins Chamber also joined the Ontario Chamber network in pushing the government to delay the implementation of the cap and trade system until 2018.

To view the OCC's letter to Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne, visit www.tinyurl.com/CapTradeApril2017

News from the Chamber network



Ontario Chamber of Commerce applauds efforts of Ontario's Fair Housing Plan

The Ontario government's use of the new Fair Housing Plan to remove barriers in the housing market is being applauded by the Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC).

The Fair Housing Plan is comprised of 16 measures which, according to the government, are aimed to help Ontarians find affordable homes and bring stability to the real estate market. It addresses demand for housing by encouraging construction of new rental buildings and providing municipalities with the property tax tools for development opportunities. Other key details of the Fair Housing Plan include a new 15 percent Non-Resident Speculation tax on the price of homes purchased by non-citizens or foreign corporations, expanding rent control to all private rental units and additional actions to protect renters while increasing supply.

While the OCC approves of the efforts, they also suggest the measures should seek to increase supply and protect landlords, while promising new opportunities for growth. The OCC encourages the government to delve into the impact of any potential changes before moving forward.

The OCC states that they will continue to

serve the interests of landlords and property managers as they work with the government to modernize the Residential Tenancies Act to help strengthen the sector and make Ontario a leader in real estate transactions and standards.

Government to cut red tape for small businesses, says Ontario Chamber

The Government of Ontario has proposed several new measures to help reduce red tape for small businesses, a positive move that will save time and money, according to the Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC).

Some proposed measures that will be introduced this fall include reducing regulatory costs, streamlining compliance, international or national standards alignment, electronic transmission guarantees, government procurement policy, one-window service and reduced fees and costs.

These efforts have been a central focus for the OCC's Small Business Too Big to Ignore campaign, which has been prominent in advocating for a one-window service concept to help businesses access support, information and resources through multiple channels. While encouraged by the proposed government procurement policy, the OCC hopes the government expands this for all small businesses across the province.

The OCC states that the affirmative action taken by the Government of Ontario will aid in keeping Ontario's business community competitive.



Business could play crucial role in reconciliation with Indigenous peoples: report

Canadian businesses feel their participation is crucial to the success of the government's efforts to renew its relationship with Indigenous people, according to a Canadian Chamber of Commerce (CCC) report.

With the federal government's announcement of a six-minister working group that will review all federal laws and policies affecting Indigenous peoples, the business community has given the CCC feedback questioning how they can participate in the reconciliation process.

"Canada needs 'all hands on deck' and can no longer afford for governments, businesses and Indigenous peoples to work at cross-purposes," said the CCC in a release.

In Coming Together, Making Progress: Business' Role in Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples, the CCC also provided a series of recommendations, which include:

- The government should set priorities and implement a plan of action with timelines
- The government should work with Indigenous peoples to ensure their history is included in Canadians' education
- The government should create more

opportunities for Indigenous entrepreneurs by aiding Indigenous communities in establishing credit, documenting their resources and making financing programs easily accessible

- Businesses should become champions for Indigenous communities by publicly supporting government programs to improve Indigenous peoples' quality of life

Canadian Chamber concerned with rise of cybercrime for businesses

The Canadian economy is losing billions of dollars annually to cyber attacks on businesses, according to the Canadian Chamber of Commerce's recent report, Cyber Security in Canada: Practical Solutions to a Growing Problem.

The frequency and cost of cyber attacks has increased, while the tools to commit these crimes are more accessible, according to the report. Businesses are at great risk of these attacks, but particularly small businesses due to their lack of technical knowledge and resources to protect themselves. Most businesses focus on recovery rather than prevention of these situations.

The report calls on the government to collaborate with the business community to develop a more secure cyber landscape, going on to recommend that the government provide incentives for security innovations and develop programs to increase digital literacy in the workforce.

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Fond farewell to Cathy



After four years at the Timmins Chamber, Office Administrator Catherine Klopoushak (left) spent her final day with the organization serving as co-presenter of the Administrative Professionals' Day event on April 26, alongside CAO Keitha Robson. Catherine has left to pursue new opportunities in Saskatchewan, and the Chamber Board and staff would like to thank her for her dedicated service, and wish her the very best in her new endeavours.

Chamber clean-up



John Crescenzi, General Manager of Hampton Inn by Hilton, was one of many Chamber Board members that helped with a spring clean-up of the Chamber grounds on May 17. This was an effort of the Chamber Board to lead by example in demonstrating how local businesses can put their best foot forward as the city prepares to host a number of large-scale events this summer.

Timmins Chamber of Commerce



Chambre de commerce de Timmins

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Gain a say in what happens when government through the **Chamber's advocacy efforts.**



Cooking up good times at the Member Appreciation BBQ



As part of its yearly efforts to thank its 700 members for their tireless support, the Timmins Chamber of Commerce once again hosted its Annual Member Appreciation BBQ on the Chamber grounds on June 8. This always-popular event included sausages, hot dogs, hamburgers and refreshments, compliments of McIntyre Catering Services.

Mining a bright future for Ontario



Despite challenges in the global economy, the future of mining still looks strong in Ontario, according to Ontario Mining Association President Chris Hodgson (right), who spoke to local businesses at a special April 12 Chamber event. Pictured, from left to right: Chamber President Christine Bender, Northern Credit Union Small Business Account Manager Alain Paquette, and OMA President Chris Hodgson.

Energy minister electrifies Timmins



Ontario's Minister of Energy Glenn Thibeault (second left) was on hand at the Dante Club on May 26 to talk to Chamber members about their concerns about the cost of electricity, and its attempts to address them via its Fair Hydro Plan. Pictured, from left to right: Board member Zachary Meyer, Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault, Ontario Power Generation's Cheryl St-Amour and Luc Duval.