



North Bay & District Chamber of Commerce Member Benefits

Group Insurance Plan - The Chamber's group insurance plan offers a complete range of benefits for small & medium size businesses of 1 or more employees.

Credit Card Merchant Discount Rates - CIBC, TD Bank and Royal Bank provide members of the Chamber discounted merchant rates for Visa and MasterCard and Automatic Debit.

Bell Mobility Discounts - Members can enjoy cellular phone discounts.

ESSO Driver Billing Program - Members can enjoy discounts on fuel. Save .03 off of every litre of gas when you use your Esso Discount Card.

Family Attractions - Discount Paramount Canada's Wonderland & Santa's Village tickets (limited quantities available).

Member-to-Member Discounts - Chamber Members are invited to take advantage of an assortment of discounts from other Chamber members.

A list of Member-to-Member Discounts can be viewed on the Chamber website @ www.northbaychamber.com.

Printing - Discounts at selected printers.

Grand & Toy - Save up to 80% on over 7, 500 quality office products - in stock and ready to ship.

Chamber Newsletter - A monthly Chamber publication featuring cost effective advertising, Chamber initiatives, activities and business information.

Nugget Advertising - New Members can buy any size advertisement and receive the second one of equal value at no charge.

Newsletter Advertising & Banner Advertising - Exclusive to members only! New members receive \$50.00 off their first banner ad on the Chamber website. New Members also receive 50% off of their first insert in the Chamber Monthly Newsletter.

Radio Advertising - EZ Rock, The Fox and CKAT: New Members can purchase 50 paid commercials @ \$32 / piece and receive 25 free commercials (75 commercials in total). These commercials will run for three weeks straight, 25 per week @ 30 seconds per commercial. A savings of \$800.00!

Free Notarization of Trade Documents – A staff member can notarize certificates of origin for members at no charge, a savings of up to \$30.00 per document.

Regional Information Centre - The Chamber of Commerce operates the North Bay Information Centre; as a result the Chamber only gives out sector referrals for its members.

The Chamber allows members to display brochures and/or business cards at the "Regional Information Centre"

The Chamber is your local voice of business. With links to all government levels the Chamber helps ensure the collective views of local member businesses are heard.

The Chamber of Commerce also provides members with access to local business information.

Social Events - The Chamber hosts exciting social, networking & business related events including monthly "Business After Hours", seminars, workshops, annual golf tournaments, Annual General Meeting & Gala and much more.

On-line Membership Directory - The Chamber of Commerce has the most up-to-date On-line Membership Directory.

Business News - The Chamber of Commerce also puts out a bi-yearly Business News publication, which is presented in the Nugget. This Business Newsletter thanks all Chamber members for their continued support. It also keeps members informed of Chamber initiatives, as well as various different events that might be happening in the community.

Training Opportunities - Members of the Chamber of Commerce can take advantage of the various employment-training opportunities throughout the year.

Awards - Members of the Chamber of Commerce can also qualify for various awards, nominations and recognition throughout the year (Service with a Smile Awards, NOBA, Influential Women Awards, Evening of Excellence Awards, Business of the Year Awards and more).

The North Bay & District Chamber of Commerce is also affiliated with several different Committees & Programs. The Chamber is your local voice of business.

Economic Growth & Strategic Planning: * *The Chamber helps to maintain liaison with the City of North Bay Council, Administration, Mayor's Office of Economic Development, Planning & Development and other Community partners to explore and promote ongoing economic development in North Bay and area. Study economic issues and make recommendations to the Board of Directors for any required action. Strategic Planning is visioning for the Chamber. This includes all factions of the Chamber of Commerce and Dionne Quints Museum. This incorporates the review of our Governance model, bylaws updated, meeting structure, super committee structure, engage the membership, etc.*

This committee is also responsible for the Service with a Smile Program. This program is aimed to reward business owners, employees & volunteers for excellence in customer service. Rewarding customer service acknowledges the performance and contributions in making North Bay and area a better place to live & encourages visitors to return to our community. Whether the nominee works in retail, manufacturing, hospitality, public service, not-for-profit or a charitable organization, the North Bay & District Chamber of Commerce would like to reward our 'Stars'!

Programs & Special Events: * *This committee, along with Chamber staff, organizes events such as the Annual an Blackfly Golf Tournaments, monthly Business After Hours, Mini-Trade Shows, Cabin Fever pub night, Annual Gala, Dinner & Dance, and any other social events.*

Finance & Administration Committee: * *This committee focuses on membership recruitment and retention, seeks other initiative to provide added benefits to chamber members. This committee helps organize the annual Small Business Week events that are of interest to the local business community and creates awareness of the importance of business to the general public. Small Business Week is held annually in October, a week nationally recognized by the Business Development Corporation of Canada.*

Public & Government Affairs: * *This committee's role is to act on important matters of local, provincial or federal nature that will affect businesses. Review legislation/policy and make recommendations to the Board. Organize information seminars, hearings and associated forums on matters of government policy, legislation, Candidates' Nights and similar entities for the benefit of the membership.*

Tourism & Environment Committee: * *This committee recommends policies and activities to the Board of Directors, which serve to improve the facilities and increase traffic for the tourist industry in North Bay and area. Liaise with the Almaguin-Nipissing Travel Association, Ministry of Tourism, Blue Sky Economic Growth Corporation and the City of North Bay Tourism Department. Study local environment issues and recommend action to the Board. This year some topics include business recycling, Green Check and other energy saving initiatives.*

Dionne Quints Museum: * *The Dionne Quints Museum is a not-for-profit institution, owned by the City of North Bay and operated by the North Bay and District Chamber of Commerce with the co-operation of Annette and Cecile Dionne. Housed in the original Dionne homestead, the museum contains many artifacts from the Quint's early days and their growing years, an educational opportunity which is a part of our history.*

EIF/Get Trained Workers: * *The North Bay & District Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with the Ministry of Community and Social Services; the District Social Service Boards of Nipissing, Cochrane, Timiskaming, Parry Sound; and the Municipality of Muskoka, was the successful proponent through the Employment Innovations Fund as a pilot project. The North Bay & District Chamber of Commerce also has contacts with 16 other Chambers in the northeast region to promote the program. The program has been further extended to Spring 2009.*

The Ministry stated this was a unique partnership as they had never had a Chamber submit a proposal and they were very pleased that the application took a northeastern regional approach.

While the social service agencies and employment providers continually seek employment opportunities for their clients, the Chambers have a vast network of businesses in the northeast region and this partnership will certainly benefit both the potential employees and the employers. To date, over 650 clients have been placed in meaningful employment.

MarketTiger

A global network and marketplace for business people and community leaders worldwide. Their goal is to change business forever - to level the playing field so that everyone gets a fair shot at and fair share of global trade, earned on the basis of trust. Buy and sell with other communities and businesses worldwide in a safe, secure environment all on the basis of trust and reputation.

MarketTiger is free to join and free to use. With zero commission for network transactions and minimal withdrawal fees, MarketTiger has developed a commerce platform enabling people across the world to conduct trade more cost effectively than ever before.

** The Chamber of Commerce contributes to the program in several ways. The Chamber provides a web link from the Chamber website to the MarketTiger website. The Chamber also has in-house staff that monitors and helps influence growth in membership. This staff member is also responsible to communicate program progress and success with the Chamber and act as a community leader for North Bay on the MarketTiger platform.*

Autumn Getaway / Dream Catcher: The Dream Catcher Express train travels 100 km northward from North Bay to Temagami, Ontario and returns on the same day. This captivating train excursion allows you to enjoy brilliant fall

colours through large viewing windows in the comfort of your passenger coach. Autumn Getaway promotes long stays with partner hotels, museums and the Chief Command cruises. * *The North Bay & District Chamber of Commerce has a member on this committee and also assists Ontario Northland with booking these excursions.*

Discovery Routes: Discovery Routes promotes the use of trails in support of better health, tourism, strong communities, and environmental appreciation and protection. As a not-for-profit organization, as well as a registered charity, Discovery Routes' main responsibility is to create, maintain, and promote multi-seasonal trails in the Near North region of Ontario. * *The Chamber of Commerce actively promotes the Discovery Routes trail system. The information centre, which is run by the Chamber of Commerce provides local tourist with trail system maps that are supplied by Discovery Routes.*

City of North Bay Trails Committee: * *Chamber of Commerce Director Mark King is on this board of directors/governors.*

Canadian Youth Business Foundation Program: This program provides youth with startup loans and guidance. * *The Chamber has a representative on this committee.*

Community Emergency Management Plan Emergency Operations: In the event of a City wide emergency the committee has established evacuation sites throughout North Bay and has ongoing community education programs. * *The Chamber of Commerce has primary and alternate members sit on this committee.*

Public Education & Evacuation Sites for CEMPC: In the event of a city emergency. The Emergency Operations Control group of the Community Emergency Management Plan committee (CEMPC) is called in to deal with the issues. All emergency services, hydro, Military base, Red Cross, social services, etc. are represented on this committee. * *The Chamber of Commerce assists with public and business education, as well as accommodations and at evacuation sites.*

The Labour Market Group (formerly LTAB): A provincially funded organization that assists with funding of training and finds the gaps in education, workplaces, etc. The committee's focus is to put plans in place to address the gaps in the region. * *The Chamber of Commerce has a Director (co-chair) on this board. Champions of Ontario, Local Labour Market Solutions Provides and annual Trends, Opportunities & Priorities Report.*

EI Employers Board of Referees: In the event that there requires a resolution between an employer and employee claim in employment insurance, the board of referees acts as a mediator between the groups. * *The Chamber of Commerce has a representative that represents the employer's side in a dispute.*

YEP Program/NECO: * *The Chamber of Commerce conducts speaking engagements that explain the benefits of becoming a member of the Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber also provides the YEP students with various resources that can assist them with their new business.*

Event Hosting Fund: Groups that are holding events or conferences in our city can apply for funding assistance. Applications are rated on the economic impact that the event would have on the city in order to be eligible for funding assistance, up to a maximum of \$5,000 (one time). *Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, Patti Carr, sits on the review committee.

Wayfinding / Entrance Signage: Wayfinding Signage was produced to guide travelers off the by-pass to downtown. Entrance signs to the city i.e. "welcome" signs are going to be put up this year. * *Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, Patti Carr, sits on this committee.*

Business Centre of Nipissing/Parry Sound: The Business Centre of Nipissing and Parry Sound is a small business enterprise that assists new entrepreneurs and youth that are interested in opening up their own business. They also assist with business registration, business plans, taxation registration and more. * *The Chamber of Commerce has a director on this board.*

Immigration Breakfast Forum: Providing education and information to employers on how to hire immigrants. * *Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, Patti Carr, is on this committee.*

Immigration Strategy: Provides settlement Services, promotion, employment and sense of community for immigrants. We recognize that if the population in North Bay is to grow in our community, or if skilled or trained professionals are required in our area, we may need to rely on immigrants to fill these gaps. With the assistance of the Multi-Cultural Centre and the Newcomers Network we can ensure a welcoming community for immigrants. * *The Chamber of Commerce has a member on this committee.*

North Bay Blooms (formerly Communities in Bloom): Committed to fostering civic pride, environmental responsibility and beautification through community involvement. * *The Chamber of Commerce has helped this program CiB in many ways. Over the past few years, the Chamber has assisted this project by calling local businesses for sponsorship and local support, and provide administrative assistance. The 2008 program, North Bay Blooms has Chamber representation on the committee.*

Youth Justice Committee: This initiative gives youth offenders the opportunity to be tried and punished without having a criminal record on file. This initiative also helps the court system from being overloaded with youth offender cases. * *The Chamber of Commerce facilitates healing circles for youth offenders, as opposed to having them attend court.*

CCEC/CEO: Chamber of Commerce Executives of Canada & Chamber Executives of Ontario. These organizations provide professional development for Chamber Management. * *Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, Patti Carr, is a board member of the CEO and a member of the CCEC.*

Laurentian Ski Hill Board: * *The North Bay & District Chamber of Commerce assists the Laurentian Ski Hill by selling ski passes on their behalf. The Chamber of Commerce has Director Peter Rooney sit on this board.*

Health Care Recruitment: Ongoing initiative with the hospital to recruit qualified health care professionals to our city. * *The Chamber of Commerce provides welcome packages to these professionals if they choose to work in the area. This initiative was first created by the Economic Development Committee which has now become its own program inside the hospital.*

Rails to Trails: Attempting to connect North Bay & Sudbury through converting abandoned rail beds into a trail system. * *Chamber of Commerce Director, Peter Rooney, is on this committee.*

Community Campus Connection (3Cs): This committee focuses on educating the community and providing awareness on the economic impact that Nipissing University and Canadore College has on North Bay. * *The Chamber of Commerce has a representative on this committee.*

CFB Liaison: The Chamber has a liaison with the Canadian Forces Base North Bay 22nd Wing. This committee focuses on community education and economic development. * *The Chamber of Commerce has two representatives on this committee.*

City Planning Advisory: This advisory committee makes recommendations on any city development or rezoning in the city that needs to be brought to council. * *Chamber of Commerce Director, Mark King, is on this committee.*

Planning Workgroup for City's Official Plan: Stakeholders focus groups to revise the city's official plan as required by the province. * *The Chamber of Commerce has a representative on this committee.*

Pan-Northern Investment Attraction: * *The Chamber of Commerce works with the Mayor's Office of Economic Development and the City of North Bay.*

Downtown Community Improvement Plan: The DCIP assists local businesses with funding for business plans, facades and interest free loans to improve their businesses in the downtown area. * *The Chamber of Commerce had a representative on this board.*

Labour Market Initiative Consultation: Finding labour gaps that will need to be filled in the next 2-5 years. Various Human Resource departments within local

businesses will be surveyed in order to collect this data. * *The Chamber of Commerce has a representative on this board.*

Women in Business: The Women in Business Group actively promotes the growth and continued success of businesswomen through shared knowledge, an established referral base and invaluable networking opportunities. * *The Chamber attends monthly luncheons in support of this women's group.*

Community Ambassadors: Welcoming ambassadors will attend different events and conferences and assist with registration, as well as promote the city and area to participants. * *The Chamber of Commerce offers assistance to facilitate these conferences and provides administrative support to the community Ambassadors, if required.*

Business Retention & Expansion Program: * *In 2005, the City of North Bay, through the Mayor's Office of Economic Development in partnership with the North Bay & District Chamber of Commerce, undertook a formal Business Retention and Expansion Program (BR&E). Designed as a tool to help gauge the health of the local economy and collect empirical data for use in long-range planning, the BR&E program also served to open the lines of communication with the business community. This program is ongoing.*

Summer in the Park: Free family event during the August Civic long weekend at Lee Park. * *The Chamber of Commerce has two directors on this committee.*

Take Our Kids to Work: * *The Chamber of Commerce offers business placements for grade 9 students who do not have a parent or relative to take them to work on this national day.*

Blue Sky EDC Committee: Regional funding, marketing and special projects. * *Chamber of Commerce Director, Mark King, is on this committee.*

North Bay Hydro Service Board: The committee is dedicated to promoting responsible energy consumption and environmental management. With issues such as Global Warming and power shortages/outages in the public eye, and at the forefront of the news, it has become more important than ever to promote the need for responsible energy management. * *Chamber of Commerce Director, Mark King, was on this board.*

Stepping Stones: New business incubator, supporting start ups with office space and some administration assistance. * *Chamber of Commerce Director, Derek Shogren, chairs this board.*

Rebuilt Resources: "Reuse, Recycle"-not-for-profit. Assists local charities, underprivileged employees and overall environmental awareness. * *Chamber of Commerce Director, Derek Shogren, is on this board.*

Co-op Education and Community Awareness: Canadore College School of Business Co-op program. * *The Chamber of Commerce assists with finding students co-op placements.*