



Media Release

Greater Sudbury Chamber of Commerce considers Vale Inco strike disappointing and unfortunate

Expectation for both sides to get back to the bargaining table as soon as possible

(Greater Sudbury, July 13, 2009) The Greater Sudbury Chamber of Commerce is disappointed that contract negotiations between Vale Inco and the United Steelworkers failed to produce a suitable contract. Contract negotiations broke off early last week and a ratification vote was held on Friday and Saturday.

"It's regrettable that both parties, despite having had three months to meet, were unable to resolve their differences," said Steve Irwin, Chair of the Greater Sudbury Chamber of Commerce. "A labour disruption of any length will have an effect on the community - especially during this period of sustained economic stagnation."

While a labour disruption - however long - will no doubt affect the business community in the city, the Chamber believes the combination of the current two month shut-down and a more diverse local economy will assist in mitigating the effects.

"With Vale Inco in the midst of global restructuring effort, it was very clear that negotiations were going to be difficult," added Debbi Nicholson, President and CEO of the Greater Sudbury Chamber of Commerce. "However, while fluctuating commodity prices have helped to slow a recovery in the mining sector, I truly believe that the city has developed other sectors outside the sphere of the mining industry to cushion the impact."

Examples of current and planned development projects include the Lowe's building supply centre, the south end Wal-Mart, the Crossworks diamond cutting and polishing facility, the south end library redevelopment and the Northern Ontario School of Architecture.

"The city has come a long way in diversifying and encouraging growth in the education, health and private sectors, but obviously, we look forward to a quick resolution and expect this period of labour disruption to be relatively short," concluded Nicholson.

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*The **Greater Sudbury Chamber of Commerce** represents over 1,000 businesses and through the participation of its member volunteers on committees and task forces, works to influence federal, provincial and local legislation affecting business.*

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