

**Board of Directors  
Swearing In Ceremony  
Tuesday, July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009  
6<sup>th</sup> Avenue Golf and Country Club**

Welcome to all of you. It is nice to see so many familiar faces. I want to start off by thanking Brian Gatien, last year's Chair of the Board for the dedication and support that he provided to the Board.

Last year was a very busy year for Brian and the Board as the new policy governance model and subsequent documentation was a huge undertaking. The Board also passed two policy resolutions through the Ontario and Canadian Chambers of Commerce. As well, the Chamber achieved 1000 members in the last fiscal! Needless to say, Brian set high standards.

Now moving on to what is in store for the Chamber this year. I would like to work at keeping the Chamber membership at 1000 and possibly exceeding this number. Retention is always a challenge and I think this requires programs and services that are relevant to our members and the public and that we are seen as the true "Voice of Business". It is imperative that business senses that the Chamber is an organization that they need to belong to in order to prosper.

I am a strong proponent of all areas of advocacy particularly when this work can provide rewarding benefits in the betterment of private sector operations. Being able to work on behalf of our members to assist in potential growth and lessen red-tape is what makes Canada great. In my 30 years of business management, I understand that businesses want a level playing field with all areas of government. In order to stimulate business, it is absolutely crucial to allow business to compete and not be shackled by bureaucracy.

Recently the Board of Directors approved a 25% reduction in membership fees for this fiscal year. This benefit is among the many tangible benefits our members receive such as the group insurance plan and member to member discounts. I want to also focus on the intangible benefits that our members receive by becoming involved in our special events that provide endless networking opportunities.

This year the Board is also seeking accreditation through the Canadian Chamber of Commerce so that we can meet their requirements for excellence.

I feel that we have a very good Board this year. It is my hope that with the time and guidance that can be dedicated as a collective group, our members and the public will know without doubt that we are the true Voice of Business and that our primary focus is to advocate in order to promote better business in the Sudbury community.

Thank you and I ask for your trust as Chair of the Board of Directors with the Greater Sudbury Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Steve Irwin  
2009 - 2010  
Chair - Board of Directors  
Greater Sudbury Chamber of Commerce