

TIMMINS MAYOR JAMIE LIM ON ACCESS TO LAND AND PRIDE IN OUR MINING INDUSTRY

Presented at the Northeastern Ontario Mines and Minerals Symposium held at Northern College, Porcupine Campus, Timmins, Wednesday, April 17, 2002

Hosting the northeastern Ontario mines and minerals symposium is a great occasion for the City of Timmins and I am proud to be here.

On behalf of my colleagues on council, I take pleasure in extending a very warm welcome to all of the participants in this event.

The economy in the City of Timmins has always been rooted in the resource-based industries – mining and forestry.

In addition to being proud of our resource-based industries, we must, as municipal leaders, do our part in assisting and supporting these industries to ensure long term viability and sustainability within our communities.

In the City of Timmins, **mining employs 25% of our local labour force** and the Timmins mining camp is responsible for a large part of the 5.5 billion dollars generated by the mining industry in the province of Ontario.

Many of you here already know of my strong involvement with the Canadian forest industry. As chairperson of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Task Force on the softwood lumber U.S. tariff dispute, I understand the importance of municipal government leaders getting involved and speaking out on matters that dramatically impact our communities, their economies and their futures!!

Canada has three orders of government.

Some provinces, today, still do not formally recognize municipal government as a formal order of government but I am pleased that just this fall, the Province of Ontario, in its new municipal act, finally recognized municipal government and signed an historic memorandum of understanding that clearly recognized that we have a shared interest in developing the best public policy and that we serve one taxpayer who should absolutely expect governments to work together with a

common vision of making our communities better places to live and work.

Strong communities governed by strong municipal governments result in a stronger Ontario – a stronger Canada.

I believe that the Ontario mining industry can become even stronger by working and communicating with your local order of government.

As a northern Ontario community leader, I have come to realize that if we, as local governments, are not ready to champion the mining industry – and if northern communities are not ready to champion the mining industry – who will?

As a community leader, **I have no intention of seeing responsible resource-based industries have their operations precluded or minimized because of “poor policy”.**

Everyone here today knows that there can be no mining operations without significant exploration.

Exploration is the key – it is the foundation of the mining industry.

The provincial and federal orders of government must be innovative and aggressive with their new policies regarding mining exploration.

The federal government continues to listen and develop policies that support junior companies and encourage exploration, but just 2 weeks ago during a visit to Timmins, the Honourable Paul Martin recognized that although they’ve (federal government) made steps in the right direction – there is more to be done. I understand he took time to meet with local representatives to discuss the next steps and this is a very positive indication of their commitment to work with the Canadian mining industry.

In the last few years, the government of **Ontario** has definitely helped mine operating companies and committed to flow through shares, however, they **have not yet recognized the importance of encouraging mine exploration with respect to access to land.**

In discussions with industry representative, I have been told, that **restrictive access to land absolutely cripples exploration.**

The Province of British Columbia has recently addressed this crippling policy by creating new and innovative policy that allows staked mining claims to become an interest in land and not just a chattel.

As well, British Columbia, has given compensation to mining interests for land that has become parks. I understand the Yukon is looking at introducing a similar policy and we should encourage Ontario to do the same.

As a result of my dialogue with the mining industry it has become very apparent that **we need to encourage the Ontario government to create new innovative policy regarding mine exploration that recognizes the focus must be on “access to land”.**

The new **Ontario policy must reflect the understanding that flow through shares policies and access to land policy must complement one another** in order to benefit and encourage exploration. That one without the other is simply ineffective.

A few weeks back, I spoke to a local prospector who shared with me that there is a “new momentum” in exploration and that he hoped to never have to go through the past four years ever again. Others have shared this same sentiment with me.

The City of Timmins looks forward to seeing the Falconbridge deep mine project development. We are very excited by last week’s news of the joint venture between Kinross and Placer Dome.

The City of Timmins, in conjunction with our Timmins Economic Development Corporation is working with the local mining industry to establish

the Discover Abitibi Project. The 10 million dollar Discover Abitibi Project will help stimulate and promote increased mining exploration and development in our region. We are very excited by the possibilities.

Also, the City of Timmins is encouraged by the recent announcements regarding the Globex Magnesium Talc Project and we plan to work with them in supporting their mining operation.

There is no doubt that these are challenging times. **Less and less flexible local access policies are creating a restrictive process and crippling exploration.**

I believe that by working together – supporting one another – communicating with the other two orders of governments with a “unified” voice – we can and will change policy.

As junior companies, as prospectors, you are the engines that drive the mining industry in Ontario – in Canada.

Now more than ever before – municipal governments and the mining industry must work together – recognizing and celebrating our mining industries’ excellence.

Remembering the words of J.F. Kennedy ***“there can be no progress if people have no faith in tomorrow”!***

As industry leaders, as municipal leaders – it is our job to inspire faith in our citizens – in the investors – in our consumers – so that we may continue to progress in an ever changing world.

We most understand that if we as stakeholders don’t have faith in the future of the mining industry – why would we expect others? Join me in making a commitment by expressing *“pride”* for our mining industry – be proud about where the industry has come from and where it is going.

By expressing our pride – by working together – by building partnerships – we will inspire faith – we will make our great mining industries, our great communities – our great province and country – even better.