

THUNDER BAY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

A Newsletter of The Thunder Bay Community Economic Development Commission (CEDC)

Next Issue
April 2010

Volume 2
Issue 1

SUPPORTING AND ENHANCING BUSINESS

The CEDC is responsible for business development, retention and expansion, entrepreneurial support, opportunity promotion, and the collection and assessment of key business data. Incorporated in 2006, CEDC is an arms length Community Development Commission led by an independent board with core funding from the City of Thunder Bay.

The CEDC receives formal proposals for projects that will contribute to economic development. It responds quickly to new opportunities and initiatives to attract direct financial involvement from government and private sectors. The CEDC's staff will assist businesses in attaining information essential to their decision making.

Located within CEDC's administrative office, the Thunder Bay & District Entrepreneur Centre provides seminars, workshops and free and confidential business counselling services to new and existing small businesses.

A TORNADO IS COMING!

At a press conference on October 27, 2009 the Thunder Bay Regional Research Institute (TBRI) announced a new research and development partnership with Sentinelle Medical Inc. of Toronto, Ontario. At that time, Sentinelle Medical, one of the fastest-growing diagnostic imaging companies in Canada, unveiled plans to form a new medical device research, development, marketing and sales company in Thunder Bay that would be officially launched by the end of 2009.

The new spin-off company, known as Tornado Medical Systems, will have its headquarters in Thunder Bay and is expected to employ 50 professionals within the first 18 months of operation and more than 200 by the end of 2013. The company will attract local talent with engineering, accounting, finance, information technology, information management and software design skills and will reach out to the global market for experts in medical imaging research, development and MRI sales.

"This announcement is but the most recent tangible example of Thunder Bay's emerging reputation as the location of a powerful cluster in the Biomedical, Medical Research, Health Innovation and Biotechnology sectors," said Steve Demmings, CEO, Thunder Bay CEDC. "This announcement cannot be overstated in terms of the economic impact on investment in this community and for the opportunities created by the attraction and employment of doctors, scientists, physicists, chemists and machinists."

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EMPLOYMENT RATE

Thunder Bay December 2009 Labour force characteristics, population 15 years and older, by census metropolitan area

Population (Thousands)	103.1
Labour force (Thousands)	65.7
Employment (Thousands)	60.2
Unemployment (Thousands)	5.4
Participation Rate (%)	63.7
Unemployment Rate (%)	8.2
Employment Rate (%)	58.4

Source: Statistics Canada

CEDC is a Proud Sponsor of the Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce's 16th Annual Business Awards

Do you know of a business organization that exemplifies a high standard of business practice, local initiative, or represents the Thunder Bay spirit? Nominate them now for one of the many awards to be given at the Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce's 16th Annual Business Awards. The Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce Business Awards now include categories for members as well as non-members. Join us on **Saturday, April 17, 2010 at the Valhalla Inn** for this exciting event. For nomination forms please contact the Chamber office at 624-2626 or email events@tb-chamber.on.ca

CEDC Initiatives

The CEDC has been working in conjunction with the Thunder Bay film community towards the growth of film related productions in The City of Thunder Bay. Work is currently under way to create a Thunder Bay Film Resource Website, with the goal of providing assistance to potential filmmakers. The targeted launch date is the spring of 2010. The project will offer information about the local film community and focus on reducing up front scouting and research time for people who are interested in filming in and around the Thunder Bay region. More details will be released in the April Edition of Thunder Bay Economic Developments.

The CEDC, in partnership with the Ontario Prospectors Association, commenced the process of creating an internet based comprehensive information guide that will offer a broad variety of end users a wide-ranging source of information relating to the mineral development and mining sector, as well as the related goods, services firms and other forms of support available to the sector. The objective is to enhance Thunder Bay's ability to encourage and support the stability and growth of the mining sector and related goods and services operations.

2009 Update

- The CEDC initiated the 2008-2009 Business Retention and Expansion Program. The program helped identify roadblocks and barriers for business growth as well as generating opportunities for existing businesses operating in Thunder Bay.
- On March 10, 2009, the City of Thunder Bay and CEDC launched a new user-friendly websites. The websites will make it easier for residents, visitors, businesses and investors to access information with new designs, revised content, easy to navigate pages and convenient features.

www.ThunderBayCEDC.ca

- In the spring of 2009, CEDC formed a partnership with the Thunder Bay Regional Research Institute (TBRI) to work collaboratively on projects with the goal of generating economic growth for both the Institute and for the City of Thunder Bay. TBRI announced a partnership with Sentinelle Medical Inc. of Toronto, Ontario, unveiling plans for a new medical device company to start up in Thunder Bay by the end of 2009. Sentinelle Medical's new spin-off company, "Tornado Medical Systems", will have its headquarters in Thunder Bay and is expected to employ 50 professionals within the first 18 months of operation and more than 200 by the end of 2013.



- In 2007, the CEDC formed a partnership with Superior Propane. This partnership has resulted in the establishment of a new operation that is helping to facilitate the development of the local workforce. This initiative will directly assist local residents in securing the employment opportunities created by our growing Information, Communications and Technology (ICT) sector. In early 2009, the CEDC and Superior Propane jointly developed plans to establish a National Training Centre that would offer the local workforce applied training opportunities relating to the ICT sector. Superior Propane has grown to approximately 100 employees.
- The CEDC launched the "Inspiring Change – Creating Opportunities" Speaker Series. The CEDC Speakers Series is a tool to inspire change/create business opportunities in the community and to reach out to potential partners outside the community. The objective of the series is to inspire business and community leaders on business transformation strategies and to develop new global market opportunities.
- Global Sticks, which will be completed in early spring 2010, is a state-of-the-art value added wood processing facility that will utilize northern white birch, which is plentiful in Northwestern Ontario, to create sticks used for ice cream bars, popsicles, corn dogs, paint paddles and medical tongue depressors. The mill will create approximately 70 to 80 full-time jobs as well as 15-20 construction jobs. Global Sticks will produce up to 2.8 billion wood sticks annually.



OPPORTUNITIES AND INCENTIVES



Visit: www.ThunderBayCEDC.ca to find out about our many opportunities and incentives.

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**BUSINESS
SEMINARS**
Coming Soon



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