



DAN MELANSON FOR MAYOR

Leadership + Vision = Economic Growth

## First 100 Days

During the first 100 days of taking office as your Mayor I am committing to the following:

### **Economic Development**

The Greater Sudbury Development Corporation (GSDC) was created as a result of amalgamation in 2000. Since that time there has not been a comprehensive review of its effectiveness and efficiency. All cities across Canada support economic development services. It is time to look at how the GSDC operate and deliver their economic development services. It is also time to assess the effectiveness of our City's development efforts.

***In my first 100 days*** I will form a mayor's advisory group that will include the current chair of the Greater Sudbury Development Corporation and a select group of our business leaders to undertake a complete operational and governance review of our economic development department. In addition, this group will meet with me on a regular basis to advise on development opportunities.

A revitalized and refocused Economic Development Corporation will focus on our all-out efforts to diversify and attract new investments in our city.

We can, and we will do a better job of attracting new industries and benefit from the economic growth that comes with them.

### **Former St. Joseph's Hospital Site**

This site, in its current state, is a scar on the landscape of Ramsay Lake as well as an eyesore along a major thoroughfare into our City. We can all agree that this location is one of the most valued properties in our community. It has been 8 years since the sale of the property and the time to act to correct this unfortunate situation is long past due.

***In my first 100 days*** as your Mayor I will work with the current owner of the property and others to bring a concrete action plan to council that will see this site realize the potential that it has. It is just not acceptable that this situation has been left for so long without intervention and leadership from the Mayor's office, I will change that.



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### **Industrial Tax Base**

Greater Sudbury's industrial tax base has been in steady decline for many years. This is due in part to stagnant growth of new industry in our city and the road blocks that business faces when dealing with City Hall. However, it is also a fact that our two major industrial partners, Vale and Glencore have been consolidating operations and reducing their footprint on our landscape. As many of you know municipalities can only tax buildings that are on surface, we cannot tax underground operations. As a businessperson I understand that these companies want to reduce their tax burden wherever they can, that is good for their business, but for the city it is a problem.

Our former Mayor John Rodriguez and I did not agree on many things, but we did agree that cities that host mining operations should share in the royalties and corporate taxes paid by them to the Provincial and Federal Governments. Host cities must provide the infrastructure that these companies need to function. This goes far beyond roads, but roads are central to this issue. In addition to clean water and waste we must create a community that people want to live in. Modern recreational facilities, health care and a vibrant arts community are essential to these companies attracting skilled workers.

Twenty-five years ago, Vale (INCO) and Glencore (Falconbridge) paid over 25% of the taxes raised by the city, today that number is less than 6%. If all mining operations were on surface, we would not have a revenue problem.

***In my first 100 days*** as your Mayor I will form a coalition of mayors from northern Ontario municipalities that host mining operations. We will collectively lobby the Ford government to fulfill their campaign promise to share mining royalties. In addition, we will work with the Federal Government to find an equitable and stable funding mechanism that recognizes the unique challenges that host mining communities face.

This challenge requires strong leadership from northern Ontario's largest city. I will provide that leadership.



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### **Size of Municipal Government**

The promise of amalgamation was that it would create a more efficient and cost effective local government. Clearly that has not happened. The bureaucracy at Tom Davies Square has grown every year since 2000. Taxpayers do not understand why this growth continues unabated while our population and economic growth is virtually stagnant.

*In my first 100 days* as your Mayor I will put a hiring freeze in place pending a review of all departments' staffing requirements, beginning with management. I am convinced that efficiency can be found and that, through attrition and retirements, the public service in this city can be reduced, while maintaining and indeed improving the delivery of services to our citizens.

As my election campaign progresses I will present a series of policy papers on a wide range of challenges and opportunity facing our community.