

Event: State of the City Address

Date: Thursday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025

Time: 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Location: Caruso Club

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## CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

**Good afternoon, everyone! Bonjour à toutes et à tous. Aanii. Bojoo.**

It's a privilege of mine to stand before you as Mayor of Greater Sudbury—a city I am proud to serve—in a time marked by **progress, determination, and momentum.**

Thank you to Chamber Board Chair Trevor Lalonde and President & CEO Marie Litalien for the invitation to speak to all of you today.

I also want to recognize the lands of the Robinson Huron Treaty of 1850 which we're gathered on—home to the Atikameksheng Anishnawbek and Wahnapiatae First Nations.

My friends who are here today—Chief Larry Roque and Gimaa Craig Nootchtai—represent not only Indigenous communities. **They are our neighbours, our partners, and vital leaders in the story of Greater Sudbury's past and future.**

There's a saying in *Shoresy*, "It's not success unless you have someone to share it with." And today, I'm excited to reflect on what we've accomplished **together**, and to look ahead at the opportunities still before us.

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## **Appreciation and Acknowledgements**

Before I dive in, let me say **thank you**—to residents, community partners, business leaders, and City staff—including our new CAO, Shari Lichterman—for your ongoing commitment to making Greater Sudbury a place where people want to **live, work, invest, play and raise their families.**

A special congratulations to MP Viviane Lapointe on her re-election this week, and to newly elected MP for Sudbury East–Manitoulin–Nickel Belt, Jim Belanger. I look forward to working closely with both of you.

I'm also pleased to be joined by all of my **Council colleagues.** Your dedication and collaboration are instrumental in moving our city forward.

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## **A City Moving Forward**

### **AEDIFICEMUS - “Come, let us build together.”**

That is not just a slogan. It is also Greater Sudbury’s maxim — a shared mindset — and it has never been more relevant and they are words that I keep returning to.

From the beginning of this Council’s term, we’ve focused on **purpose and unity.** The challenges and opportunities before us—housing, infrastructure, innovation, climate, and care for the most vulnerable—require all of us **rowing in the same direction.**

While today's address focuses on growth, investment, and the future of our economy, I want to acknowledge the equally important work underway in housing, social and community services.

I'll be providing a more fulsome update on that front later this fall. For now, I invite you to join me as we turn our attention to the opportunities that are driving confidence in Greater Sudbury—across industry, innovation, and infrastructure.

Whether we are building housing, building hope, or building prosperity, we are doing it the only way that truly works: together.

This is the spirit that drives your City Council. It is what fuels our partnerships with industry, Indigenous communities, institutions, and all levels of government.

It is how we've advanced bold plans, made tough decisions, and put forward a vision of a more inclusive, more sustainable, and more prosperous Sudbury.

And we're not just planning — we're building. We're breaking ground.

We're getting shovels in the ground. We're opening doors. We're setting records.

So today, I want to walk you through some of the work we've done — and the challenges that still lie ahead — through the lens of this guiding call:

**“Come, let us build together.”**

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## **Innovation, Industry, and Economic Sovereignty**

Earlier this week, Canadians went to the polls and demonstrated a clear desire to stand strong in a **new global era**. Across the country and around the world, people are waking up to the idea that **economic sovereignty** isn't just about GDP or geopolitics.

It's about:

- **Who controls the means of production**
- **Who benefits from prosperity**
- **Who gets to shape the future**

As the **Fourth Industrial Revolution** unfolds, critical minerals have taken centre stage. And that's good news for us—because **Greater Sudbury has the winning hand**.

We are:

- The **epicentre** of Canada's critical minerals strategy.
- A place where **extraction, research, processing, and training** all come together.
- Home to a skilled workforce, world-class suppliers, and **deep partnerships** with post-secondary institutions like Laurentian University, Cambrian College, and Collège Boréal.

**The world wants what we have.** And we have a decision to make: Will we lead? Will we innovate? Will we secure our place in the industries of the future?

I say yes. And we're already doing it.

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## **Global Advocacy for Sudbury's Strategic Role**

I've been clear in my advocacy: **Canada must expand refining and processing capacity** for the battery supply chain—especially for nickel sulphate and pCAMs.

Right now, there's only one nickel sulphate facility in Canada. It's in Quebec. But where does most of that nickel and sulfuric acid come from? Yes—**Sudbury**.

### **Why not process it here? Why not add value at home?**

In March, I became the first Mayor outside of Toronto invited to speak at the Canadian Club. My message was simple: **these projects are in the national interest**—and we must not waste this opportunity.

Our businesses are competing against Chinese state-owned enterprises that don't uphold the same environmental and safety standards that we do.

After my speech, I met with Premier Ford at Queen's Park to continue that conversation—and I'm confident **Ontario is behind us**.

We need to create the conditions for our local industry to be competitive, and treat the critical minerals sectors the same way we do for our automotive sector and manufacturing sectors.

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## **International Partnerships and Trade Missions**

Just a few weeks ago, I led a **trade delegation to South Korea and Japan**.

I was joined by Gimaa Nootchtai of Atikameksheng Anishnawbek, along with industry leaders from Vale, Glencore, Magna Mining, Frontier Lithium, and Electra Battery Materials.

We met with global companies like LG, Panasonic, and Posco—one of the largest suppliers of battery materials in the world.

**We were there before Ontario and Alberta’s delegations. We are ahead of the curve.**

But we need continued provincial and federal partnership to:

- Invest in mining and processing infrastructure
- Harmonize reviews for faster project timelines
- Support meaningful Indigenous partnerships in development

At this year’s PDAC Partnership Luncheon, co-hosted with Wahnapiatae First Nation, Atikameksheng Anishnawbek, and Vale, our message was clear: **Indigenous communities must guide and benefit from development on their territories.**

We echoed that message abroad—at MINExpo in Las Vegas and at the **OECD Conference of Mining Regions and Cities**, hosted right here in Sudbury.

The world is learning from our model: a city that balances **mining, environmental sustainability, and Indigenous leadership**. We're not just a source of supply—we're becoming a **standard of excellence**.

That confidence is also reflected in the services returning to our community. We're excited to welcome back WestJet service in the coming weeks—another sign that Greater Sudbury is a growing market and a destination for business and tourism alike.

The return of this service will not only enhance regional connectivity, but also support our economy by making it easier for residents, entrepreneurs, and visitors to access our city.

Whether it's our world-leading mining supply sector, our growing film industry, or our post-secondary talent pipeline, and so many industries that I haven't even touched on today, the message remains the same: **Come, let us build together** — for jobs, for innovation, and for a future that works for everyone.

We know that in order to meet the growing demands of our economy, especially in sectors like healthcare, skilled trades, and innovation, we need to attract more people to Greater Sudbury.

That's where new Canadians play a vital role—not only in filling gaps, but in enriching the fabric of our community.

We are also seeing the results of our advocacy paying off with the continuation of programs like the **Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot** and launch of the **Francophone Community Immigration Pilot**, which have helped attract talented newcomers from across the globe to build their lives—and futures—here in Greater Sudbury.

These programs have brought hundreds of skilled workers to our city, helping local businesses fill critical labour gaps and bringing new energy to our neighbourhoods.

In fact, we've already welcomed 1400 candidates through the RNIP Program, for a total of 3000 new residents and have achieved an incredible retention rate of 98%.

Many of these individuals are not only choosing Sudbury for work—they're choosing it as home.

It's why we are one of the only communities selected by the IRCC to host the RNIP and FCIP Programs moving forward and we're looking forward to welcoming up to 570 new candidates plus their family members through these programs this year to help fill jobs needed locally.

This is what "**Come, let us build together**" truly means. It's about growing a diverse, welcoming city where everyone has a role in shaping our future. These newcomers are healthcare professionals, engineers, skilled tradespeople—and they are now also our neighbours, colleagues, and friends.

This is our story. Think of the names:

- Trebek
- Luoma
- Foligno
- Baumann
- Esmie
- Kershaw
- Mau
- Rodriguez

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## **Film, Culture, and Creative Industries**

As we welcome newcomers who bring fresh perspectives, stories, and experiences, we also strengthen the creative energy that fuels our arts community, film industry, and cultural sector—making Greater Sudbury a more vibrant and expressive place for all.

This year, we welcomed **30 film and TV productions** to Greater Sudbury, including:

- *Rêver en néon* (CBC)
- *Murderbot* (Apple TV+)
- *Ripping Off Othello* – filmed entirely with local talent

And of course, the *Shoresy* cast and crew continued calling Sudbury home. I even stopped by the Sudbury Arena to cheer on the Bulldogs myself!

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## **Housing Growth and Infrastructure Investment**

As our economy grows, we know: **we need more homes.**

In 2024, we issued **539 building permits** for new homes—the **highest in over a decade** for a total of **854 residential units.**

- 117 affordable units
- 94 supportive and transitional units

And in Q1 alone of 2025, we've approved 614 residential units, not including the Old Hospital Redevelopment which is moving quickly through the site development process and demolitions plans are underway.

Altogether, this Council has approved the creation of **2600 new housing units.**

Recently, we received funding through the **Housing Accelerator Fund**—up to \$16 million—and we secured:

- A combined **\$63 million in Federal and Provincial funding for water infrastructure upgrades in Lively to unlock the development of 3300 new homes in the area.**

That \$70 million was **90% funded outside municipal tax dollars** which is a sign of municipal advocacy paying off.

Through our **Strategic Core Areas CIP**, we're also supporting downtown housing—like the Scotia Tower conversion that will bring 83 units to the core. We haven't seen new market housing like this in the downtown in decades.

This growth isn't happening by chance. **At every level, Greater Sudbury is saying “yes” to more homes.**

In the face of a national housing crisis, Greater Sudbury has chosen to act — not alone, but together. To truly address housing needs, we must live the words we say: **Come, let us build together.**

We are bringing the public, private, and non-profit sectors to the table because we know that

Council is setting clear and strong policies to cut red tape and make it easier to build homes in Greater Sudbury.

We've allowed 4-units as-of-right as well as medium density residential builds on institutional and commercial zones.

Our Official Plan, and our comprehensive zoning bylaw review is underway. These foundational documents are being aligned with our Housing Pledge, ensuring our policies match the ambition of our targets.

We've also expanded the reach and impact of our Community Improvement Plans—providing incentives to build in the right areas, especially our strategic core zones.

The Housing Accelerator Fund is also helping us clear the way for more diverse and affordable housing options across our city.

These are not just planning tools—they're how we make “Come, let us build together” real.

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## **Downtown Sudbury: Event Centre and Cultural Hub**

Our downtown vision is bold and people-focused.

Council has fully approved the new **Event Centre**. Set to open in 2028, it will drive foot traffic, anchor major events, and **spur investment in the urban core**.

Just steps away, the **Cultural Hub at Tom Davies Square** is moving forward—with **\$24.9 million in federal funding** announced in 2024.

We're now moving toward detailed design and construction, with **an open house planned this fall** to keep the public involved.

**This Hub will be a beacon of creativity, inclusion, and community**—led by Teeple Architects, Two Row Architect, and Yallowega Architecture.

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## **Climate Leadership and Environmental Stewardship**

At the same time, we're reviewing our **Downtown Master Plan** to reflect these new investments like the Event Centre and Cultural Hub—and how they help us **build a greener, more connected city**.

As we build, we also protect what makes Greater Sudbury special—our lakes, forests, and green spaces.

Just over a year ago, Council voted unanimously to support efforts to protect 30% of our lands and water by 2030 – a goal known as 30x30.

My Task Force has identified 2000 hectares of municipally owned greenspace that has been added to the federal database of Conserved and Protected lands. And our work has just begun.

We are all proud of the Sudbury story of land reclamation – how our community has pulled together to transform our damaged industrial landscape back to a green and forested environment and planted over 10 million trees.

But we can, and we must, do more.

This is a city with a rich history that began with the Anishnaabe people, who have cared for this land since time immemorial.

One of these related opportunities for environmental protection is a project that I am championing, a National Urban Park right here in Greater Sudbury.

In 2024, I began making the case to Minister Guilbeault and Parks Canada about the significance of a National Urban Park in our municipality.

Now that a new federal government has been elected, I will continue my advocacy to have our city selected.

Throughout this process, I will also continue to work with Gimaa Nootchtai and Chief Roque and their communities to determine a suitable location and co-management governance for such a park.

Together we can protect our shared lands and celebrate the cultural, recreational and educational opportunities provided by these vibrant ecosystems.

I'm looking forward to continuing to push this project across the finish line and sharing more with the community in the coming months.

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## **In Closing**

I want to thank each and every one of you for your time today.

We have real momentum.

But we also have real work ahead — and the only way we will meet this moment is by staying united.

As we look to the next year, I offer this same invitation to everyone in our city — to residents, businesses, institutions, and partners at every level of government:

Let this be our call for the next year and beyond:

**“Come, let us build together.”**

Let us build more homes.

Let us build more businesses.

Let us build more hope.

Let us build stronger services and a stronger economy.

Let us build a city where everyone — from our most vulnerable neighbours to our most ambitious entrepreneurs — can find belonging and opportunity.

This is our time. This is our city. And this is how we will shape its future — together.