

State  
of the  
City



2017

État  
de la  
ville

Mayor / Maire Brian Bigger

June 20 / le 20 juin

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Welcome, Bienvenue, Annii.

Thank you all for coming today to my third official State of the City Address as your Mayor.

I want to thank Chamber Chair Tracy Nutt, President and CEO Debbi Nicholson, and the team at the Greater Sudbury Chamber of Commerce for hosting all of us here at the Radisson Hotel.

I'd also like to thank today's event sponsors including OLG, CN, Eastlink, Hard-Line Solutions, and Plan A Health Care Staffing Solutions.

And lastly I would like to thank the chef Alessandro Apolloni for the wonderful meal today.

Now, I would like to recognize my fellow City Councillors in attendance and ask that you please stand.

I am just 1 of 13 voices around the Council table and I've been so very fortunate to be able to work with a progressive group that together have been able to accomplish so much during our time so far.

Also I'd like to recognize all of the City Staff in attendance and ask that you please stand.

We have such a tremendous team not just at City Hall but across all of the depots, stations, arenas, water/wastewater plants, and buildings in every corner of our City.

I look forward to reviewing some of our shared accomplishments throughout my speech this afternoon.

**[Acknowledge dignitaries]**

Finally, I want to thank my wife, Lori, for being here with me today on this special day. Lori, you are a very patient person and stand by me through the demands of this job. Thank you so much for being my side.

Before I get to business, I would like to recognize that we are gathered together on the traditional territory of the Robinson-Huron Treaty, shared by the Atikameksheng Anishnawbe.

As a City with such strong historical ties with our Indigenous people and their culture, we must always uphold a responsibility for the land that we call home.

As I stand before you all today, I honestly can't believe this is already my third State of the City Address.

Between the countless community events, council meetings, funding announcements, and every day conversations with citizens of Greater Sudbury, time has flown by. But it's been so worth it.

No matter how big or small, these experiences have driven home that I made the right choice to run for Mayor.

We as a community have so much to be proud of and to look forward to.

And that's what I'm here to talk to all of you about today.

When I was elected, the public was very clear that they wanted openness, accountability, transparency and a new tone at City Hall.

Voters also wanted an increase in dedicated funding to roads and pipes, they wanted to see projects across our City move forward, and they wanted dollars spent in the public's interest.

3 State of the City Addresses in and I can confidently say to the best of our ability that we are fulfilling the expectations of the public.

Looking back, my first year in office was my promise of a zero percent tax increase to direct staff focus towards service and operating priorities, finding efficiencies, and enhancing value for money.

Years two, three and four have and will be about leveraging those efficiencies and reinvesting.

The overwhelming message I'm hearing from the public continues to be the need to forge ahead. Some think we need to lean back. But what we really need to do is lean in.

Greater Sudbury needs to move forward. In order to do that we, as a City need to invest in ourselves and grow. So we can attract investment that creates jobs, attract new individuals to our community and refine and continue to enhance services for those who already live here.

We are building our community – and with proper planning and financial considerations we will be set up for success to be able to move forward on a number of visionary and affordable large projects and infrastructure investments.

We want to see this city be even better than it already is. I want to see this city be better than it already is.

What we've done as a Council thus far is tremendous. We've put in place a strategic plan, which serves as a roadmap for staff to follow. We've taken a good hard look at our assets, and prioritized how to fix them in line with what makes sense for the community and is reasonable. We've put a financial plan in place for the City to follow, so there is a clear path forward on how we are going to spend the money you've entrusted us with.

We've also been working extremely hard in my office to be at the table with the province and the federal government to tell them what kind investments we require as a community. And together, we've delivered.

I understand that change isn't always easy but change is also an opportunity to demonstrate to you, the public and the voters, that your tax dollars are being spent responsibly, wisely, and in the interest of the future.

I'm going to speak to you a bit more about how our plans have come to fruition in a little bit, but first I want to speak about collaboration and communication.

We want the best for our entire community regardless of what ward we live in, and collaboration will move us forward.

Now, let's get to business.

I would like to speak to you today about city communications, about unprecedented investments in our infrastructure, transit, recreation, and social services, about our work in economic development and finally about our large projects process.

As an organization, we are learning and constantly improving to meet the unique demands of our area and the people who live here.

We listen to businesses and we value collaboration.

Collaboration is something very valuable and something that we learn more about daily. My office is constantly building new relationships with each of you and enhanced communication is something that I have pushed for as Mayor and it is an area I assure you we will continue to work on to bring our city forward.

To that end, I am pleased to tell you that over the weekend, [greatersudbury.ca](http://greatersudbury.ca) has re-launched, and I have to commend staff for the countless hours that went into this new and improved site. It's easier to use, and I'd encourage you to take a look.

On May 31<sup>st</sup> the City also released the first annual report to the community called "Greater Together in 2016". It's available for viewing on the city website and I encourage you all to check it out.

There is a new tone at City Hall and this is an example of our goal to foster a better relationship with residents and provide all of you with more information.

And now to speak to our unprecedented investments in infrastructure during my term as Mayor.

At last year's State of the City, I was very pleased to talk about some major infrastructure projects that funding had been approved for and this year I am even happier to see shovels in the ground.

First, I'll share some highlights from our 2016 construction season.

The City successfully tendered 49 infrastructure projects, equating to a \$55 million dollar investment.

We repaired and rebuilt 80km worth of single lane roadway, repaired 1.8 km's worth of sidewalks and curbs, 15 bridges, and a combined 10 km's worth of new water mains. New sanitary sewer systems were also installed.

We also made very positive strides in supporting cycling and active transportation across Greater Sudbury by securing key funding and I'll get into that work later.

20 new pedestrian crossovers were installed across our City.

This infrastructure is an important part of our ongoing effort to make our roadways safer for all users including pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists.

Last year, we worked extremely hard to attract almost \$74 million dollars in funding from other levels of government for our infrastructure. Let's think about that. \$74 million dollars is being invested in our community in addition to what we are investing as a community.

This could not happen without strong relationships with our partners at the provincial and federal levels. Thank you.

So – what are we doing with this money?

2017 is going to be an extremely busy construction season. The City's capital budget is \$229.7 million, compared to \$106.9 million last year. That's more than double.

There is a new pace at City Hall. Our staff have never worked harder on your behalf.

65 projects worth approximately \$100 million are planned to be tendered this year. We have already tendered out half of them including projects on Dominion Dr., Tilton Lake, First and Second Avenue in Coniston, and many others.

The City will be doing pavement rehabilitation work on MR 15 in Chelmsford, MR 55 in Ward 2, and MR 84 in Hanmer this construction

season as well as on Fairbank East Road in 2017 and by Crean Hill Rd. the following year.

A total of 20 large culverts and bridges are being replaced or rehabilitated this year, 11 km's worth of new watermain lines, sanitary sewer lines, and another 10 km's worth of rehabilitation and realigning work.

We are listening to you and making our City more cycling and pedestrian friendly.

As I mentioned briefly, with the funding we received, the City will also be installing cycling infrastructure on Lorne, Second Avenue, Paris Street and Notre Dame which includes protected bike infrastructure on places like Lorne Street and Second Avenue.

The City will also be installing a total of 18 pedestrian crossovers across Greater Sudbury this year and we installed the first leading pedestrian interval crossing on Notre Dame Avenue and Kathleen Street.

For those who've driven by the largest infrastructure undertaking in our City's history, Phase 1 of the Maley Drive Extension you will see that work is well underway and on track. I am so proud to see the progress that has been made! The first part of the widening contract is under construction and the second part will be tendered out in the coming months.

Much needed construction is proceeding on Lorne Street from Martindale to Logan.

Detailed engineering designs for the stretch of Lorne Street from Elm to Power will also begin this year which puts us in a position to release a tender for construction to begin on this section in June of 2018.

This project has come together nicely and thanks to productive consultations with local CAN's. Across town in Minnow Lake, work on Second Avenue is on schedule and I know how anxious residents in the area are for this project to finally be completed.

Just beside all of this construction is the new Morel Family Foundation Park which had its grand opening this past Saturday.

You can take the people out of Sudbury, but not the Sudbury out of the people. At a cost \$400,000 of this is a 100% donated park, playground, and splash pad which I know will be a big hit with the families in the area.

I'd like to thank Kelly and Cory Morel for this wonderful donation to our City in memory of your parents, Ray and Barb. Thank You.

Earlier in June, I travelled to Ottawa where I was able to secure meetings with Minister's office staff to discuss funding opportunities for a number of infrastructure projects in Greater Sudbury including MR 35 and the remainder of Lorne Street.

As of now, detailed engineering designs are on track to be completed prior to the 2018 construction season. We're hoping to gain the necessary phase two funding for these projects as well.

I support these much needed projects and I will continue to advocate for this funding and for other investments in our community that will address our infrastructure needs and grow our community.

Last month you heard how we significantly improved our quality assurance testing.

I know that we have to be strategic in our approach to tackling our infrastructure gap. Quality assurance is an important element.

Back in March, City Council met to discuss debt financing for infrastructure projects and other large capital projects.

Interest rates are at historical lows and if managed properly, now is the right time to fix our roads, our water/wastewater pipes, our facilities and plants, our cycling infrastructure, and get on a path to growth and quality of life that our residents expect, and that are set out in our strategic plan.

Like I stated previously. Instead of leaning back, we need to lean in.

We have the capacity to borrow money to grow our community. In fact, our revenue-to-debt ratio is one of the best in any municipality in Canada at 1.5% compared to the averages which are around 4%. We are in a strong



financial position to use debt financing to our advantage for the right projects.

I look forward to our CFO and staff presenting Council with a new financing policy in the coming months so we can get to work.

We have also been looking to save money and address our infrastructure requirements while being environmentally friendly.

In 2016 and now halfway through 2017, City staff have been able to complete numerous building retrofits not only to our own facilities but also some of the buildings under the Greater Sudbury Housing Corporation.

Solar rooftop projects at Pioneer Manor and Countryside Arena, lighting retrofits at various arenas like Carmichael, Raymond Plourde and Centennial arenas and retrofits at the Sudbury waste water treatment plant have helped us save over \$1.3 million dollars over the last 5 years in partnership with Greater Sudbury Hydro and Save on Energy.

And on the transit front, the City is making some key strides in improving transportation and how we get around here in Greater Sudbury.

It can be a challenge in a community our size but we are glad that we have found partners at the Provincial and Federal Government to help leverage our investments and improve our transit service.

Last August, our City was one of the first municipalities in Ontario to receive funding under the Public Infrastructure Fund from the Government of Canada. Being confirmed for funding was important, because it allowed us to build projects into our 2017 capital plans and get started immediately. The City has been granted a maximum funding allocation of approximately \$7.3 million for investments in our infrastructure.

The remaining 50% share of \$7.3 million is funded primarily using the Gas Tax Revenues in the 2017 Capital Budget.

This money is going towards 4 new buses in addition to the 9 already added this year, repairs and improvements to the downtown transit terminal which is commencing this summer, new and improved bus shelters across

our community, and as you may have heard discussed earlier this month, the Greater Sudbury Transit Action Plan, resulting in better routes, better schedules and better service.

The first component: a study and review of the existing system reviewing service delivery levels and route planning.

The second component: implementing the necessary infrastructure changes. The end goal ultimately is to increase ridership and improve service.

On June 13<sup>th</sup> Council received an update on this review and the first phase of public engagement actually started today!

In February, another \$5.3 million was announced for seven new transit projects in Greater Sudbury including a travel demand management strategy, and an intelligent transportation system strategic plan.

I'm looking forward to seeing the recommendations coming from these studies and plans which will allow us to apply for further transit funding and ultimately move citizens more efficiently across our community.

And speaking about new ways to get around our city, we are reviewing criteria under the new Provincial community cycling grant program and I am confident we will have good news to announce in the coming months.

We must always keep in mind our most vulnerable population and those in need. Earlier in June, I also met with Adam Vaughan, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Families, Children and Social Development for the Federal Government to speak specifically about affordable housing and our community's needs.

Through funding from different levels of government, we have been able to retrofit energy and water to 10 different housing projects across the city. We have been able to increase energy efficiency in social housing apartment buildings. We have approved a new affordable housing development for seniors. And we have supported a supportive housing structure for those with acquired brain injuries.

The City also formed a new partnership with the Canadian Mental Health Association and the North East LHIN with regards to the Harm Reduction Home and Out of the Cold low barrier emergency shelter, which will be co-located with the Managed Alcohol program.

All this to show that as an organization, as a Council, we care about the less fortunate in our community.

2016 and 2017 has been a historic year in our community when it comes to parks and recreation.

As you heard me mention earlier, the Morel Family Foundation Park has recently opened, along with Kivi Park and the DJ Hancock Memorial Park. These parks have all stemmed from community partnerships and each mean so much to our community.

The DJ Hancock Memorial Park serves as not only a beautiful addition to the area but more importantly a beautiful way to remember DJ Hancock, a young man taken from his family and community too soon.

Not far away is the sensation that has really captivated so many, Kivi Park.

Mrs. Lily Fielding and her family, including the Wallace family, have provided our community with so much happiness and pride and we are so fortunate to have someone in our community as dedicated as Lily to creating welcoming and incredible spaces like Kivi Park.

On Lily's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, she announced a donation of \$3 million dollars for the Park – its selfless acts like that which will provide a lasting impact for generations to come that makes our community such a great place to live.

I'm also most impressed by the level of volunteerism taking place and support from local businesses as well and I want to thank all of you for your ongoing efforts to continue to expand the offerings at the park and I know we are all looking forward to more excitement at Kivi Park.

There's more!

At Bell Park, Phase 2 of the St. Joseph's Parking Lot redevelopment will be completed with more greenspace and enhanced access to the waterfront at the main beach.

On the Economic Development front, I have some great news to share with all of you.

From July of last year until December, the Regional Business Centre registered 129 businesses, an increase from 111 in the second half of 2015.

This represents almost 30 confirmed new business starts and almost 60 new jobs in the Greater Sudbury area.

In the first quarter of 2017, almost 50 businesses have registered with the Regional Business Centre.

This figure represents 11 confirmed new business starts and about 19 new jobs in our area.

This is in addition to new businesses that have opened up recently including Millennium 1 Solutions in Garson, Twiggs Coffee Roasters, Party City, and Five Guys on the Kingsway, major expansions of automotive businesses like Northern Nissan and Imperial Collision, Crosscut Distillery, One Stop Naturals in Val Caron, Vanguard Building Innovations in Capreol, Legends Boats in Whitefish, and the list goes on.

We've also seen almost 900 jobs created in the last year, with the addition of Millennium 1 Solutions to the community, and an expansion of the Canada Revenue agency and Employment Insurance office.

Commercially, the net total value of building permits issued in the first quarter of 2017 was \$60 million, which is up from \$47 million issued over the same period last year.

New residential permits are up from last year as well. Miscellaneous institutional permits totaling \$36.11 million were up from \$16.53 million last year.

The Airport Board, CEO Todd Tripp, and his team are looking at also enhancing the consumer experience at the airport by potentially adding in a coffee shop, gas station, hotel, and car wash.

With the addition of West Jet Airlines this year to complement the existing services at the airport, we are continuing to see rises in the number of residents and businesses choosing to fly which is a strong sign of an improving economy.

On the mining front, the service and supply sector is strong.

We've had some exciting new research and development businesses as well as mining service and supply companies invest multi-millions locally in the last year.

A lot of these businesses are really taking off in the tech area of mining and as NORCAT CEO Don Duval discussed at the opening of Mining Week, there are more startup businesses in this sector than at any other time in our City's history.

On the ground, Vale has undoubtedly affirmed their position in Greater Sudbury as they continue to forge ahead with the billion dollar Clean AER Project.

Wallbridge Mining Company has invested millions into their properties in our area, including active exploration near the Glencore Nickel Rim South Mine, Vale's Victor Deep and Capre development projects, and the Parkin Properties north of Capreol.

Glencore Integrated Nickel remains intent on opening need two deep mine projects.

I can also assure you that we are working hard on our bid to make sure Greater Sudbury is included in the Ring of Fire development and we are in continuous contact with Noront resources.

In fact, the size of our community and the mining and mineral processing tradition align with the project and demonstrate our abilities as the largest integrated mining complex in Canada and certainly Northern Ontario.

Sudbury has been referred to as the 'Paris of the Mining World' and as a host community offers all the amenities of a major urban centre with the added bonus of a large skilled work force and a community that supports and understands mining and mineral processing.

It is very clear that the inclusion of Indigenous peoples is vital to this project's success.

As well, Indigenous Economic Development presents a huge opportunity for our city, as well as our educational partners at Collège Boréal, Cambrian College, and Laurentian University to partner with First Nations communities in northern Ontario.

We would also like to attract newcomers to our community. I was pleased that in 2016 City Council passed a resolution to establish a new Newcomer, Refugee and Immigration Advisory Panel to advise City Council on matters related to these groups.

The Panel has had four meetings since being established and is now exploring the gaps in service delivery, expanding engagement to a broader cross-section of community, and the discussions around inclusion and integration.

Our community also has a very big heart.

In fact, we currently have welcomed 42 Syrian refugees in Greater Sudbury and there are ongoing efforts by multiple groups to bring another 25 in the future.

Thank you to the countless individuals who have done so much good work to assist these families in integrating. And thank you so much to Jim and Donna Gordon for their tireless work in this regard as well.

A recently completed study by the Northern Policy Institute noted that Greater Sudbury had the highest number of immigrants per capita compared to other census districts in Northern Ontario.

The study recommended that the City be marketed as a desirable destination for secondary immigration and I agree that is why we are doing more to market ourselves to newcomers.

One area that can really help open up Greater Sudbury to the world is post-secondary education and I am very excited with all of the great activity taking place at Collège Boréal, Cambrian College, and Laurentian University.

All of these institutions have very strong international student strategies. We are working to keep these students in our community after graduating.

Our post secondary institutions, led by strong leaders, are doing amazing things, through their continued collaboration. And as you've heard, the province has invested significantly in all three.

Laurentian had a historic year in 2016 and into 2017 with unprecedented investment in the school, specifically in Metal Earth and the McEwen School of Architecture not only had its grand opening but also had its charter class graduate this spring, and has been approved to offer a Masters program.

The grand opening of the new Indigenous Sharing and Learning Centre is happening tomorrow! Fantastic news.

Cambrian College recently announced it was receiving \$2.1 in federal funding for applied research in environmental sustainability in the mining industry. This is the largest investment in research at Cambrian and will provide many opportunities for students through partnerships with our local mining companies.

On the other end of Lasalle, President Giroux and the team at Collège Boréal continue to impress and put our community on the map. Recently it was announced that they achieved the highest graduation rate and student satisfaction rate in the province and are among the highest in employer satisfaction as well.

I look forward to hearing about all of the future success of our post secondary institutions.

On the healthcare front, next Monday is the grand opening of the new Health Sciences North Research Institute facility on Walford Road.

I am confident as this new sector in our community grows, we will continue to attract top medical researchers to our City and with that, breakthroughs in health care.

Next on the list for our community: NEO Kids! I know the team at HSN is working extremely hard on this new facility and look forward to seeing this project move along.

Also on the healthcare front, our Council contributed over \$1 million to open the latest City of Lakes Family Health team location in Chelmsford, providing more care to our community. This location opened earlier this month.

I'd now like to speak to our successes in Arts & Culture.

In the 2017 Budget, Council voted to provide almost \$800,000 to 37 organizations in our community through the GSDC's Arts & Culture Grant Program.

These investments will have tremendous impact on the community.

Council has also invested in La Place des Arts with a \$5 million dollar contribution to the project. This is a transformational space for the community, one that will be an important community gathering place and act as an anchor destination for downtown revitalization.

I am pleased to know that the Province has committed to contributing to this endeavor and I look forward to the Federal Government, Private Sector, and Public donors coming forward and getting this project under construction.

With the arts sector, the numbers don't lie. Just look at our local film industry.



In 2016, there were 18 film and television projects filmed locally which resulted in \$21.1 million dollars in local spending. A number of these productions were recognized at the 2017 Canadian Screen Awards including Letterkenny, Slasher, and the Amazing Race.

As the Entertainment Economy continues to grow, Greater Sudbury needs to continue to promote itself to the film industry and advocate to the Province and NOHFC to keep us competitive in this market.

Fortunately we have some incredible entrepreneurs like David Anselmo and Hideaway Pictures and Mark Montefiore and Patrick O'Sullivan at New Metric Media helping to establish Greater Sudbury as the film capital of the north.

Now onto Tourism – 2016 brought with it over 1.2 million visitors to the community! That's approximately 7.5 times our total population!

Our calculations tell us that there was almost \$180 million in visitor spending which is a huge boost to our economy.

The City of Greater Sudbury asserted itself as a successful, willing and capable to host many major events such as last year's International Mines Rescue Competition and the Prime Minister's Cabinet retreat, both held concurrently. It was a very busy weekend!

We are constantly getting noticed nationally and internationally for our work.

For example, last year I was pleased to represent Greater Sudbury in London, England on a number of trade-related meetings and the official opening of the Canada House exhibit highlighting Dr. Art McDonald's work at our very own SNOLAB, which garnered him a Nobel Prize in Physics.

It was a very proud moment for Greater Sudbury, as our city showcased leading edge science and technology on behalf of Canada and the world. And the display was built by our very skilled and capable team at Science North!

Other amazing things happening in Greater Sudbury?

Staff has worked with organizers and secured major events over the next few months including the UP Here Urban Art & Music Festival, Feast Fest, an International Physicists Conference, 2018 Telus Cup Hockey Championships, 2018 OFSAA Nordic Championships, 2018 Ontario Professional Planners Institute Symposium, and the 2019 FONOM Conference.

These events will contribute in bringing to our community over 2,000 delegates, close to 4,000 hotel room nights, which will have over \$1 million in projected economic impact.

If you haven't noticed ladies and gentleman...the secret is out. Greater Sudbury is the place to be!

I am also pleased to report on the progress we are making with our Community Improvement Plans.

In December of 2016, a new Downtown Sudbury Community Improvement Plan was approved by Council. It includes a number of financial incentives intended to foster investment, re-development and residential unit creation in the downtown.

We're also working on Community Improvement Plans in Chelmsford and Capreol, and staff are also working on a nodes and corridors study in support of responsible planning and development across our city.

I've given you so much information and I have not yet discussed the Large Projects initiatives which Council will be meeting to discuss on June 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.

We have some big decisions to make in the next week. Transformational decisions.

Now I know many of you here are probably wondering if I am going to speak about my opinion on where the event centre should be located, but I would like to have that discussion at Council to respect both my Council and the process.

Council voted in favour of an open, transparent, fair and competitive process with the aid of PriceWaterhouseCoopers.

Mr. Ron Bidulka and our team at the City have worked hard to ensure that Council has received the best information available to make the most informed decision when the time comes.

The intended goal of the report on the event centre was always to ensure that Council had the information that it required. I'm currently reviewing the report from the consultant and look forward to the discussion next week. I would like to thank the public for their patience.

Like I've said through my speech: we need to lean in.

On the 28<sup>th</sup>, Council will be meeting to receive an update on the Library-Art Gallery as well as the Synergy Centre.

The working group believes they can host up to 250 events annually by year 5 of operations and boost the number of events held in Greater Sudbury by 25%, generating \$23 million in direct and indirect returns to our City's GDP.

We need a convention centre and I look forward to these discussions as well.

Council will also be receiving an update on a new home for the main library and art gallery. Proponents of this project have found many similarities in working together alongside Lord Cultural Resources and are moving along well in their efforts.

And as I talk about all of these amazing projects, I think about the people who use them... you the residents.

And I am reminded that it's you: the people that are the reason Why I Love Greater Sudbury and why I am so proud to be your Mayor.

It's about everyone in this room – that are helping to build Greater Sudbury. As I said previously, I want to lean in, to deliver results for all of you.

It's exciting to think about the prospects ahead for Greater Sudbury but it's important that we understand that we can afford them AND fix more infrastructure at the same time.

In conclusion, I want to thank you, the people, for making my job so enjoyable.

I remain confident that we are on the right path forward and we will achieve our goals when we work together.

Thank you very much. Merci beaucoup mes amis.

Chi-Miigwech.