

COMMENTS AFTER ONE WARD PRESENTATION AHEAD OF
COUNCIL'S BUDGET DELIBERATIONS

J. A. BLANCO
JANUARY 30

TAXES AND ASSESSMENTS IN TWO HOUSES

	TAX 2002	TAX 2006	CHANGE
TORONTO	4,309	4,774	10.79%
SUDBURY	3,998	6,518	63.03%

	MPAC 2002	MPAC 2005	
TORONTO	420,000	550,000	30.95%
SUDBURY	234,000	316,000	35.04%

TORONTO: COMPACT, HIGH (AND RAISING) DENSITY

SUDBURY: SPRAWLING, LOW GROWTH AND DROPPING DENSITY

Density up brings costs down and more people to share them

PEOPLE, TAXES AND EXPENDITURES (BUDGET)

YEAR	2002	2006	
SUDBURY POPULATION	153,800	153,800	CONSTANT
TAX LEVY	116,750,000	153,950,000	UP 30%
SALARIES/BENEFITS	121,000,000	156,600,000	UP 30%
BUDGETED EXPENSES	369,700,000	450,166,244	UP 20%

RULE 1:

ALL SYSTEMS TEND TO KEEP ON DOING WHAT THEY WERE DOING,

UNTIL THEY ARE RE-DIRECTED. THAT IS NORMAL.

RULE 2:

BASING BUDGET PROJECTIONS ON PREVIOUS YEAR COSTS

ALMOST GUARANTEES THAT THE OLD PRACTICES LIVE ON,

AND THAT COSTS RISE FROM THE “NEW” (HIGHER) BASE.

RULE 3:

SYSTEMS HATE A VACUUM.

IF WE DO NOT RUN THEM, THEY WILL RUN US

TO CONTROL THE COSTS WE NEED TO RE-DIRECT THE SYSTEM.

TO RE-DIRECT THE SYSTEM WE NEED A PLAN (THE “WHAT”).

TO IMPLEMENT THE PLAN, WE NEED A BUSINESS PLAN (THE “HOW”)

TO IMPLEMENT THE BUSINESS PLAN WE NEED A BUDGET.

WE NEED A GOOD THEME, AND MARKERS ALONG THE WAY.

ENERGY USE AND EMISSIONS AS A MARKER OF COST TRENDS

MUNICIPAL ENERGY AUDITS FOR 1990-1998 SHOWED:

	1990	1998	CHANGE
GASOLINE, GJ	31,000	38,000	219%
DIESEL, GJ	65,000	217,000	334%
CARBON DIOXIDE, TONNES	7,000	20,000	286%

ALTHOUGH MUCH WAS DONE, IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO KNOW HOW IT WORKED AND WHAT WE PLAN TO DO TO RAISE EFFICIENCY AND REDUCE CARBON DIOXIDE EMISSIONS.

WE SHOULD HAVE A PLAN (WHAT WE NEED AND WANT TO DO),

A THEME AND MARKERS TO CHECK OUR PROGRESS,

A BUSINESS PLAN (HOW WE WILL DO THE PLAN),

AND A BUDGET.

MY SUGGESTION FOR SUDBURY:

A LEADER IN ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND LOW CARBON EMISSIONS