

City Agenda Report

Report To: CITY COUNCIL

Report Date: July 5, 2001

Meeting Date: July 10, 2001

Subject: Mayor's Task Force on Volunteerism and Community Involvement

Department Review:


Caroline Hallsworth
General Manager
Citizen and Leisure Services

Recommended for Agenda:


J.L. (Jim) Rule
Chief Administrative Officer

Report Authored by: Chris Gore, Manager of Community Development & Volunteerism

Recommendation:

Whereas the Mayor's Task Force on Volunteerism and Community Involvement has consulted citizens and community organizations on their needs and interests; and

Whereas thanks are due to the Co-Chairs, Council members, community volunteers, individual citizens and staff who contributed to the success of this initiative; and

Whereas there is a consensus on the findings, recommendations and proposed actions in this report;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

the Council of the City of Greater Sudbury accepts this report;

and that the Council endorses Recommendations 1 - 6 contained in this report and the use of the ideas and information herein contained as the framework for policy development and planning;

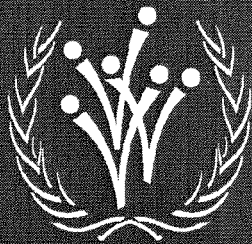
and that the Council directs staff to bring forward options to allocate the necessary resources for implementation of these recommendations as part of the 2002 budget process.

Executive Summary:

In January of 2001, the Mayor's Task Force on Volunteerism and Community Involvement was formed to support and encourage community volunteerism and participation.

Background:

The attached report contains the findings and recommendations of this task force following extensive deliberations and community consultation over the past several months. This report will assist City of Greater Sudbury staff and the community in developing a framework to support and encourage volunteerism and community involvement in the City of Greater Sudbury in the future.



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**MAYOR'S
TASK FORCE**
on
**Community
Involvement
& Volunteerism**

Vision: The City of Greater Sudbury is a growing, world-class community bringing talent, technology and a great northern lifestyle together.

**Mayor's
Task Force
on Volunteerism
and Community
Involvement**

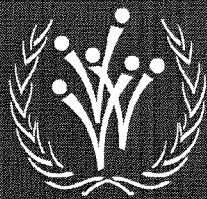
**Report to Council
and the Community**

June 2001

*The City of Greater Sudbury
is a growing, world-class
community bringing talent,
technology and a great
northern lifestyle together.*

Mapping
the
Vision
for the City of Greater Sudbury





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Message from the Mayor

MAYOR'S TASK FORCE on *Community Involvement & Volunteerism*

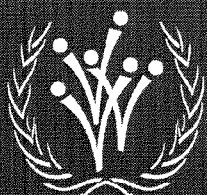


Jim Gordon, Mayor
City of Greater Sudbury

In my Inaugural Address to City Council on December 11, 2000, I paid tribute to our community volunteers and announced that one of my first acts as Mayor of the new City of Greater Sudbury would be to commission a Task Force on Volunteerism and Community Involvement. With 2001 designated by the United Nations as the International Year of Volunteers, this is an auspicious time to recognize and support the role of volunteers in our new municipality and determine how best to encourage and support citizen involvement. I believe the volunteer activities supported in our former area municipalities must continue to receive the same or an enhanced level of support within our new city. I ALSO BELIEVE THAT CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT IS VITAL TO A VIBRANT, GROWING COMMUNITY.

In February, Council adopted a new vision and four priorities for this year.





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Table of Contents

MAYOR'S TASK FORCE on *Community Involvement & Volunteerism*

Task Force Mandates and Objectives	1
Volunteerism and Community Involvement.	4
Task Force Activities.	14
Behind the Concerns: What Citizens Want	16
Implementation Ideas	21
Recommendations	24



Task Force Mandates and Objectives

MAYOR'S TASK FORCE on *Community Involvement & Volunteerism*

Vision

The City of Greater Sudbury is a growing, world-class community bringing talent, technology and a great northern lifestyle together.

Council Priorities

- Focusing on the information and communication technology sector
- Ensuring that our citizens have access to health care services in the community
- Meeting our infrastructure needs for today and tomorrow
- Adopting and implementing the principles of the Healthy Community movement

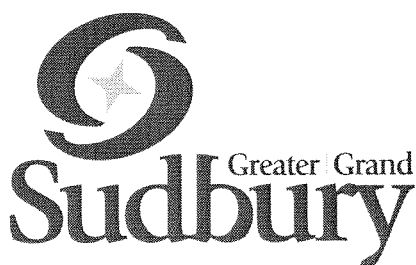
The work of this Task Force will help make Council's vision a reality. VolunteerISM AND CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT are primary resources in the task of building a "growing, world-class community." This initiative will also help our community embrace the principles of the Healthy Community movement.

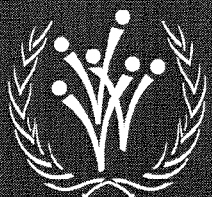
Research and experience from communities around the world confirms that to be healthy, communities must engage their citizens. In this new city, it is vital that all our citizens continue to be engaged and involved.

I know that our people want to be involved, both in ways they have in the past, and in innovative ways that will recognize the vibrant communities we cherish, build new links among all our people and create a better future.

I also believe it is crucial that our citizens be recognized for their volunteer efforts, which have helped build our great city. They deserve our ongoing support, and I am determined that they will have it.

How can we continue to support our volunteers, engage our citizens and build a sense of community for the future? What strategic and specific recommendations will support these goals? These are the questions I charged this Task Force with exploring on behalf of Council and the community.





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Task Force Mandates and Objectives

MAYOR'S TASK FORCE ON *Community Involvement & Volunteerism*

My thanks go to the Chairs, Task Force members, Council members, community volunteers and individual citizens who took part in this extraordinary process.

Please read the report of the Mayor's Task Force on Volunteerism and Community Involvement carefully, consider its recommendations and decide how we can act on them.

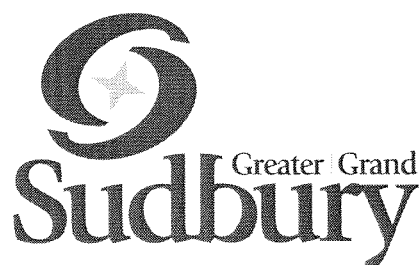
Jim Gordon
Mayor
City of Greater Sudbury

Mayor's Task Force on Community Involvement and Volunteerism

Councillor David Courtemanche	Councillor Louise Portelance
Co-Chair	Brent Battistelli
Gary Michalak	Paddy Bondy
Co-Chair	Georges Boudreau
	Heather Campbell
	John Caruso
	Martha Cunningham Closs
	Janet Gasparini
	Claude Gravelle
	Keir Kitchen
	Julio Navarro
	Angele Poitras

City of Greater Sudbury Staff:

Jim Rule, Chief Administrative Officer
Carlos Salazar, Manager, Corporate Strategy & Policy Analysis
Pat Aitken, Policy Advisor
Caroline Hallsworth, General Manager, Citizen and Leisure Services
Réal Carré, Director, Leisure, Community and Volunteer Services
Chris Gore, Manager, Volunteerism and Community Development
Clive Wood, Manager of Operations
Cindy Dent, Community Development Officer
Lori Henry, Community Development Officer
Karen Makela, Community Development Officer
Dan Yachuk, Community Development Officer
Lisa McAuley, Administrative Support
John Simoneau, CUPE Representative
Liliane Portelance (Recording Secretary)





Task Force Mandates and Objectives

MAYOR'S TASK FORCE on *Community Involvement & Volunteerism*

Mandate

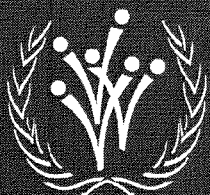
The Mandate of the Mayor's Task Force on Volunteerism and Community Involvement is to:

- Ensure that volunteer activities supported in the past continue to receive the same or an enhanced level of support within the new City of Greater Sudbury
- Examine new community participation/involvement models that would be useful for this community to investigate, examine, debate and recommend

Objectives

The objectives of the Mayor's Task Force on Volunteerism and Community Involvement are to:

- Consult with our citizens and community organizations on volunteerism and community involvement initiatives
- Foster increased public participation in the decision-making process
- Support and strengthen volunteers
- Set the groundwork for the development of community values and a Citizens' Bill of Rights and Responsibilities
- Recommend approaches and activities to Council that will encourage and support volunteerism and community involvement in the City of Greater Sudbury



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Volunteerism and Community Involvement

MAYOR'S TASK FORCE on *Community Involvement & Volunteerism*

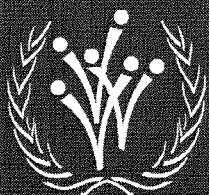
Volunteerism is a mechanism through which citizens help to create the kind of society they believe in and wish to live in. As Canadians, we have built a society that is the envy of the world, through millions of individual contributions to the greater good of the community, close to home.

Statistics Canada found through its 1997 *National Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating* that almost one-third of Canadians over 15 years of age volunteer an average of 149 hours annually in their communities. Why? The top reason given by respondents to the survey was, 'To help a cause in which they personally believe.' Not only is volunteerism close to home, but it is also close to the heart.

This hallmark survey revealed a strong connection between volunteerism and community involvement. The more people belong to community organizations, the much more likely they are to volunteer. In addition, the more people vote and remain abreast of public affairs, the greater their feeling of connection to the community and the wider social milieu. Thus engaging citizens in any one forum may well engage them in another, widening their contribution to society. The benefits of engagement also flow in two directions, enriching the lives of participating citizens while improving the quality of community life.

In *Caring Canadians, Involved Canadians*, its overview report on the national survey, Statistics Canada concluded that an engaged core of citizens, involved in multiple facets of community life, participates to be connected to the things that matter in their lives and in the lives of their families. Through their actions, they add to the quality of life of individuals and increase the social capital of their communities, ultimately making our country a better, richer place to live.¹

The Mayor's Task Force on Volunteerism and Community Involvement was established in Greater Sudbury to ensure that citizens in each of our communities are supported and encouraged to volunteer, participate and contribute in this new municipality. Recently, Council adopted a new vision and identified priorities for its current term. The work of this Task Force pertains to the vision of "a growing, world-class community bringing talent, technology and a great northern lifestyle together" and to



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Volunteerism and Community Involvement

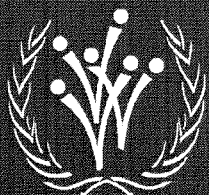
MAYOR'S TASK FORCE on *Community Involvement & Volunteerism*

the fourth of Council's priorities, which is "Adopting and implementing the principles of the Healthy Community movement." The Healthy Community approach to citizen engagement emphasizes grassroots participation leading to decisions and solutions best suited to the local area.

Engagement through activity is a critical component of citizenship. Through a consultation process, this Task Force met with the community to evolve a locally appropriate strategy for nurturing volunteerism and community involvement in Greater Sudbury. The positive voices we heard are encouraging and heartening in this period of transition.

Through active citizenship, we have built great communities together.
Through active citizenship, we will build a great future.





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Volunteerism and Community Involvement

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Formation

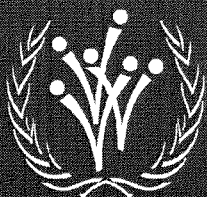
City of Greater Sudbury Mayor Jim Gordon announced the formation of the Mayor's Task Force on Volunteerism and Community Involvement in December 2000, naming Councillor David Courtemanche and Gary Michalak, the former Chief Administrative Officer of Rayside-Balfour, as Co-Chairs.

Deliberations

The Task Force held regular meetings between January and June 2001. During this period, it welcomed presentations on existing community resources that support volunteerism and community involvement. These include the Community Resource Network of Greater Sudbury, a web site located at: , which links volunteers to local agencies requiring their assistance, and the Sudbury Roundtable on Health, Economy and the Environment. In addition, the Task Force reviewed models for community involvement and participation implemented in other jurisdictions around the globe.

Three approaches to involvement were considered:

- outside-in, in which citizens initiate community involvement activities
- inside-out, in which the municipality initiates community involvement activities, and
- integrative, in which citizens, Councillors and staff work together in a stewardship group. This third approach crosses departmental boundaries within the city and seeks to engage all sectors of the community. The goal is to develop an integrated approach to city governance that puts citizen needs first. It is consistent with the Healthy Communities process, which employs four key strategies: broad community participation, multisectoral involvement, local government commitment and the creation of healthy public policy. The Task Force discussed the possibility of pilot testing this model at the local community level by setting up a Community Action Network (CAN) group in one or more of the communities that now make up the City of Greater Sudbury.



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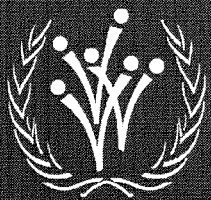
"Healthy Communities is a process whereby people from many sectors—seniors, youth, businesses, labour, local governments, community groups, environmentalists, educators, and faith organizations—work together to create a clean, safe, friendly, and vibrant place to live, work, and play."

—Lisa Caton and Susan Larsh, "An Idea Whose Time Has Come," in *Inspiring Change: Healthy Cities and Communities in Ontario*, Toronto: Ontario Healthy Communities Coalition, 2000.

To assist the Task Force, city staff developed an inventory of municipal assistance provided to voluntary organizations and identified existing municipal opportunities for citizen participation. Staff members also outlined the various mechanisms of citizen involvement that have been employed in the community in the past, such as advisory committees, boards and commissions, standing committees, Mayor's Task Forces, broad community input, special community projects, project specific initiatives, and special community conferences.

Background Research

The City of Greater Sudbury commissioned a citizen survey (with 1,200 respondents) and a business survey (of 300 area businesses) to obtain public input on a broad range of community issues in January 2001. The results of questions on volunteerism and community involvement provided the Task Force with insight into the current situation in our community.



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Volunteerism and Community Involvement

MAYOR'S TASK FORCE on *Community Involvement & Volunteerism*

Volunteerism

Oraclepoll Research reported that some 52 per cent of respondents to the citizen survey and 90 per cent of respondents to the business survey indicated they had given time or money to a volunteer, community, religious or charitable organization in the previous year.

Community Involvement (Citizen Survey)

Some 32 per cent of respondents to the citizen survey indicated an interest in municipal politics.

On questions pertaining to participation in municipal decision making processes, 40 per cent wanted information and an opportunity to be heard; 41 per cent wanted information only; 11 per cent wanted to be involved in making recommendations; while seven per cent expressed no interest in becoming involved in municipal affairs.

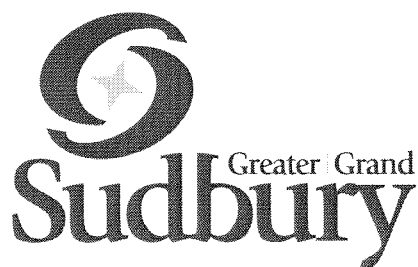
Consulting the Community

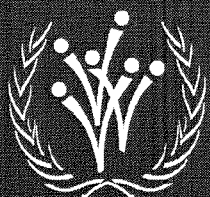
The Task Force decided to bring volunteers and other members of the community together to discuss concerns pertaining to volunteerism and community involvement. These community consultations were held during March throughout the City of Greater Sudbury, in the former area municipalities of Capreol, Nickel Centre, Onaping Falls, Rayside-Balfour, Sudbury, Valley East and Walden. Through these sessions, more than 300 citizens made their voices heard.

Members of the Task Force and city staff then reviewed the input provided by citizens at the community consultations, identifying common themes and aspirations across the community. This helped to develop the recommendations of this report.

Celebrating Volunteers in Greater Sudbury

The City of Greater Sudbury underscored its commitment to supporting and celebrating citizens who volunteer by assisting with the organization of a community picnic for volunteers and their families on June 10, 2001 at Bell Park, a special event marking the International Year of Volunteers. Future celebrations may be rotated from community to community throughout Greater Sudbury.





2001

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Année Internationale
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**MAYOR'S
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on
Community
Involvement
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Volunteerism and Community Involvement

Results of the Community Consultations: Citizen Concerns

The citizens who participated in the seven public meetings organized by the Task Force raised a variety of concerns regarding volunteerism and community involvement in Greater Sudbury. Their questions and comments are summarized below.

Questions and Comments...

About Facilities and User Fees

- Will community organizations be able to continue using municipal property and meeting facilities?
- What will the new city do to assist community organizations lacking space because they are located in areas in which municipal buildings will be closed?
- Could new multi-use facilities be developed for community use?
- Some questions arose regarding the rights of community residents to facilities and equipment developed or acquired by their former area municipalities (i.e., will residents of a specific area have first rights to facilities and equipment in that area?). (This question was also raised in connection with student employment opportunities).
- What will happen to existing lease agreements?
- Will the tax-free status of community centres that are not municipally owned be maintained?
- Citizens are concerned about the prospect of any increase in user fees for municipal facilities and services, such as ice time rental. They want youth to have access to affordable recreational activities. Some also expressed the view that the municipality should not charge for services provided to community events and organizations acting in the public interest.

About Support Services