

## **The Older Adult/Senior Citizen Mayoral Candidates Meeting Oct. 9<sup>th</sup> – Parkside Centre**

**Hosted by CARP Sudbury Chapter and Friendly to Seniors – Sudbury in co-operation with the Older Adult (Parkside) Centre – 144 Durham Street – 1:30 to 3.00 p.m...refreshments will be available.**

The following list of submitted questions for Mayoralty candidates are presented below and have been made available to all participants and the media. Other questions may be addressed to the candidates at the meeting by those in attendance and recognized by the moderator. Ward candidates have been invited to attend the meeting as observers as well as citizens of all ages. Candidates are welcome to reply in writing to the written questions and these replies will be made available on the friendly to seniors – Sudbury website [www.friendlytoseniors.ca](http://www.friendlytoseniors.ca) and a link also provided on the CARP website [www.carpsudbury.ca](http://www.carpsudbury.ca)

### **Concerns and questions:**

Sudbury's population is aging significantly with the 55 plus age group growing by close to 25 percent, according to the last census, with a disproportionately large population of older persons greater than the provincial average. The City Master Plan review has apparently recognized this and has indicated (Action Plan #69) to: "Undertake an Older Adult Strategy and pursue "age-friendly" community status for the City of Greater Sudbury. This will require an action plan for ensuring that leisure policies, services, and infrastructure enable people of all ages – particularly older adults – to be active in the community." **As a candidate what do you think this "action plan" should involve?**

The city conducted a public consultation process this year which indicated a significant level of dissatisfaction with respect to city services and involvement with regards to staff and elected officials. In another survey of citizens satisfaction of local councils in Northern Ontario communities Greater Sudbury rated the lowest. **As a candidate how do you respond and how would you address these concerns as Mayor?**

For Older Adult homeowners and particular those Seniors over 65 would you consider a municipal tax relief program to take access home equity for tax increases or a portion of tax payable yearly, as in certain other municipalities, to allow citizens to afford to remain in their homes longer – These amounts to be recovered with interest on eventual home sale? **As a candidate what is your opinion on such a plan?**

Older Adults are generally debt adverse. **As a candidate what is your position with respect to creation of municipal debt** for any purpose such as infrastructure repairs and/or upgrades or new facilities such as a new Library, Performing Arts Centre, Art Gallery, Arena and/or Multipurpose Centre.

The present council removed the Ontario Ombudsman, a valuable and free service in the minds of many Older Adults. **As Mayor would you review this action and consider reinstatement of the provincial service.**

Many citizens, including Older Adults have expressed concern with respect to the \$50,000 councillor Healthy Initiatives or "Slush Funds". **As a candidate what is your position?** How could they be replaced to benefit individual ward needs?

Older Adult citizens want to leave a legacy of an environmentally friendly community of clean lakes and air, green park spaces, walking and bike trails and other amenities to be enjoyed by future citizens of all ages. **As Mayor how would you work to ensure these objectives?**

Many older adults consider downtown unattractive and unsafe, with dirty streets and panhandlers, high snowbanks in winter, few parking spaces and high meter parking rates. **As Mayor how would you address these concerns?**

Almost all older adults use private transportation (less than 5 percent use public transportation). **As Mayor would you encourage more bus usage by providing free use during off peak hours, better routes, easier access etc?**

Many seniors who drive feel that present roads be improved before any major new construction take place such as Maley Drive. **As a candidate what is your position?**

Many traffic calming efforts such as curb extensions and center “islands” like on Atlee Street seem to many Older Adults to be a waste of money when simple bike lane or edge markings could have accomplished the same purpose more safely and provided for more bike routes for Seniors and others, like in Thunder Bay where bike and motor vehicle accidents have been reduced due to these simple measures. **As a candidate what is your opinion?**

Many Older Adults feel disconnected from city information. **As Mayor would you support the publication, print and on-line, of a Community Directory (enhanced Leisure Guide) to be published twice yearly to include information on civic services, contacts etc., tourist attractions, Arts and Culture Events etc.**

Older Adults are particularly vulnerable to gambling (District Health Unit report). **As a candidate what is your position with respect to the establishment of a full service Casino anywhere in Greater Sudbury?**

**Details:** The meeting will be moderated by Gerry Labelle. Candidates will be provided three minutes for opening remarks and two minutes for closing comments. Candidates are welcome to reply in writing to the written questions and these replies will be made available on the friendly to seniors – Sudbury website [www.friendlytoseniors.ca](http://www.friendlytoseniors.ca) and with a link on [www.carsudbury.ca](http://www.carsudbury.ca)