



**North Bay & District
Chamber of Commerce**

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December 11, 2015

Mayor Al McDonald and Council
City of North Bay
P.O Box 360
North Bay, ON P1B 8H8

Via email to the City Clerk, Cathy Conrad

Your Worship and Council Members,

As you are aware, the North Bay & District Chamber of Commerce fully supports development and infrastructure improvements as a vital opportunity for future planning and growth. The concern is that Council has been reconsidering certain projects. From a business standpoint, businesses normally make strategic investments in a downturn to prepare for growth when the economy is in rebound; which ensures they are ready to be competitive and ahead of the competition.

As such, one significant project that is being discussed for 2016 is critical for a number of reasons. The Laurentian Ski Hill Sewer extension project cannot wait any longer and needs to be a part of the 2016 capital spend. Not only is it inadequate for the current users, the City is on record for prioritizing the Airport Industrial Park as the growth area for business attraction; however it is deemed only light industrial and as such limits opportunities on what types of businesses can actually be accommodated.

At recent council meetings, developers also have opportunities in that are for housing developments but with one caveat, that the sewer extension is a must from a planning standpoint to allow their projects approval.

Last evening, the board of directors of the North Bay & District Chamber of Commerce passed the following resolution:

WHEREAS the North Bay & District Chamber of Commerce supports economic growth in the region;

AND WHEREAS the Chamber sees benefit to capital projects and infrastructure improvements in the region for businesses;

AND WHEREAS we've listened to developers that have given expertise, specifically on the debated \$4.2 million Laurentian Ski Hill sanitary sewer trunk extension, planned for 2016;

AND WHEREAS the City of North Bay has determined that the North Bay Airport Industrial Park is the prime area for business expansion in the future;

AND WHEREAS the Airport Industrial Park is currently restricted to light industrial;

AND WHEREAS developers are business people eager to provide opportunities for businesses and home owners, and more specifically choice for their employees to live in the region;

AND WHEREAS the area of Airport Hill already recognizes the challenges that businesses and residences face in regards to the much needed upgrade and infrastructure requirements the area is in need of to not only improve the inadequate services that are currently in place, but the need for the services to allow for future growth;

AND WHEREAS Councillors and the community need to be reminded that this is the responsibility of the City of North Bay to provide the services and maintain the services to the roadway; **AND THAT** developers are already responsible for the services into any business build or residential development, at their cost, but the City's services must first reach the road access and be adequate for any development;

AND WHEREAS Councillors and the community need to be reminded that "shovel ready" for their services, is not the same as developers building timelines on the subject properties and as such may take a few more years to acquire the proper permits, zoning, and so forth to be actually "shovel ready" on the subject property(ies);

AND WHEREAS these developers are well aware of the business climate and housing market, and look to the future where development can occur in the future and is most practical;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the North Bay & District Chamber of Commerce supports council in approving moving ahead with this important Ski Hill sanitary sewer expansion in 2016 for both the current users that require the upgraded service now and for future expansion to the Airport Industrial Park that is so noted as being the prime location for attracting new businesses.

We look forward to a positive response from Council for this project through the 2016 budget process.

Sincerely,

**NORTH BAY AND DISTRICT
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**



Jake Lacourse
President