

## **Presentation to public Hearing on Official Plan Review by John Lindsay – Wed. June 26<sup>th</sup> 2019 – Revised as presented**

**Introduction:** I am speaking as a member of several waterbody organizations to which I belong and also senior's groups; Friendly to Seniors – Sudbury and the Sudbury Chapter of the Canadian Association of Retired Persons CARP.

**Background:** My main employment history is as a human resource specialist and labour market analyst with the Federal Government in Sudbury. I am also currently a private small business person with a local and national company, both with employees and I am a long term member of the Greater Sudbury Chamber of Commerce. I have lived in Sudbury since 1966 and continue to be a strong supporter of our community serving in many civic capacities.

**I will be dealing with just three main section of the Official Plan – the first related to Economic Growth.**

**Section 1. Introduction: Population and Job Growth:** Sudbury's population has had highs and lows over our history, and I have personally witnessed several in my time. I was involved with the hiring of thousands for the mining industry and then with the substantial layoff of thousands and then hiring for the Taxation Data Centre and other employment areas. There have been many changes over the years with the highest levels of employment locally now Health Services with about 12,000 and retail/wholesale with around 10,000. With respect to population we are currently somewhat stable for Greater Sudbury and the Sudbury District while other centres in the north have seen decreases. What does the future hold? Reputable sources including the Ontario Ministry of Finance and The Conference Board of Canada in 2018, Statistics Canada 2019 and also this year the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) all indicate either stagnant or very moderate growth in our city through to 2041. What is important is the demographic makeup of our city. It is recognized that Sudbury is an aging community and over the past several years the number of births has been significantly lower than the number of deaths by several hundred – deaths have averaged around 1500 but growing, while births are relatively steady at 1200 per year. The Ministry of Finance predicts the share of individuals younger than 65 is expected to decline while the share of seniors is expected to rise from the present level of just over 20 percent to 37 percent by 2041. Local elementary and high school populations have dropped but fortunately for post-secondary institutions foreign (international) students have increased, as an example almost 30 percent of Cambrian College students are from out of county. Unfortunately, permanent population inflows have not compensated for outward migration, even with the possible future influx of skilled immigrant workers to replace those retiring, leaving the city or dying. All planning decisions need to take these realities into consideration and how to best utilize our resources including our tax revenues from whatever sources including predicted reductions in provincial funding. All planning emphasis should be on sustainability – to maintain our present infrastructure and amenities for the ongoing benefit of all residents while avoiding debt and keeping our community as an affordable place to live for young and old.

**Section 8 Water Resources ... Source Protection – Storm water Management.** There is little mention of the threat of salt (sodium and Chloride) pollution which we hope will be more thoroughly addressed in the Lake Ramsey Sub Watershed study, the draft copy still not available and when approved should be part of the Official Plan. Sodium in Lake Ramsey is currently three times the provincial limit for those on salt restricted diets and chloride is very close to the provincial limit which could cause harm to aquatic life. Mitigation methods such as holding ponds are not effective as currently suggested - the only practical solution is use of less salt and fewer new or widened roads and large parking lots in the watershed of Lake Ramsey in particular.

**Section 11 – Transportation.** We fully agree with the prime objective to ensure that the existing transportation network is maintained in a state of good repair. Due to severe financial restraints and the prospect of little population growth for the next several decades it is recommended that there be no new road or widening of existing roadways take place, especially around Lake Ramsey which would further contribute to the salt pollution of this valuable drinking water and recreational source.

Best wishes for your continued endeavours. Thank you for your attention:

John Lindsay – [johnl@financialdecisions.ca](mailto:johnl@financialdecisions.ca) – 705-525-7526 (W) 705-507-6037 (C)

References: [www.gswa.ca](http://www.gswa.ca), [www.minnowlake.ca](http://www.minnowlake.ca), [www.friendlytoserniors.ca](http://www.friendlytoserniors.ca), [www.carpssudbury.ca](http://www.carpssudbury.ca)