

**Press Conference – CDC, EDC, DSSAB Partnership**

**Thursday January 28, 11:30 a.m. – Outside Council Chambers**

**[AS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY]**

Good morning everyone, I'm very glad to be joining you here today. On behalf of the Office of Mayor and Sault Ste. Marie City Council, it's my great pleasure to welcome you here to our Civic Centre for this morning's announcement.

I want to be upfront that I haven't had personal involvement with bringing this partnership to fruition. So with that noted, I will leave the particulars of the program—as well as the credit for launching it—to the speakers who are going to follow me. However, I am most glad to be here and to have the chance to voice my full support for the project.

To that point, I'd like to commend the partners behind this initiative—the Economic Development Corporation, the Community Development Corporation, and the District Social Services Administration Board—for recognizing an opportunity and seizing it.

This new endeavor is a collaborative, innovative and creative approach to encouraging self-employment and business start-ups in our community.

Without question, our local economy is in the midst of a very difficult period. In this environment, it is more crucial than ever to encourage job creation and to support new businesses.

Through increased coordination between our social service and economic development agencies, there will be the potential for more opportunities to encourage entrepreneurship and support new business ventures.

So thank you again for the opportunity to speak. To the partners behind today's announcement, congratulations and best wishes for much success with this new partnership.

Thank you.