Push for Change Friendship Dinner
Wednesday February 1st, 6:00 P.M.

[AS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY]

Good evening everyone. On behalf of the Office of Mayor and Sault Ste. Marie City Council, I'm pleased to bring you greetings as we open tonight's friendship dinner.

I'd like to begin by thanking the ownership, management, and staff here at Quattro, in particular Joe Ruscio, for organizing and hosting this evening's dinner. It's always great to see local businesses get involved in community causes and social awareness campaigns. Quattro has been a great community partner in that regard and they've proven it once again with tonight's celebration.

I'd also like to take the chance to acknowledge the speakers who are going to follow me—John Farrell, a local resident, and Joe Roberts, the Founder of Push for Change. John and Joe have been courageously and openly sharing their experiences with youth homelessness during our Push for Change events in Sault Ste. Marie.

John and Joe are both living proof that it's possible to rise above difficult situations and go on to find both personal and professional success. And I think, we owe both of them a round of applause, both for all they have accomplished and for continuing to advocate and share their experiences.

On a final note, I'd like thank our local Push for Change organizing committee for all of their good work today and in the lead-up to today. Social Services' CAO Mike Nadeau and his team brought together a terrific crew of people.

We had a great event this afternoon down on Gore Street that featured shopping cart races, carnival games, food, and an appearance by Brad Jacobs. Together, we raised a substantial amount of money for Pauline's Place and we had a lot of fun doing so. I'd like to thank all of the donors and sponsors who so generously stepped up to make the event a success.

So again, thank you all for coming tonight. Thank you again for inviting me, allowing me to speak, and please enjoy this evening's dinner.