

Speaking Notes – Relay for Life

Friday June 17th, 2016 6:45 PM

[AS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY]

Good evening everyone. It is a great honour to be here tonight to open the 2016 Relay for Life in Sault Ste. Marie.

This is the 16th year of Relay for Life in Sault Ste. Marie and judging by tonight's turnout the event is still going strong, which is wonderful to see.

We are here of course this evening in support of the Canadian Cancer Society. The funds that are raised through Relay for Life events, both here in Sault Ste. Marie and across the country, will be used to support cancer research, advocacy and prevention activities, and assistive services like the Wheels of Hope transportation program.

As terrible a disease as cancer is, it unifies us as few things can. Cancer doesn't discriminate; it touches all of us, whether directly or indirectly. I'm sure all of you have your own individual stories you can share, as do I.

So tonight, is about a number of things. It's about honouring memories, celebrating survivors and empathizing we those who are currently affected by cancer. It's also about sharing in our community's spirit and having fun. But most of all, it's about staying hopeful, hopeful for a future where cancer is more treatable, less deadly and less common altogether.

I want to thank the Algoma and District office of the Canadian Cancer Society for their continued support of Relay for Life. I also want to thank all of the organizers, volunteers and sponsors who have made the 2016 relay event possible. And of course I want to thank everyone for participating tonight.

To look out over this crowd and see so many people joined together in a common cause is to see what is best about our community.

Thank you and enjoy the evening.