

**Speaking Notes – United Way Flag Raising**

**Tuesday October 13, 9:00 AM – Civic Centre Steps**

**[AS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY]**

Good morning and welcome to City Hall. I hope each of you enjoyed the long weekend and had a Happy Thanksgiving. I'm glad to see everyone has managed to shake off the food comas of the past few days—or at least enough to get here this morning, at the start of the work week.

It's an honour to be here to participate in this flag raising in support of our local United Way.

I think all of us recognize the importance of the United Way to our community. The money raised by our local chapter stays **here**, assists organizations **here**, and makes a difference **here**—in Sault Ste. Marie and area. The tangible impact of the United Way's work can be seen, felt and heard about in countless ways, throughout our community, each year.

Over the years, I have had the pleasure of being involved with the United Way in a variety of capacities, as a donor, as a past member of the fundraising cabinet, and this year through the annual Mayor's Charity Golf Tournament. It has always been a gratifying experience—and it has always been inspiring to see what collective action can accomplish.

So, on behalf of the Office Mayor and our Sault Ste. Marie City Council, I'd like to extend my best wishes to this year's campaign team, volunteers and staff. I also want to commend the pacesetter donors who have helped get this year's fundraising drive off to such a strong start. And finally, I encourage all of our community to get behind our local Sault Ste. Marie and District United Way and to make the 2015 campaign a success.

Thank you again and have a great day.