

Speaking Notes – Federal Gas Tax Funding Announcement

Friday August 12, 2016 – 1:30 p.m.

[AS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY]

Good afternoon everyone, thank you for coming to the Civic Centre for today's announcement. As always, it is good to have our Member of Parliament, Terry Sheehan here with us as well. Many thanks go to Terry and his staff for organizing today's event.

The Federal Gas Tax Fund is a valuable program and one that the City of Sault Ste. Marie greatly appreciates. At close to four and a half million dollars a year, the transfer is a significant revenue source for the municipal budget.

The money we obtain through the transfer plays an important role in keeping our community's transportation infrastructure in good working order. In recent years, the City has used these funds for road reconstruction, resurfacing and repairs to bridges and aqueducts. The funds have also been used at times to help pay for the acquisition of vehicles for the transit fleet.

From the standpoint of our municipal government, the most important feature of the Gas Tax Fund is that it is a permanent, predictable and stable source of funding. As allocations are known well ahead of time, it is possible to plan for larger projects. The fund is a critical investment that is helping municipal governments build and revitalize needed infrastructure.

On behalf of Sault Ste. Marie City Council, I'd like to extend my thanks once again to Member of Parliament Terry Sheehan and the Government of Canada for their continued support of our community through the Federal Gas Tax Transfer. This is an important program that is helping us strengthen and improve our local infrastructure.

Thank you.