

National Award for Social Enterprise

Tuesday May 17, 2016 – 89 White Oak Drive – 10:30 a.m.

[AS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY]

Good morning everyone. It's great to join you for today's celebration, as we recognize Habitat for Humanity of Sault Ste. Marie and area for receiving the Habitat for Humanity Social Enterprise National Award.

On behalf of the Office of Mayor and Sault Ste. Marie City Council, I'd like to offer my wholehearted congratulations to the partners involved with the project for receiving this prestigious award.

- Habitat for Humanity
- The District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Board,
- PUC Services Incorporated,
- The Sault Ste. Marie Police Service,
- The John Howard Society,
- Destination North,
- Work Co, and,
- The City of Sault Ste. Marie

Each making different contributions, these partners came together to launch a very unique value-added recycling program.

The program was born out of the desire to help people who may face some barriers to accessing the job market. Through Work Co, employees are able to gain training and work experience. The proceeds from the sale of the recyclable materials go to support our local Habitat for Humanity chapter.

Though it may not be readily apparent to those who don't work in the field, there is a high degree of collaboration taking place amongst our local social services agencies. Not only that, there is also a great deal of creative and progressive thinking occurring.

I think you have to be able to exercise some creative thought to get from recycling old streetlight materials to supporting the construction of new habitat for humanity homes.

These sorts of social enterprise ventures add value to our community in multiple ways. I am glad that Habitat for Humanity Canada has seen fit to recognize this worthy partnership with an award. I hope that everyone involved with the project today feels justly proud about all they have been able to accomplish.

Thank you.