

Greater Sudbury Faith Leaders Join Casino Free Sudbury as a Party Appeal to Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (LPAT)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sudbury, ON: Greater Sudbury's multi-faith leaders are ready to act following the city council decision on April 10th. Should council support the recommendation of the planning committee, the Greater City of Sudbury multi-faith will join Casino Free Sudbury as a party to appeal the casino rezoning, and the casino official plan amendment to LPAT.

As stated in our March 25th statement, we are deeply concerned that the relocation and expansion of the casino to the Kingsway will have a serious and disproportionately negative impact on vulnerable communities in close proximity to the proposed Kingsway location.

In a statement from Sudbury Interfaith Dialogue in support of the appeal, Rev. David Nichols notes that the interfaith leadership and "followers of several different faiths have responded strongly in opposition to the expansion of a casino in Sudbury. We recognize," the statement continues, "that the 'winner' goes home with someone else's money, all too often someone who can't afford to lose it. As always, the games are designed that the owner is the biggest winner. We also agreed that a casino would not bring more business to Sudbury but only to the casino itself and its related businesses."

With her support, the Rt. Rev. Anne Germond, Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Algoma notes that the Synod of the Diocese of Algoma passed a unanimous motion in 2013, which is still in effect. This motion recognizes that the clergy and people of the Anglican Churches in Algoma, “oppose the future building of casinos in the communities of the Diocese of Algoma and of Northern Ontario” and goes further, urging “elected officials in said communities and the clergy and people of our congregations and in all faith communities similarly to oppose such projects.”

In her statement supporting that appeal, Sister Bonnie MacLellan csj, General Superior for the Sisters of St. Joseph of Sault Ste Marie reports that a similar motion was passed by Leadership Team of The Sisters of St. Joseph of Sault Ste. Marie. This motion unanimously opposes “the future building of casinos in Northern Ontario communities and,” like the Synod of Algoma motion, “urges elected officials in these communities to oppose such projects”

The Most Rev. Marcel Damphousse, Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Sault Ste Marie notes in his statement of support for the appeal “that building a new casino in Sudbury is going to create much more problems than benefits.” Bishop Damphousse goes on to recognize that although he understands “the benefits to be basically economical for the city, many small business owners have challenged that opinion.” Bishop Damphousse continues noting that “gambling behavior and addictions will only impoverish and destroy the lives of our families. How do you put a price on that?”

Finally, in his statement supporting the appeal, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Michael J. Pryse, Bishop for Eastern Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada which includes the Evangelical Lutheran Churches of the City of Greater Sudbury concludes that “Governments have become addicted to the revenue generated by state-sponsored gaming. Those revenues come, however, at a very high social cost. As faith leaders we see the great price paid and often by the most vulnerable members of society. People are being manipulated and taken advantage of and in my view, it is simply immoral.”

By joining as a party to the appeal of the rezoning and amendment to the official plan to allow for the development of a casino on the Kingsway the spiritual leaders of over 100,000 people of faith are signalling to our communities and the wider civil society our profound opposition to the Kingsway casino and more importantly, our unified commitment to not only speak as individuals and communities of faith against this casino but to act collectively as citizens to stop this development.

For more information and media availability of signatories please contact Dr. Christopher (Chris) Duncanson-Hales, theolog3n1@gmail.com or by phone at 705.585.3032

Multi-faith Leaders Party to Appeal (Confirmed as of April 5th, 2018)

- Dr. Christopher J. Duncanson-Hales, Chair Nord500North Committee for the Commemoration of the Reformation
- Rev. David Nicol Sudbury Interfaith Dialogue
- Most Reverend Marcel Dampousse Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie
- Rt. Rev. Anne Germond Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Algoma
- Rt. Rev. Dr. Michael J. Pryse, Bishop of the Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada
- Sister Bonnie MacLellan, The General Superior for the Sisters of St. Joseph of Sault Ste Marie
- The Rev. Robert Derrenbacker, Ph.D. Church of the Ascension (Anglican)
- The Reverend Monsignor James Hutton C.S.S. St. Patrick Catholic Parish
- Mrs. Catherine Hopper Roman Catholic
- Diane Pagan St. Patrick's Catholic Church
- Rev. Diane Trollope United Church of Canada
- Rev. Bea Arnill United Church of Canada
- Sister Bonnie Chesser, Sisters of St. Joseph, St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church, Sudbury
- Anthony Chezzi, Adult Faith Facilitator St Patrick Parish
- Dorothy Klein RN BScN, RN Emeritus, Roman Catholic
- Howard Wideman, Mennonite
- Mary Wideman, Mennonite
- Dr. Lucien Pelletier Roman Catholic Parish of St. Ignatius of Loyola, University of Sudbury
- Paul J. Allard, DLM United Church Canada
- Madeleine Paquette Roman Catholic
- Sheila Murdock parishioner Church of the Ascension, Anglican
- Fr. Peter Moher Holy Redeemer RC Parish
- Mrs. Anne Gervais Roman Catholic
- Krista Frederiksen Waters Mennonite Church
- Sister Sharon Miller Sisters of St Joseph of Sault Ste. Marie
- Sister Priscilla Solomon, Sisters of St. Joseph of Sault Ste. Marie
- Art Bast, deacon Waters Mennonite Church, Lively, ON
- Rev. David Shulist, S.J. St Ignatius Parish at the University of Sudbury
- Rev. James Ketzler Church of Christ the King - Sudbury
- Rev. Melody Duncanson-Hales, Mission and Stewardship Animator Manitou Conference, The United Church of Canada
- Dr. Albert J. Bouclin St. Jean de Brébeuf Roman Catholic Parish
- Rev. Marie Bouclin Bishop, Roman Catholic Women Priests of Canada
- Todd Manuel, Lead Pastor Glad Tidings Pentecostal Church
- Rev. Dr. Spencer Boersma First Baptist Church of Sudbury
- Rev. Jason Tripp Valleyview Community Church
- Rev. Aidan Armstrong Church of the Ascension -Anglican

