

Your City Your Voice - Community candidate pledges

We invite candidates for Mayor and Council in the 2026 Greater Sudbury municipal election to take pledges on community priorities. If you are elected, you can make a real difference in the lives of Greater Sudbury residents, where it matters most. You can pledge to act on these do-able, meaningful actions that address community priorities identified by residents and by local grassroots community organizations.

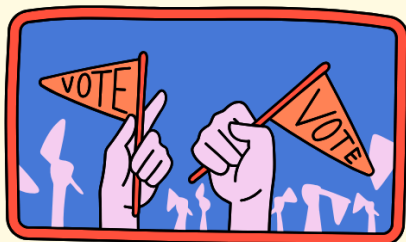
Your City Your Voice community candidate pledges are created by [Coalition for a Liveable Sudbury](#), [Black Lives Matter Sudbury](#), [Citizens Climate Lobby Sudbury](#), [Fierté Sudbury Pride](#), [Greater Sudbury Watershed Alliance](#), [Myths and Mirrors Community Arts](#), [reThink Green](#), Sudbury Food (in)Security Committee, and [Sudbury Workers Education and Advocacy Centre](#), and further endorsed by [Afro Women and Youth Foundation](#), the [Foodshed Project Sudbury](#), the [Go-Give Project](#), [Junction Creek Stewardship Committee](#), [PoliticsNOW](#), [Sudbury & District Labour Council](#), and [Sudbury Indie Cinema](#).

There are nine short sections in this form.

A reply to these pledges is requested by **September 10, 2026**.

For any questions or clarifications, please contact Naomi Grant, [Coalition for a Liveable Sudbury](#) at clsudbury@live.com.

YOUR CITY YOUR VOICE CANDIDATE PLEDGES



Name *

Derek Young

Email *

dyoungward10@gmail.com

Code (enter the number code we sent you by email) *

If you are elected, what do you most want to accomplish during your term of Council? *

Summarize in 1-3 paragraphs.

I want to live in a city that takes care of its people and provides a vibrant quality of life for families and neighbourhoods across all wards. My Plan 180 platform offers practical solutions and long-term ideas to enhance community well being and to address the complex issues that Sudbury is currently facing such as public safety. This plan has policies based on three main pillars; Proud to Call Home, Protect Sudbury, and Prosperity for All.

My top priority is the Proud to Call Home policies, focussed on our homelessness and drug crisis. I would like to accomplish a turnaround for our city by reassessing the "Roadmap to End Homelessness by 2030" and finding the systemic roadblocks and gaps in services, ensuring a housing-first strategy with deep-core affordable housing and support services as the focus. I am also proposing a new "Changing Hearts" program; inspired by a 25+ year program in Winnipeg & the previous BIA "Welcoming Streets" program in Sudbury. This program will create something that can provide meaningful employment and life skills training opportunities for vulnerable populations to reduce their dependency on panhandling. This plan also supports the creation on an OADA compliance committee of council.

We can Protect Sudbury by focusing on issues around response times and employee morale within the paramedic service, while also enhancing the visibility of school zones and protocols to make sure our kids get home safe and sound each day from school. We can create Prosperity For All by prioritizing support for businesses impacted by Downtown construction projects or arts organizations affected by city budget limitations. When we protect Sudbury and create prosperity for all, we can be proud to call Sudbury home.

1. Provide suitable, safe housing & social supports for all residents

Providing suitable, affordable housing and meeting the needs of unsheltered community members is an urgent need in our community.

Housing support for Indigenous community members and youth are especially needed, which is why youth transitional housing and Indigenous-led transitional housing are top priorities in [Greater Sudbury's roadmap to end homelessness by 2030](#). If you are elected, you will have the opportunity to vote in support of both during the 2027 municipal budget deliberations.

Adding safe suitable housing options to meet everyone's needs does not happen overnight. But meeting basic needs cannot wait. Immediate needs for unsheltered community members include 24-hour access to washrooms, water, and outreach workers.

A strong commitment to investing in community-led safety alternatives, such as housing, transportation, public health, mental health and addiction services, would promote community health and well-being. By building on existing collective knowledge and experimenting with new ones, we can build safe, vibrant communities that allow people to thrive.

Do you pledge to take these housing & homelessness actions? *

	yes	no	unsure
A) Vote in favour of the budget business case to build youth transitional housing and Indigenous-led transitional housing.	☒	☐	☐
B) Provide for the immediate needs of unsheltered community members with dignity & respect for human rights.	☒	☐	☐
C) Invest in evidence-based, effective community-led safety initiatives, strategies, resources, services and supports. Ensure budget dollars for 'community safety' are dedicated to these solutions instead of enforcement.	☐	☐	☒

2. Protect residents, homes, infrastructure, nature and the municipal budget from extreme weather and other climate impacts.

The impacts of a changing climate are hitting our community economically, socially, and environmentally. Greater Sudbury's Community Energy and Emissions Plan ([CEEP](#)) is a roadmap to minimize the rise of those impacts, while the Community Climate Change Adaptation Plan ([CCCAP](#)) protects us from them. These plans are fundamental to the success, safety and well-being of our community. They protect our families, homes, neighbourhoods, infrastructure, land and water. They protect our city from higher costs and service disruptions. Implementing these plans successfully requires leadership and resources.

Some of the actions the city can take to protect our community from the climate emergency while saving costs are to (i) implement the Sustainable Waste Strategy with an emphasis on diverting organic waste; (ii) carry out deep retrofits to municipal buildings and facilities to save energy and costs; (iii) continue to electrify the city fleet.

Extreme heat from our changing climate is already affecting residents' health. The City of Greater Sudbury should enact a maximum heat bylaw that protects vulnerable tenants from extreme, life-threatening indoor temperatures driven by climate change. Having a safe, cool indoor space is not a luxury, it is a core component of human dignity and a fundamental right to safe housing. By setting a maximum temperature threshold for residential units, the City of Greater Sudbury is supporting public health and protecting residents' well-being.

Do you pledge to take these climate resilience actions? *

yes

no

unsure

A) Put in place dedicated funding in the city budget & senior leadership to implement our community's climate plans, meet measurable targets, and protect our community from climate impacts.



B) Enact a maximum temperature bylaw for residences, to ensure tenants are living and sleeping in safe temperatures.

**3. Support food security for residents**

Food is a human right, yet food insecurity remains a pressing issue in our community. While food programs can reduce the immediate effects of hunger, they are not long term solutions.

Building an equitable and sustainable local food system alongside income-based solutions is essential. Food is an important part of our lives. It impacts our well-being, but also the resilience of our community, environment and economy (GSFA,2025). The [Greater Sudbury Food Assessment](#) identifies key opportunities for meaningful change. Advancing these recommendations requires dedicated and ongoing coordination which does not currently exist. A business case to hire a permanent, full time Food Systems Coordinator was presented for consideration in the 2026-2027 budget, and was deferred. If you are elected, you will have an opportunity to vote on this business case.

Research shows that food insecurity can be reduced by making sure people have adequate income. A living wage ensures people can afford their basic needs and fully engage in their community. Becoming a [certified living wage employer](#) positions the City of Greater Sudbury as a leader and champion in the fight against poverty and food insecurity. It allows the City to leverage its public sector influence to actively combat working poverty by paying a living wage.

While pledging to pay a living wage represents a positive intent, it lacks the public accountability and visibility needed to inspire the local business community. Formal certification through the Ontario Living Wage Network sets a tangible example, encouraging other local employers to step up, lift workers out of poverty, and actively invest in regional economic prosperity.

Do you pledge to take these food security actions? *

	yes	no	unsure
A) With community partners & First Nations, support an independent coordinator for the Greater Sudbury Food Assessment and an Emergency Food Plan, focusing on solutions for food security.	☒	☐	☐
B) Commit to the City of Greater Sudbury being a living wage employer.	☐	☐	☒

4. Ensure residents can get where they need to go, access opportunities, and be active in their neighbourhoods

It is essential for all residents to be able to walk around their neighbourhood and get to where they need to go throughout all seasons. Good winter sidewalk plowing and maintenance makes that possible. A [pilot project](#) showed the positive impact of improved winter sidewalk clearing on residents’ mobility, health and safety. If you are elected, you will have the opportunity to vote to make this a permanent service level improvement in the 2027 municipal budget deliberations.

Biking is a healthy and affordable mode of transportation that relies on safe, separated, and connected bike routes.

Transit is an accessible and affordable mode of transportation that can meet the need of more and more residents as service is improved.

Supporting transit and active transportation supports residents in getting to work, school, medical appointments, and other basic needs. It also makes our community more healthy and climate resilient for everyone.

Do you pledge to take these actions supporting basic mobility for residents? *

	yes	no	unsure
A) Vote to make the winter sidewalk maintenance pilot a permanent service improvement.	☒	☐	☐
B) Put safe bike routes on all main roads and connect bike routes to be a continuous network.	☒	☐	☐
C) Continue to improve transit service (including neighbourhood service), and ensure bus fares are affordable.	☒	☐	☐

5. Support community-led initiatives, which make our communities vibrant, healthy and resilient

Community groups, not-for-profits, and community members are at the heart of community, making a positive difference and creating a sense of place. They provide services, coordinate community efforts, revitalize playgrounds, grow gardens, host events, and connect residents to activities, their neighbourhoods and each other. Better supporting community-led efforts means better supporting our community.

Do you pledge to take this action supporting community-led initiatives? *

yes

no

unsure

Collaborate with the community to continue to improve support for community-led initiatives like community gardens, community events, and community activities, and realize the goal of a “one-stop shop” for that support.

**6. Act on our responsibility to Truth and Reconciliation**

Cultural humility is a vital leadership trait that embodies a commitment to ongoing learning, active listening and self-reflection. Our ever-diversifying city requires leaders that want to learn about different cultures, which can lead to building strong relationships with communities based on mutual respect and trust.

The City has a responsibility to implement the actions identified in the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action at a local level, with meaningful steps forward in good relations with Atikameksheng Anishinawbek First Nation, Wahnapiatae First Nation, Indigenous elders and knowledge keepers, and local Indigenous organizations.

Do you pledge to take these Truth and Reconciliation actions? *

yes

no

unsure

A) Make a public and institutional commitment to take cultural humility training, champion a requirement for cultural humility training for all staff and members of Council, and champion implementing the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action at a local level.



B) Work with First Nations to build strong, respectful government-to-government relationships, and to formalize shared decision making, shared resources, and local land-back initiatives to advance First Nation priorities. Participation in the Community Economic Development Initiative (CEDI) by Atikameksheng Anishnawbek, Wahnapiatae First Nation and the City of Greater Sudbury (formalized by resolutions passed by their respective councils, announced April 2026) provides an important forum to advance this work.



7. Be a leader in protecting natural spaces, for a healthy natural environment and access to trails and greenspaces

Greater Sudbury is a city of lakes and greenspaces, giving us access to nature and outdoor activities, and supporting a healthy natural environment, biodiversity, and climate resilience. Mayor and Council have committed to the federal and international goal of protecting 30% of land and water by 2030, at the local level, with a first batch of sites already recognized federally. The [30x30](#) initiative continues the leadership and legacy of Greater Sudbury’s transformational regreening.

In their neighbourhoods, every resident can contribute to biodiversity in their yard, and the City can support them in doing so with a simple bylaw update to support natural gardens.

Do you pledge to take these actions for our city's natural spaces? *

	yes	no	unsure
A) Commit to meet the 30x30 goal of protecting 30% of land and water by 2030	☒	☐	☐
B) Update the ‘clearing of yards’ bylaw to support wildflower gardens, naturalized areas, and front yard food gardens.	☐	☐	☒

8. Advocate to upper levels of government

Provincial and federal governments also have responsibilities for these community priorities, and Council can advocate for action at these levels. Here we highlight three areas for this advocacy.

This year, a global coalition of 59 nations, including Canada, met in Santa Marta, Colombia, to discuss international cooperation to transition off fossil fuels, for climate and geopolitical security. Endorsing the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty speaks directly to the source of the climate crisis, and aligns with Sudbury’s commitment to climate action, economic stability, and global solidarity.

A [Basic Income](#) is widely recognized as an effective and equitable solution for housing, food security, and affordability of daily needs. Income is one of the most important determinants of health.

Adequate funding for housing and social supports from higher levels of government would greatly support Greater Sudbury’s goal of net zero homelessness by 2030.

Do you pledge to: *

	yes	no	unsure
A) Endorse the Fossil Fuel Treaty Initiative	☐	☐	☒
B) Advocate for basic income	☒	☐	☐
C) Advocate for adequate funding for housing, harm reduction and social supports	☒	☐	☐

These pledges focus on seven important community priorities: housing and supports, climate change impacts, food security, transportation, support for community-led initiatives, Truth and Reconciliation, and healthy natural spaces.

These community priorities are interconnected with each other, and with equity, affordability, and fiscal responsibility.

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