

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 18, 2021

**one of the of the largest Petitions in Sudbury's history
condemns the Kingsway Entertainment District
will be presented to City Council: November 23rd**

Sudbury, Ontario – By now it is clear to almost the entire city that the so-called Kingsway Entertainment District should more accurately be termed the Kingsway Environmental Disaster - a cynical scam by a local property developer to trick the public into paying millions to bring sewer, water and hydro services to his currently unsalable acres located eight kilometres from downtown Sudbury on a rocky outcrop right beside the dump.

Patrick Crowe, Keith Clarkson, Hazel Ecclestone and Arthur Peach, four concerned citizens behind a civic petition against the KED are today announcing their intention to present the petition to the City of Greater Sudbury's council in time for the November 23rd meeting. This petition is six times greater than a counter petition spawned by pro-KED supporters this past summer, and ten times larger than a petition recently received by Councillors Robert Kirwan and Bill Leduc that convinced them they had made a mistake on a decision earlier this year.

Entitled "We want Sudbury's new Arena located downtown to fuel our city's urban renaissance", the Petition is much more than a simple denouncement of the KED. It is a focus of passionate optimism for the future of the city of Sudbury and its towns, for leadership in this time of climate crisis and for responsible management of civic resources.

Signatories of the Petition are calling for three things of the Mayor and the Council of the City of Greater Sudbury to whom the petition is directed:

1. That Sudbury's new Arena be located downtown to fuel the city's urban renaissance
2. That Council reject the misguided Kingsway Entertainment District; and
3. That if Council cannot be convinced by the many voices rejecting the KED, that it submit the decision to a binding referendum so the voters themselves can determine how their hundreds of millions of tax dollars will be spent.

Nature of the Petition: The Petition has been available for signing in print at many Sudbury businesses since July, however, the organizers also chose to launch a parallel online version - the only responsible course of action given the nature of the Covid 19 Pandemic. The Petition is hosted online on the change.org site - a popular internationally-accessible service accessed by more than 400 million people which has been used for over a decade by individuals and governments around the world as a meter of public opinion. Change.org was featured on the CBC National News as recently as November 16th and was even parodied as pester.com on The Simpsons animated TV series.

The success of the Petition has alarmed the deeply conflicted supporters of the KED already skulking under the cloud of accusations of bribery and corruption. In particular, outspoken KED supporter Councillor Robert Kirwan, on no less than four occasions, has taken to local news or his Facebook page to attack the legitimacy of the Petition. He even went so far as to sign the Petition using a fake name (by his own admission) in an effort to undermine its credibility. "I find it deeply disturbing that an elected representative would go to such extreme efforts to suppress public participation in the democratic process," commented organizer Patrick Crowe, an Emmy Award winning filmmaker.

The total number of signatures behind the "We want Sudbury's new Arena located downtown to fuel our city's urban renaissance" Petition is well over the 3000 mark.

Quite contrary to what Councillor Kirwan has claimed, the change.org petition does in fact, require and compile email addresses and address information of signatories, making it compliant with the City of Greater Sudbury's requirements for civic petitions.

Passion for a Beloved City: Councillor Kirwan (who has been twice reprimanded by the City's ethics Commissioner for his censurable behaviour) has repeatedly insinuated that the petition is subject to falsehood and forgery. "This is an absurd conjecture made immediately obvious by simply consulting the articulate, intelligent and passionate comments of the signatories on the Petition," commented Arthur Peach, a prominent local architect with a practice reaching back 60 years into Sudbury's history. A sample of these commentaries are reproduced at the end of this document.

Threats and Intimidation: "It was the voices that supported our initiative but couldn't sign that we found most distressing," commented local entrepreneur Hazel Ecclestone. "Many voices we meet remain opposed to the KED, but afraid of the repercussions if they come out against the KED. People should not be afraid for their livelihoods for expressing their views on the arena location!" These fears are proven very real in evidence presented to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal LPAT, where there are two affidavits that make the declaration that work was cancelled for people who opposed the KED.

Please Note: There has never been a public consultation about relocating the arena to the KED location.

Never Surrender....The Petition organizers have learned much about the KED since beginning their Appeal. New information continues to come to light that reveals the city has exaggerated the benefits of this project. The Ontario Provincial Police is currently investigating individuals associated with the project for the solicitation of bribes. Outstanding questions, including questions posed by councillors on behalf of constituents, remain unanswered and subject to a court action by a local community group. Councillor Kirwan has been reprimanded for colluding to use a fake social media account to spread pro-KED propaganda, while Councillor Leduc has revealed he cannot protect the interests of the taxpayers because he must protect the hotel developer's confidentiality interest instead. The Developer continues to insult taxpayers who will pay the ever-inflating cost of the initiative by concealing the details of a hotel deal. After months of Councillors asking, it has finally been revealed that there are no build commitments in place for either a casino or a hotel.

"Contrary to the best practices and accepted standards of urban planning, six Councillors and the Mayor remain on course to build an overpriced standalone arena on unserviced and environmentally sensitive lands at the edge of town." observed media producer and social advocate Keith Clarkson.

Should Council maintain the status quo and continue to ignore the increasingly vocal opposition to the KED, the Organizers plan to continue to collect signatures. "We anticipate there will be further revelations and scandals to come that will undermine the KED" said Crowe. "We will submit the petition ten times if that's what it takes to be heard!" concluded Peach.

The Petition and Comments of Signatories can be found at:

<https://www.change.org/p/council-of-the-city-of-greater-sudbury-we-want-a-referendum-on-the-location-of-the-new-civic-arena/u/29661827>

We encourage all citizens to tune into the November 23rd Council meeting. Council meetings are streamed at 6PM at the following location:

<https://www.greatersudbury.ca/city-hall/mayor-and-council/meetings-agendas-and-minutes/>

For more information contact: Hazel Ecclestone, ecclestonehazel@gmail.com, ph: 705-920-1408

Please see attached pages to read some of the comments citizens have written.....

Sample Comments of Petition Signatories

I think that in the interests of the entire City Council the matter of development of the KED should be on hold until we, the people, have been satisfied about the integrity of a number of Councillors who have been heavily involved in promoting and pushing the development of behalf of the developer. A councillor who has been involved in writing public letters of support of the KED under a nom de plume and another councillor who has stated that he was offered a bribe to absent himself from a crucial vote involving approval of the KED and finally a statement from a councillor that in spite of a large citizen's opposition and a petition of over 2000 signatures opposing KED, the KED development will proceed go forward. The Mayor and Council should step up to the plate and hold a public referendum on the matter and that would let the matter rest instead of gathering a growing smell of corruption and council arrogance towards citizens.

-J Van Boxel (Sept 29, 2021)

Would that not be illegal to put "shovels in the ground" when the developer is being investigated? I have this scenario in my head that all of our 160,000 or so residents go to protest at the site..... so that they can not put shovels in the ground. I think some people need to be escorted out of civic square just like Ed Archer was escorted out in Barrie, Ontario.

-Aila Paaananen (Sept 28, 2021)

Your downtown deserves a fighting chance! The number one rule in any successful urban planning is 'Sustainability!' Every Community Arena needs to be in the right location, being in all Downtowns, in order for any city core to grow, prosper and attract future investment. Currently, our Downtown is suffering without this vision. Just one example, is the fact that two 'letters of intent' from Impark to build two separate parking towers in the Downtown core were cancelled, when the announcement to move the arena was made. What a blow to the 'Renaissance' we have been desperately waiting for to help fix the parking woes. My customer, who is a developer, was going to spend \$8 million within our downtown, if the Arena stayed in its original footprint, that investment was lost as well! When are the current Arena developers and City Fathers going to recognize that Downtown 'sustainability' is stronger, than the little profit that is left on the Kingsway, and that personal 'ego' is a very dangerous formula.

-Todd Wilkinson (Sept 18, 2021), C/O Reg Wilkinson Men's Wear, Business Owner and Building Owner in our downtown since 1948; 705-675-6710

This is my hometown and having the arena downtown strengthens the urban culture of the city! All great cities have a centralized hub.

-Paul Poulin (Aug 22, 2021)

Great cities concentrate their cultural and entertainment resources, rather than sprawling to the outskirts. Downtown Sudbury is accessible by public transit, bike, foot, and offers many established restaurants and halo businesses that would mutually benefit from a downtown event venue location. There are many examples of cities that built arenas far outside the city centre that later regretted it. One relatively local example is Ottawa: the Senators had an arena built in the Kanata suburb, but for years have been trying to build a new arena downtown as they've realized the folly of their location. Let's not make the same mistake.

-Dan Scott (August 6, 2021)

There will be less parking at the KED than downtown (fact, see report), you can't walk or bike or bus to the KED, cabs will be impossible to get after an event, we'll need to spend tons more on roads etc just to make traffic vaguely manageable, it's literally next to the dump, it'll be an ugly, impersonal, polluting, money-sucking asphalt wasteland (imagine the wind in winter) with nothing else to do and nowhere else to go before or after an event (besides a casino- uh, no thanks, what a boring waste of \$, rather hit up a cool bar, cafe, gallery, venue or restaurant thanks, or maybe just walk around and see people as opposed to cars). Suppressing the existing entertainment

district (i.e. downtown) and all the investment by both citizens (businesses, actual culture) and government (infrastructure) already in place is a recipe for economic disaster. KED is a bad investment on every level. It's like building a hot tub at the end of your driveway when the roof and all the windows of your house are broken and the fridge is empty then wondering why no one comes to your party. Good community and economic development does not arise from one individual's desire for more wealth. Why did council fall for this scam, WHY? We certainly haven't.

-Sarah Jamieson (August 13, 2021)

After watching the contest hosted by the School of Architecture last year which challenged architects to imagine a downtown Sudbury that was vibrant, functional and beautiful, I'm all in for a downtown site for an updated arena. With the effects of Climate Change already affecting us and in step with the Climate Change Declaration of Emergency/CEEP, a downtown arena site lowers our city's carbon footprint compared to the other KED site.

-Jane Cox (August 4, 2021)

Urban sprawl is going the way of the dinosaurs in these times of awakening consciousness about past planning mistakes. We need to revitalize our downtown and make it where Sudburians meet and walk from venue to venue. We don't need to be 20 years behind the major cities.

-Manon Larose (July 29, 2021)

I am not in favour of supporting the Zulich dream of building our arena on his and Perry Dellece's unsellable land, to be partly built by Zulich's father in law company. This is pure lunacy... building an arena next to a garbage dump!

-Vic Theriault (July 29, 2021)

We need a referendum. A few inept councilors and our present mayor are bullying the rest to make this happen. This makes no economic sense or any other kind of sense. Something doesn't smell right and it is not only the dump! (I like our dump!) Don't ruin it with this nonsense.

-Susan Scott (July 29, 2021)

I see so much potential in Sudbury, the ability to put a hub of entertainment, arts, culture and business in the heart of the city with Bell Park and Ramsey Lake; the canoe club and beaches all within walking distance creates a unique and attractive lifestyle to draw residents here. However, making one of the cities largest ever purchases on a valueless piece of land that isn't walkable, isn't urban, and has less accessibility is the opposite of creating that unique lifestyle. Furthermore, if the opportunity exists with ProjectNow to provide a sizeable cost savings on top of that, it needs to be explored because the city has plenty of other needs to be addressed. There are only reasons to reconsider the KED and no reasons to continue with it.

-Avinash Srivastava (July 29, 2021)

In my capacity as both a citizen of Sudbury and as a professor of architecture and urban design, I strongly oppose the construction of the KED on the Kingsway, and am advocating for the renovation of the existing arena as an inclusive and accessible contribution to revitalizing the city's downtown core and supporting public life.

-Aliko Economides, (July 29, 2021)

This issue needs to go to referendum so each person's voice is heard. My city councillor's vote did not reflect my opinion on the matter. I did send an email outlining my opinion. A referendum will put this issue to rest.

-Shiela Kelly-Petrin (July 29, 2021)

No city with an arena on the edge of town doesn't regret that choice. We might as well throw \$100 million directly into the city dump. Luckily it is closeby and upwind.

-Peter McGillivray (July 29, 2021)

This makes no economic sense, no sense where we are, no sense to move a public arena out beside a dump without infrastructure that will cost more and more and more.... No thank-you!

-Ruby Laughed (July 29, 2021)

It's ridiculous, who is going to pay over 100\$ in taxi's to watch a game or concert and have drinks. Why would we need a Casino? North Bay had one, SSM has one, Orillia... This makes absolutely no sense. I think a survey from the younger residents is needed. They will be the ones paying for this. Times have changed, I highly doubt the next generations will be sitting in a casino, concerts will start being streamed ppv, virtually. Such a waste of money, how about fixing our infrastructure, that's a long term issue, the KED is so backwards thinking. Young people don't even go to bars anymore they're just swipe right or left. If they want to go to a casino they can do it on their phone. Wake up...

-Sean Brunette (July 28, 2021)

I care about our city. I lived here all my life. The arena should be in the downtown core to enable the downtown to flourish. I have been behind this since it started, I think there are items that the residents have not been told. And from the start Mr. Zulich was building the arena. And then sold the property to the city. Council OK that. There are too many people who live in the downtown core without access to the Kingsway. Where do they plan to have other events like the Remembrance Day service and Multi cultural day. We don't want our city to be sprawled out all over. There are arenas in other places and not everyone plays hockey or is interested. The other place that they want to build should not be done at this time. Why did the city sell the Bell Mansion to Laurentian. I could go on and on about reasons that our arena must stay downtown. I'm signing because I have felt right from the start that something is being hidden from the public. And in my eyes always living here the Arena belongs downtown. We have to think of others that are unable to use bus and handicap people. We don't need all these new buildings fix what we have.

-Linda Carter (July 28, 2021)

Utterly daft idea to build a whole complex beside the dump, where there are no existing businesses or infrastructure.

-Mike Harris (July 28, 2021)

Invest in the downtown, it is the heart of any city! My family and I moved here from Toronto, and what keeps us here are the local restaurants that double as art galleries and music venues. It's a mistake not to make every effort to make the downtown as vibrant as it once was. You will lose young people to bigger cities, and population growth in the North is hard to come by!

-Jessica Shapiro (July 28, 2021)

I sign this petition because it has been proven by other municipalities who done something similar to the KED, had huge negative impact in their downtown core, and that the municipality- hired team who assessed the plans recommends the downtown core for its location, and counsel ignored the recommendation they paid for, catering to a wealthy 1% perspective (rich & privileged) and finally, with absolutely NO green innovation, no actual environmental impact considerations. The impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic and climate change NEED to lead to a complete reconsideration and re-design of the entire project. No KED. Let's actually innovate and not exploit we, tax payers for decades to come, for an ill considered white-cis-heteronormative male lead project. Which voices have been ignored and left out of this project...? Their absence speaks volumes.

-Sylvie Liard (July 25, 2021)

It's decisions like the KED that make me not want to move back to Sudbury, and why many of my friends have already left or going to leave Sudbury for better cities. This decision will do nothing but raise taxes even further for a city that isn't growing, with crumbling infrastructure. I want to be in a city that respects risk mitigation, due diligence and proper return on quality of life per every tax dollar spent. The KED is fiscally irresponsible during a time where the world is still getting back on its feet from a pandemic, many people still jobless, Laurentian insolvent, and Vale on Strike.

-Guy Godin (July 25, 2021)

I'm signing because the heart of every city is downtown. This arena must stay downtown! Look at the cities in this country who have downtown arenas they are full of life and culture.

-Sylvie Brochu (July 25, 2021)

I am hopeful that this ill conceived idea that has not worked in a single Canadian/American city is not allowed to progress to the point of draining the city of both vibrancy and tax dollars. Kirwan et al must not be allowed to ram this through using dubious statistics and poorly researched reports (1000 film studio jobs indeed...laughable)

-Matt Binks (July 25, 2021)