



City Mayor and Councillors Endorsed Report Lacking Information Taxpayers Requested

Sudbury, Ontario (MLRG): The City of Greater Sudbury (CGS) submitted evidence to the court on October 18, 2021 in response to the Minnow Lake Restoration Group's (MLRG) application for judicial review. The City's own evidence and transcripts show that the staff failed to answer councillors questions in the 2021 Sudbury Event Centre Update Report (2021 Pricewaterhouse Coopers (PwC) report).

Evidence submitted to the court by MLRG clearly transcribes the request by Councillor Rene Lapierre to include an economic impact assessment in the Updated Arena Business Case, Mr. Ian Wood said: "I can indicate that the economic impact analysis will be more robust than in 2017."

The economic impact assessment included in the 2017 Proposed Sports and Entertainment Centre Feasibility and Business Case Assessment (2017 PwC report) considered eight criteria: spending impacts, GDP impacts, employment impacts, employment income impacts, tax impacts, sport and event hosting impacts, increased visitor spending and incremental investments. At that time, the resulting economic impact assessment ultimately recommended that a downtown location would have the greatest economic impact for the City of Greater Sudbury.

According to evidence submitted by the CGS in October 2021, it was revealed that PwC no longer prepares economic impact analyses on arena projects.

Instead, despite holding no professional credentials in economics, Mr. Wood offered his own commentary in place of the robust economic impact assessment. Additionally, the economic assessment presented in the 2021 PwC report only considered three of the eight economic impact criteria. It is evident that the 2021 economic impact assessment is well short of the one completed in 2017.

The economic information included in the 2021 PwC report is attributed to what was provided by CGS to PwC. Clauses in the 'limiting conditions' section of the 2021 PwC report states that PwC could not verify the information provided by the CGS. This is not a standard clause. A similar clause in the 2017 PwC report omits the declaration that information provided by the CGS is not verifiable.

Despite this, Councillor Lapierre voted in favour of the report and proceeding with the Kingsway Entertainment District (KED), in addition to Mayor Bigger and Councillors Robert Kirwan, Mike Jakubo, Al Sizer, Bill Leduc, Joscelyne Landry-Altman.

Said legal counsel in advice to MLRG: "It is highly unusual for a city council to accept reports from individuals lacking the appropriate credentials. When a service provider like PwC does not have the expertise on hand, they will sub-consult to a third party, as they did with Ian McKay Architects for unrequested architecture component of the 2021 PwC report. City staff/PwC did not complete the economic impact assessment, despite the final report being \$18,000 under budget."

The evidence submitted by CGS also reveals that the scope for a renovation of the Sudbury Community Arena was inflated to present a substantially larger and more expensive renovation option than the ProjectNow concept www.projectnow.info prepared by Sudbury's 3rdLine Studio which identified \$40,000,000 in savings.

It is interesting that City executive staff prioritized spending the report budget on an architectural study that councillors did not ask for. To paraphrase Councillor Geoff McCausland in transcripts provided by the CGS: "I will say that I was severely disappointed with the cost of the (2021 PwC) report, as well as my understanding that we got an expensive architectural report for something that I do not know if anyone wanted."

Supporting evidence submitted to the court from MLRG and CGS can be accessed on www.minnowlake.ca

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