

April 1, 2026

Northern Ontario Municipalities

****Sent Via Email****

Re: Special Economic Zone

Dear Northern Ontario Municipalities,

The following resolution was ratified by Council of the City of Greater Sudbury on March 31, 2026:

WHEREAS Canada's economic security and modern defence capabilities depend on resilient supply chains, energy security, and reliable access to critical minerals;

AND WHEREAS Greater Sudbury is one of Canada's most important critical mineral hubs, producing and refining nickel, copper, and other critical minerals essential to national and provincial priorities;

AND WHEREAS these minerals support industries across Canada and among our allies, making Greater Sudbury a strategic centre in the global competition for critical resources;

AND WHEREAS mining activity in Greater Sudbury is rapidly expanding, with the number of mines within municipal boundaries expected to grow from nine to fifteen within five years;

AND WHEREAS the City maintains extensive infrastructure, including more than 3,600 kilometres of roads and major water and wastewater systems across a land mass comparable to Prince Edward Island, supporting both residents and a multi billion dollar industrial ecosystem;

AND WHEREAS the current municipal funding model does not reflect the scale of responsibility borne by Greater Sudbury, resulting in an unsustainable burden on local taxpayers despite the city generating nearly one third of Northern Ontario's GDP;

AND WHEREAS most mining related revenues flow to provincial and federal governments, with only a small portion reinvested in the community that enables this economic activity;

AND WHEREAS a Special Economic Zone designation would ensure that more of the wealth generated in Greater Sudbury is reinvested locally in infrastructure, housing, workforce development, and social services, with significant returns on this investment for both our communities and our government partners;

AND WHEREAS Greater Sudbury has strong partnerships with Atikameksheng Anishnawbek and Wahnapiatae First Nation, and enhanced fiscal capacity would support continued collaboration and shared prosperity;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Greater Sudbury formally request that the Government of Ontario designate Greater Sudbury as a Special Economic Zone;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council request the Government of Canada recognize Greater Sudbury as a region of national strategic importance and work with the province of Ontario to implement complementary federal measures;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be shared with Atikameksheng Anishnawbek, Wahnapiatae First Nation, FONOM, AMO, and all Northern Ontario municipalities for their support.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a letter conveying Council's support for these measures be sent to:

- Gimaa Craig Noochtai, Atikameksheng Anishnawbek
- Chief Larry Roque, Wahnapiatae First Nations
- The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
- The Right Honourable Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada
- The Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM)
- Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
- All Northern Ontario municipalities

Yours truly,

Brigitte Sobush
Manager of Clerk's Services/Deputy City Clerk

c. Members of City Council