

MAYOR

MATTHEW

SHOEMAKER



**6-Month
Report**

Released May 2023

Six-Month Report

I ran for Mayor because, after eight successful years as a Councillor, I still had more to give to my community. I am so grateful to the community for having entrusted me with its support. The coming years will be a challenge, but in tackling the challenges we face, City Council can capitalize on the opportunities they present, in the same way that in years past, people came to Sault Ste. Marie to take advantage of the opportunities that were here.



My public commitments have been clear: we need growth, and we need development, but we also need to achieve this in a managed and prudent way. I will work with City Council to give residents the community they want and deserve, but in a responsible manner that will show respect and awareness for cost of living concerns.

Council meetings span hours and cover a wide variety of topics so it can be difficult to stay informed about what's going on. I also know there is a lot going on at the City and in everyone's lives, and with the constant news cycle it can be easy to miss important local developments. As a way to keep our community informed, my office has developed a six-month report that we will be releasing biannually. I hope you take a moment to read it, and as always I am available to answer any questions from the community about it.

Mayor Matthew Shoemaker

Stay connected with Mayor Shoemaker



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A Plan for Progress - *in motion*



Ever since my first run for City Council in 2014, I've been committed to bringing forward new ideas - ideas that are specific, actionable, and achievable for Sault Ste. Marie. Sometimes I've even been accused of having too many ideas. But changing the status quo doesn't happen on its own; it takes new approaches and new thinking and I see it as the role of Mayor and City Council to provide the direction to achieve that change. There is no real change without first having a real plan that is driven by real ideas and during the

2022 election, I presented 'A Plan for Progress'. Throughout my mayoralty, I'll provide updates on the progress we're making on the platform and below is a summary of the first six months.

Platform Commitment

A realistic approach to keeping property taxes in check

Action

Proposed \$780,650 in cost savings during budget deliberations which helped lower the municipal portion of tax increase to 2.99%

Platform Commitment

Tax relief for those most in need

Action

City Council approved tax relief for residents unable to pay because of sickness or extreme poverty

Platform Commitment

Establishment of a supervised consumption site, lobbying the Provincial and Federal governments for more support

Action

City Council supported a resolution asking city staff to review a process for the establishment of a supervised consumption site. Regularly meeting with City staff to determine the path forward, working with partners on an application and advocating for the support needed to fund it from other levels of government



A Plan for Progress - *in motion*

Platform Commitment

More meetings and collaboration with peer governments, bringing Indigenous knowledge and teachings to City Hall

Action

Met with Chiefs of Garden River First Nation and Batchewana First Nation shortly after inauguration, visited the Indigenous Friendship Centre and worked with City staff to change the inaugural meeting of Council to include a welcoming led by Indigenous drumming. City events and grand openings now include smudging ceremonies. City and Garden River First Nation participating in the Community Economic Development Program



Platform Commitment

Weekly release of the Mayor's schedule

Action

Have posted my schedule online at MatthewShoemaker.ca every week since the first week of my mayoralty

Platform Commitment

Create a fund for building demolition and property rehabilitation

Action

City Council approved the creation of a property demolition fund with \$250,000 in funding and directed Affordable Housing Task Force to develop criteria

Platform Commitment

Improving traffic flow

Action

City Council approved a resolution directing staff to review traffic signals and determine if there ways to that can improve traffic flow and any other outcome that will generally make the movement within the municipality easier

Media Coverage



Mayor Matthew Shoemaker appears to be well on his way to keeping some of the promises he made only a short time ago on the campaign trail.

We're seeing the consensus builder and one who has developed significant support from councillors in only a very short time.

Sault Star, March 24, 2023

Mayor Matthew Shoemaker, then a Ward 3 councillor, led the political fight.

We are saving an enormous amount of money under the new legislation. The old legislation was flawed. It excluded other unions from being able to bid on our work. This is not an anti-union position. It's an anti-monopoly position.



SooToday, Jan 30, 2023



Mayor Matthew Shoemaker will release his schedule weekly to "ensure greater transparency" and keep the public informed about his work and activities.

I recognize the importance of transparent leadership and commit to the community that I will work hard to ensure the City of Sault Ste. Marie is a leader in transparency and good government.

Sault Star, November 23, 2022

Media Coverage



OLG's head office locally will have a new face in the new year. Esther Zdolec has been announced as senior vice president.

I appreciated the opportunity to meet with OLG president and CEO shortly after I was elected to discuss growing OLG's operations locally, and the relocation of an executive leadership position is certainly a positive development.

SooToday, December 16, 2022



Budgeting is never easy and with current global issues putting further pressures on the budget, the task becomes that much more difficult.

In the end, Sault Ste. Marie's city council gets a strong passing grade for their efforts.

Sault Star, February 17, 2023



The project aims to replace the existing Great Northern Road building with a 107 units, of which more than 30 per cent will be affordable.

The need for affordable housing is immense, and the lasting impacts it can have on homeowners and their families are profound and capable of transforming communities.

Sault Star, January 9, 2023