

Canada/USA Border Closure: What's the debate?

By **Christopher Oldcorn** - July 14, 2020



At last night's City Council Meeting, the councillors discussed keeping the Canada/USA border closed.

Last week, local media reported comments made by Cllr Shoemaker. Forcing Cllr Shoemaker to issue a press release about his comments at the previous City Council Meeting. Cllr Shoemaker does not support a quick border reopening and felt his comments were taken out of context.

Mayor Provenzano talked about the close relationship between Sault Michigan and us. The mayor based his position on the border closure on reality, not politics. He wants to keep all border cities safe.

Cllr Gardi talked about President Trump not listening to the infectious disease experts including Dr. Fauci. He said Trump is more concerned about winning the election and not the care of his citizens. The US needs a national strategy to control COVID and until that happens Cllr Gardi wants the border closed.

The federal government has complete control of the border. Nothing Sault City Council does affects the border closure. Cllr Hollingsworth admits the border is not a municipal issue. However, she supports lobbying higher levels of government to keep the Sault safe and healthy.

Do the councillors not realize they have no jurisdiction over the border? Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines jurisdiction as “the power, right, or authority to interpret and apply the law.”

The Mayor and Council can say whatever they want about the border but the federal government does not have to listen to them. Municipal governments do not control borders.

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Christopher Oldcorn is an investigative journalist who covers politics, social policy, economics, and international affairs. In the past, Christopher covered Syria, Israel-Palestine, and UK, US, Canadian, and Ontario politics. Christopher appeared on the radio in 38 countries. He studied at The Centre for Investigative Journalism @ Goldsmiths University of London.

