

KED CHAOS NEEDS RESOLUTION

Since 2013, the taxpayers of Greater Sudbury have watched a drama unfolding regarding whether the Sudbury Community Arena should be upgraded or a new arena constructed. While the opinions of everyone are important to the question, that has not been happening. From the start, taxpayers felt the wisdom of the masses would prevail and the best alternative would be found.

There has been a continuous barrage by about 10 people using aliases, unsubstantiated information and derogatory commentaries to promote what they believe to be the right thing. The number is correct, those proponents number only about ten, but are prolific in flooding social media with their false claims, accusations and misinformation.

In 2013, Council passed a resolution to support a casino with the provision that the OLG construct an OHL Arena. Now would be the time to support that resolution with the OLG, through their agent Gateway financing the KED. Taxpayers are not aware of that resolution being reconsidered or OLG being relieved of that condition.

Large Projects submissions included only one economic development proposal out of sixteen proposals; it was not arenas. A True North Strong submission costing \$60 million, never proposed to be privately financed, was proposed to be financed using the city as a co-signer to any loan but under private control. That has not happened.

The selection process to determine which projects made it to a short list was embarrassingly manipulated to remove the one economic development project from the short list.

In the June 2017, selection of the KED proposal, upgrading of the Community Arena was not rejected based on the KED site being the better alternative. It was a default selection when city staff failed to do their job concerning property acquisitions for the Community Arena option (watch the live streaming of the meeting). The cost is no longer at the expense of the OLG, no longer \$60 million and no longer \$80 million. Including interest and operating losses for the next 30 years, taxpayer cost will now be more than \$200 million. The parking issue is not resolved, the internet site for the KED includes only 1,300 parking spaces in the project. What extra will it cost taxpayers to construct a realistic amount of parking comparable to the 3,000 spaces already available for the Community Arena?

After more than four years and \$5 million, PwC has confirmed the Arena/Event Centre will have a negative revenue of about \$1 million per year, not including debt repayment or infrastructure cost and servicing.

Taxpayers are not aware of any confirmations that a Casino and Hotel will be built to generate the promised revenue stream. Letters of Interest or Intent are only worth the piece of paper they are written on and are not a substitute for Surety Bonds, which taxpayers and apparently their elected representatives have still not seen after more than four years and \$5 million.

In a project of this size and nature, Environmental Impact, Economic Impact, Market studies and Surety Bonds, protect the taxpayers to get what they have been led to believe is included, and meets the Strategic Pillars of Greater Sudbury which taxpayers and elected representatives have not seen after more than four years.

The faulty selection process, missing taxpayer protections, and a PwC Update that PwC disclaimed as unreliable for taxpayers, taxpayer representatives or seeking public funding is all we have as taxpayers. Taxes are public funding.

50 percent of Council, representing 28 percent of the votes cast in 2018 voted to ignore all of these. Some Councillors are now promoting the PwC Update Report as confirmation that taxpayers are approving continuation of being committed to more than \$200 million over the next 30 years. With voter support from only 28 percent of voters, that is not the wisdom of the masses and majority cannot possibly be true.

What is driving these Councillors, so bent on the KED that they are willing to compromise their Municipal accountabilities and their personal ethics, to proceed without justification?

Reliable sources are now asking: "Is it the Gateway/Catalyst Capital/Frontera Energy connection?"

Taxpayers with well-established credentials, reputations, and life skills have been willingly signing their names to their statements of facts and those facts don't agree with the information that is being promoted.

Proponent trolls need to come clean with who they are, who is paying them and what facts they have to promote the KED. If they are too reluctant to be identified, then they should refrain from the discussion.