



## Mayor's Office

~ For Immediate Release ~

### Sioux Lookout Tackling Affordable Housing Challenges through Collaboration

**Sioux Lookout, Ontario – October 30, 2018** - Mayor Lawrance is pleased to announce the Northern Housing Summit's Final Report is being released today. The first ever Northern Housing Summit took place in Sioux Lookout June 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018 with the intent of addressing some of Northern Ontario's housing issues and preparing for the future.

The Municipality of Sioux Lookout led the charge on the inaugural event with assistance from the Kenora District Services Board. Intended to address National and Provincial Housing strategies, the Northern Housing Summit was created as a proactive approach to solving housing needs in Northern Ontario. Sioux Lookout is similar to many northern communities; it lacks housing across the entire spectrum from "affordable" to "attainable".

Private-public partnerships and agreements were initiated during the Summit. What was very evident was the high current need for housing in Sioux Lookout related to employment, health, education and the outmigration from Northern First Nation communities.

"A community in of itself cannot solve the housing issues that exist in Northern Ontario, if we are serious about addressing the issue it cannot be one municipality, one agency or the Kenora District Services Board (KDSB), it takes the entire community and all levels of government," stated Henry Wall, KDSB's Chief Administrative Officer at the Summit.

Re-elected Mayor Lawrance agrees, "For instance the City of Toronto continues to state the lack of affordable housing is a pressing problem that should receive some immediate attention from both the provincial and federal governments. Toronto stated that 2,000 refugees had overtaxed the City's ability to house people. Based on a per capita basis Sioux Lookout's situation is 25 times the scope of the City of Toronto."

Mayor Lawrance added, "With limited resources, we put together a Northern Housing Summit and are proactively working to develop more housing across all sectors, we too would welcome immediate attention from the provincial and federal governments."

Overall, the inaugural Northern Housing Summit was a resounding success. Not only did delegates provide insight to help Northern Communities move forward in housing, but the event also concluded with the announcement of a sustainable housing project in collaboration with Lac Seul First Nation and the Natural Resources Institute of Finland to be showcased at the Northern Housing Summit in 2020.

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