

Speaking Notes – Heroes in the Home Ceremony

390 Bay Street: Thursday Oct. 15 @ 2:20 p.m.

[AS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY]

Good afternoon, it is wonderful to be here with you. I'd like to thank the North East Community Care Access Centre for inviting me to today's Heroes in the Home awards presentations.

I want to begin by saying that recognizing the importance of home care and caregivers is a terrific idea. Home care makes a difference. It makes an immeasurably positive difference to the lives of many persons afflicted with serious illnesses, persons with disabilities, and to many elderly citizens in our community.

The role of caregivers and the elderly is one I want to touch on for a moment. It is no secret that Sault Ste. Marie—like most of Canada—has an aging population. I happened to be at a groundbreaking ceremony yesterday for a new retirement residence, so this point has been made quite clear to me recently. And as our population continues to age, home care and the role of caregivers are going to continue to increase in importance.

They are going to increase in importance because we want our older citizens to be able to remain in our community. We want our older citizens to continue enjoying a high quality of life. And wherever possible, we want our older citizens to continue to remain in their own homes, with as much independence as possible.

It takes dedicated caregivers to make this possible. It takes dedicated family members, volunteers and professional workers who step up and answer the call.

So, on behalf of the Office of Mayor and Sault Ste. Marie City Council, I'd like to congratulate—and also thank—today's Heroes in the Home award recipients. I want to thank you for your compassion, selflessness and concern for others. Your efforts are making a positive impact on both individual lives and also the collective well-being of our community.

Thank you very much for inviting me to speak today.