

Speaking Notes – Business Case Competition March 27th

[AS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY]

I'm pleased to be able to join you today as part of the ninth annual Northern Ontario Case Competition. On behalf of the Office of the Mayor and our City Council, I would like to offer my thanks to Terry O'Reilly and Bruce Croxon for taking part and assisting with the judging of this year's competition. I hope both of you have enjoyed your stay in our community. Thank you as well to the organizers of the competition and congratulations to all participants.

I'd like to begin by offering a few words about Algoma University, which has hosted this business case competition for many years now. There is no question that Algoma U is a vital asset to our community. In addition to its role as an educational institution, it is also a major economic driver and a key contributor to social development in Sault Ste. Marie.

I've lived and studied in a number of university towns and I've seen first-hand the benefits that strong and vibrant universities bring to their cities.

I was recently at the University of Waterloo at an alumni event. I was amazed to see the changes that have come to the campus, as well as the whole Kitchener-Waterloo region, as a result of forward-thinking policies that have spurred growth in post-secondary education.

It is in some ways still early days for Algoma University, but we are already reaping benefits here in our community from having a fully-independent university. I hope over the coming years that Algoma University continues to grow and diversify, and that our city assists it in doing so.

To the students here, congratulations on completing the case competition. I wish you all the best as you wrap up your remaining studies and prepare for graduation. As you look ahead to your next steps, there are a few pieces of advice I would offer for your consideration.

The first is to look for challenges as you move forward. Don't always look for the easy thing, the sure thing, or even the best-paying thing.

Instead, look for what will challenge you, push you, and enable you to make the fullest use of your faculties. Have the courage to define success on your own terms.

My second piece of advice is to have perseverance. While I wish you all a quick and successful climb to the top, the reality is that most of you are going to face adversity at different times. You are likely to endure some bad breaks or to have some of your ambitions frustrated. When this happens, don't question yourself or your abilities. Remain confident in what you have to offer.

My final advice, and to be honest it is not so much advice as it is a request, is that when you are ready to start your careers, look for work here in Sault Ste. Marie and the surrounding area. Because we need you. We need the skills, talent and knowledge that you have to offer. I am confident with the education you have each obtained that there will be jobs here for you, that there will be paths to success here for you. There is a place for you in our community fabric and I want all of you to be a part of it.

Thank you again for inviting me here and allowing me the opportunity to speak. Please enjoy the rest of today's proceedings.