

Smart Grid Funding Announcement

Monday, February 11

[AS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY]

Good afternoon. I am very happy to be here today for this important announcement. This is a project that PUC staff and the Board have been working very hard on, and I am really excited to see it is coming to fruition.

I would like to acknowledge Rob Brewer, the President and CEO of the PUC, and our local MP Terry Sheehan, who is here on behalf of the Honourable Amarjeet Sohi, the Minister of Infrastructure and Communities, to announce the Government of Canada's support.

I want to thank the government for seeing the value in this project and for making a significant investment in our community's future.

I have said it before but it bears worth repeating, particularly on a day like today: the PUC truly is an asset for Sault Ste. Marie and it puts us in a rather unique position.

Fewer and fewer municipalities own the local distribution company based in their communities, and this gives us the opportunity to pursue innovation projects that improve services for customers, along with strengthening and diversifying our economy.

Over the past number of years the PUC, the Board and City Council have worked hard to do this through projects such as: the energy storage facility, Water Treatment Plant upgrades, LED street lights and the smart grid.

The smart grid project makes Sault Ste. Marie a leader in the energy industry. We will be the first city in our country to implement a community-wide smart grid. Once it is operational, the smart grid will make our energy infrastructure more reliable, reduce energy loss and lead to a more innovative economy for our community.

I also want to point out, thanks to the support of the Government of Canada, this is bill neutral, and that is something the Board and City Council wanted to ensure. The cost of this project will not exceed the efficiencies of this project.

I am looking forward to the smart grid getting up and running, and I remain committed to supporting this project as a Board member and the Mayor.

Thank you for the opportunity to say a few words on behalf of the City.