

Press Release – August 25, 2014

Candidate for Mayor, Jeanne A. Brohart, M.A., Finance

“Building Foundations With Integrity.... Come Grow With Us.”

All information is submitted without prejudice.

I was born and raised in Espanola and I worked for a Global 100 Corporation in Chicago - SBC Communications – that, in 2005, acquired AT&T. My husband (like myself, an M.A. in Finance) and I both left corporate life when we realized our son had autism.

At SBC Communications, I oversaw 3 key applications for the company, applications which literally drove our many business divisions. As such, I had the opportunity to work with professionals from all levels and across numerous disciplines. My experiences in working on project teams that included sales, service, customer support, legal, I/T, payroll, marketing, finance and more and with persons from mailrooms to boardrooms, with management and union have given me a set of skills – and experience - that I believe will be invaluable should I be elected Mayor of the City of Greater Sudbury –also a corporate entity.

I believe a municipality must be run as a corporation and accountable to its shareholders – in this case - residents and taxpayers. Requests for more funds (in this case – increases in taxes) should only be an option after other avenues have been exhausted (i.e., process analysis for maximizing efficiencies, cross department synergies, risk analysis, cost cutting, etc.). If additional funds (i.e., taxes, bond issues, etc.) must be obtained, it should only be after proper cost/benefit analysis, assessment of liabilities and where necessary, proper disclosure of material facts to shareholders.

As the taxpayers of Greater Sudbury face(d) numerous tax increases – both past and future – I could no longer stay on the sidelines realizing proper disclosure of material facts impacting taxes, liabilities and so much more had not been made to the people of Sudbury. The most poignant example of this is the municipality having hidden from taxpayers the fact that it has been caught issuing building permits for structures with major structural defects in roof systems over a 9 year period. This was confirmed by a truss sales rep who admitted to having done hundreds of scissor truss jobs (i.e., cathedral ceilings) all framed the same way and thus, not meeting basic building code requirements in matters of structural integrity. The Professional Engineers of Ontario (PEO) wrote a letter in 2007 warning of problems in the truss industry stating engineers were sealing truss drawings without prior review and that truss manufacturers were inputting the wrong loads and under-sizing trusses. Forensic engineers in the US are also warning of similar problems. Such matters of public safety end up impacting all taxpayers!

Of candidates running for mayor, 4 others were made aware of problems years ago. This includes John Rodriguez (2010), Ron Dupuis (2010), Dan Melanson (2012), and Brian Bigger (2010). The entire sitting council of 2010 – which includes many currently in the city council races of various wards and our newly elected Member of Provincial Parliament, Joe Cimino - were also aware of issues that were until now, hidden from the public. This includes council hopefuls: Jacques Barbeau (Ward 2), Evelyn Dutrisac (Ward 4), André Rivest (Ward 6), Dave Kilgour (Ward 7, informed in Jan 2014, but sat on Dev Liaison and Sudbury & District Home Builders Association with several key players, also previously a city councilor 2000-2003), **Terry Kett (Ward 11 – DID NOT KNOW – CORRECTION – Kett was mistakenly left off a distribution list for a key email)**, and Jocelyne Landry-Altman (Ward 12).

Several key top administrators also knew of problems years ago! The 2010 City Council and Brian Bigger all learned of problems in building services in early 2010. Current Mayor Marianne Matichuk only learned of them her first day in office, in Dec. 2010 .

City Auditor and candidate for Mayor, Brian Bigger, stated he has issues with secrecy at city hall. I have only one question for Mr. Bigger: Where is your audit of building services since you had almost 5 years to conduct an audit into an issue that, in my opinion, will dwarf the transit missing funds scandal? The first audit proposed for after the election is of building permits. I would argue that a much more comprehensive audit of the entire building services department (i.e., processes, procedures, qualifications of persons who were in key positions but did not hold the minimum requirements per the position description, etc.) and of the legal department (building services related lawsuits/settlements hidden from the public) is in order as we seek to understand the inefficiencies and constantly growing costs in this municipality.

Issues impacting efficiencies, taxes, infrastructure, etc. are inter-related and leadership requires more than the ability to read financial statements. It requires the ability to identify problems, to prioritize issues, to look at processes and options to determine the best way of doing things – even when the decisions that need to be made are difficult. My experiences in a Global 100 corporation have prepared me well for doing just that! It is time for Greater Sudbury to redefine itself - and that starts by placing the right people in city hall. Further details on my platform are available at <http://www.OurSudbury.com>.