



Greater Sudbury Chamber of Commerce

2026 Municipal Election Priorities

Building a Competitive, Safe and Prosperous Greater Sudbury

Greater Sudbury
Chamber of
Commerce



sudburychamber.ca

Chambre de
commerce
du Grand Sudbury



The Greater Sudbury Chamber of Commerce represents businesses of all sizes and sectors across our community. Through conversations with members, survey feedback and the work of Chamber task forces, the Chamber has identified several priorities that are critical to Greater Sudbury's economic success.

Businesses want a municipality that is safe, affordable, transparent and open for investment. They want local government focused on delivering core services, supporting economic growth and creating the conditions that attract people, businesses and investment to Greater Sudbury.

The following priorities reflect the issues and opportunities most frequently identified by Chamber members and are intended to support a stronger, more competitive Greater Sudbury.



Safe, Clean and Vibrant Commercial Districts

Safe, welcoming and well-maintained commercial districts are essential to a strong local economy. In the Chamber's recent municipal election business priorities survey, nearly three-quarters of respondents identified community safety and local conditions as a key issue affecting their operations. Businesses continue to express concerns about safety, cleanliness and conditions in commercial areas, citing impacts on customer confidence, employee well-being, operating costs and investment decisions.

The Chamber supports:

- A coordinated approach to improving safety, cleanliness and business conditions in commercial districts.
- Increased visibility of enforcement, security and community safety initiatives.
- Continued investment in Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles and other measures that improve public spaces.
- Enhanced maintenance, beautification and cleanliness in key commercial areas.
- Increased activation of public spaces, events and programming that attract residents and visitors.
- Regular public reporting on community safety and progress on the downtown action plan, including actions taken, responsible departments, budget commitments and measurable outcomes.

A strong local economy requires commercial districts where people feel safe and confident spending their time and money.



Responsible Spending and Financial Accountability

Responsible financial management is essential to maintaining affordability and delivering value for taxpayers. In the Chamber's recent business priorities survey, more than half of respondents identified municipal taxation and financial accountability as a key issue affecting their business. Chamber members expect municipal resources to be managed responsibly and transparently, with a focus on results.

The Chamber supports:

- Long-term financial planning that improves affordability, predictability and value for taxpayers.
- A comprehensive review of the municipal budget process to identify opportunities to reallocate resources toward mandated and priority areas
- Greater transparency and accountability in municipal budgeting, including regular public reporting on spending, service levels and performance outcomes.
- Public benchmarking against targeted KPIs to help identify efficiencies and support evidence-based decision-making.
- Public reporting on all municipal contract awards and a review of procurement policies and processes to improve transparency and increase opportunities for local businesses.
- Regular reviews of municipal operations, staffing and service delivery models to ensure resources are aligned with community priorities and delivered efficiently.

Strong financial accountability helps ensure municipal resources are directed where they can deliver the greatest value to residents, businesses and taxpayers.



A Business-Friendly City Hall

Efficient and predictable municipal processes help businesses invest and grow. Businesses continue to identify municipal approvals, permitting and regulatory processes as barriers to growth, especially when timelines are lengthy, requirements are unclear or decisions are inconsistent. In the Chamber's recent business priorities survey, more than 40 per cent of respondents rated their experience with municipal processes as somewhat or very negative, with approval timelines identified as the most significant challenge. Municipal processes should support economic activity by providing timely decisions and a positive customer experience.

The Chamber supports:

- Service standards and performance targets for permits, approvals and development applications, with public reporting on results.
- Continued modernization of permitting and approval processes through digital tools and technology.
- Clear communication and real-time status updates for applicants.
- Customer-focused approaches and dedicated support to help businesses navigate municipal requirements.
- Ongoing review of policies, by-laws and regulations that create unnecessary barriers to growth and investment.
- Regular consultation with businesses, developers and industry stakeholders to identify opportunities for continuous improvement.

Greater Sudbury should be recognized as one of the easiest places in northern Ontario to start, grow and invest in a business.



Strategic Infrastructure Investment

Reliable infrastructure is essential to economic growth and business competitiveness, and Chamber members continue to identify roads, transportation and municipal infrastructure as major priorities. In the Chamber's recent business priorities survey, transportation and infrastructure ranked among the top concerns identified by respondents, highlighting the importance of maintaining and improving the assets that support economic activity and future growth.

The Chamber supports:

- Long-term infrastructure planning and asset management that prioritizes state-of-good-repair investments.
- Investments in roads, water, wastewater and other core infrastructure that support economic development.
- Infrastructure decisions that strengthen industrial competitiveness and support future growth.
- Prioritizing projects that address gaps and support economic activity.
- Transparent reporting on infrastructure priorities, investments and outcomes.

Infrastructure investment should support both today's needs and tomorrow's opportunities.



Economic Growth and Housing

A strong local economy depends on adequate housing, continued investment and an environment that supports business growth. In the Chamber's recent business priorities survey, nearly one-third of respondents identified housing availability and affordability as a key challenge, while also emphasizing the importance of attracting investment and creating opportunities for growth.

The Chamber supports:

- Policies that accelerate housing development across all housing types and price points.
- Reducing barriers to residential, commercial and industrial development.
- Efforts to strengthen Greater Sudbury's position as northern Ontario's economic hub through investment attraction and economic development.
- Support for private-sector investment, entrepreneurship and business expansion.
- Economic diversification that builds on Greater Sudbury's strengths and creates long-term opportunities.
- Growing the municipal tax base through investment and development while maintaining affordability for residents and businesses.

Economic growth and housing development are essential to attracting investment, strengthening communities and supporting Greater Sudbury's long-term prosperity.



Our Challenge to Candidates

These five priority areas align with the Chamber's ongoing advocacy work and recommendations developed through its task forces, the Impact of Homelessness, Mental Health and Addictions Conditions on Business Task Force, and the former Municipal Financial Accountability Task Force and Red Tape Task Force (now combined into the Municipal Efficiency and Accountability Task Force). Learn more at sudburychamber.ca/policy-priorities

The next municipal council will make decisions that shape Greater Sudbury's future for decades to come.

The Chamber encourages all candidates to demonstrate how they will:

- Improve safety, cleanliness and confidence in commercial areas.
- Deliver greater accountability and value for money.
- Make Greater Sudbury easier to do business in.
- Invest strategically in infrastructure that supports growth and competitiveness.
- Accelerate housing development and create conditions that attract investment and expand the tax base.

The Greater Sudbury Chamber of Commerce looks forward to working with the next Council to build a stronger, safer and more prosperous Greater Sudbury.

