

# Mayor proposes \$30M for roads

## Continues fight for fair share of mining revenue

BY BILL BRADLEY  
BBradley@NorthernLife.ca

Mayor John Rodriguez is still advocating for a better financial deal for this city from the province and Ottawa.

But in the meantime, he has dropped a plum for road weary drivers.

At his state of the city address during a Greater Sudbury Chamber of Commerce luncheon Tuesday, Rodriguez said Greater Sudbury roads need a \$30 million boost in the 2009 budget.

The expenditure would be "a focused effort to return the driving surfaces of our main arteries to a state of which we can be proud," he said, adding that the money would be over-and-above the existing roads capital budget.

"This money will be used for driving surface improvements, not road widening, sidewalks or lighting," said Rodriguez.

Ward 2 Coun. Jacques Barbeau supported the roads pledge.

"That proposal is great and I support it but, in my opinion, we need more money than that," he said.

Roads were not the only infrastructure project mentioned by the mayor in his annual address to members of the Chamber of Commerce. The legacy projects being worked on by citizen panels, the sports complex and arts centre, were also highlighted.

However, Rodriguez pointed out that the real challenge facing the city was to get more money from the vast amounts of revenue being taken in by the province and federal governments. This is a result of the mining boom.

"The Sudbury Basin is arguably the most valuable geological structure in the world. John Lill, CEO of FNX, recently estimated that, at today's prices, the value of ores already mined, combined with proven reserves, total more than one trillion dollars," he said.

Rodriguez pointed out that, between 2001 and 2005, the city's share of mining resource revenue shrunk by 4.5 per cent while the federal government enjoyed an 77.6 per cent increase. The province saw its share mushroom by 109.8 per cent.

The mayor said he is still gathering support for his resource revenue sharing goal from municipal associations. He said he will eventually take the issue to Premier McGuinty. But Michael Gravelle, Minister of Northern Development and Mines, said last Thursday at a gala at Dynamic Earth that he



*"The way we finance cities is not sustainable. We need to share."*

JOHN RODRIGUEZ  
Mayor

NrnLife 08-06-19

## State of the City Address

# Roads

From Page 1

could not support the mayor's quest.

"I understand why there is a real push for the campaign the mayor has going on. But it must be remembered there is a special economic development fund for northern Ontario which is the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund (NOHFC). We are increasing it from \$60 million per year to \$100 million per year. We have special municipal infrastructure programs that have been put in place that again are geared to the north," said Gravelle.

"NOHFC has made a strong contribution to the City of Greater Sudbury over the years... The challenge is to get more infrastructure support for this city which is prospering in an outstanding way... We just are not going down the road that Mayor Rodriguez wants us to," said Gravelle.

Rodriguez disagreed.

"The way we finance cities is not sustainable. We have to share. If they (the province and federal government) made the investment in infrastructure in our city they would end up with more revenues themselves," said the mayor.

For a video of the mayor's speech visit: [http://www.sudbury24.ca/media/1652/A\\_City\\_Reborn/](http://www.sudbury24.ca/media/1652/A_City_Reborn/)