

Destiny Sault Ste. Marie's Bright Ideas campaign was designed to hear from the public on how the city can maintain and strengthen its economic health over the next five years.

Citizens were asked to submit a community development strategy of 100 words or less with regards to environmental concerns, rising energy process, fluctuating exchange rates and a dynamic global economy.

The following Bright Ideas were submitted:



Name: Priscilla-Marie Daviau

Category: Education

Idea: Most of the schools in the Sault should be amalgamated. There is no need to have one on every corner at half capacity. It would cost less to run half the schools at full capacity as you would to run more at half or less. This would also help so that there half as many schools to perform structural maintenance on.

Name: Priscilla-Marie Daviau

Category: Education

Idea: Sault College and/or Algoma University should see about offering the Nurse Practitioner Program so we can educate the nurse practitioners and then have them run a clinic for the overflow patients who have no family doctor. They could also have the NP's work the walk in clinic. We would have more education dollars coming in plus the living expenses that the students would spend. As well as health care dollars that we would gain by having them stay and set up shop here.

Name: Rachel Jacob

Category: Industry

Idea: Firstly, have employers treat their employees with respect so we can have a happier community. We need a friendly city, and the reason we are not is because most are not satisfied with their employment. Secondly, we need more events happening on our main street...like the old days.

Name: Anonymous

Category: General

Idea: Sault Ste. Marie is a very unique city. The biggest challenge I have faced since moving here 44 years ago is isolation. There's a lack of train service. People would be more likely to locate here if it was easier to get to the bigger centres. With the rising cost of fuel, this is a more serious problem than ever. It would be easier to travel with young children on a train. Seniors would be better able to get to medical facilities in Sudbury, Toronto or Thunder Bay. Planes are too costly, and busses are not comfortable.

Name: Anonymous
Category: General

Idea: Sault Ste Marie should embrace the talents of its citizens by creating more programs and opportunities for the musical or theatrical arts. Similar to the Staircase Theatre in Hamilton, ON, there should be an art house theatre where people can perform their works for the public.

Name: Chris J. Zayachkowski
Category: Tourism

Idea: I think what we need is a Film Commission Office. Policies, strategies and resources should be given to assist filmmakers so they can film here and to give them the tools they need. I am a filmmaker, and I shot a feature film here. It wasn't easy. It would have been a lot easier, though, if the community was behind me. We need camera rental shops and a location database so we can get the process rolling. Filmmaking brings tourism. It would force people to start spending money here, which is what we need the most.

Name: Anonymous
Category: Industry

Idea: We should seek to have a new diamond cutting industry and car plant in SSM. Waiving land servicing fees for new business construction would help.

Name: Chris Plotycia
Category: General

Idea: As a former resident of the Sault, I would like to see more job opportunities for the youth in the area. After graduating from LSSU with a Bachelor's Degree, I was not able to find any work and was forced to move to northern Canada. Maybe, one day, employers will realize there is lots of local talent. I would do anything to return to God's country as I call it. The youth is the future. The next thing you know, the Sault will be like Elliott Lake: a retirement town. Please concentrate on retaining the youth and those who have left the Sault.

Name: Christine Levesque Harnden
Category: Tourism

Idea: Bellevue Park should be like Centre Island in Toronto. It could have fountains, flower gardens, and an amusement section for kids with rides, games, a carousel, etc. Make it inexpensive for families. A beautiful setting would make money for the city and provide employment for people. We have the property and the water – use it. We have so much potential; let's use it.

Name: Christine Levesque Harnden

Category: Health

Idea: Hospitals: why can't they be used as palliative care units when the new hospital opens? We are in need of more beds. Leave the hospitals for the sick and have the old hospital for a place for the elderly and the dying. What a beautiful spot to live your last days in – a beautiful park-like setting. We don't need luxury condominiums on the waterfront. Make it affordable for all. It provides a lot of employment.
