The Corporation of the
City of Sault Ste. Marie

C O U N C I L R E P O R T

April 7, 2025

TO:	Mayor Matthew Shoemaker and Members of City Council
AUTHOR:	Brent Lamming, Deputy CAO Community Development & Enterprise Services
DEPARTMENT:	Community Development and Enterprise Services
RE:	Elbows Up Rally

Purpose
The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval to cover fees in support of an 'Elbows Up' Rally to be held at a City facility and being led by a local organizing committee.

Background
There is a grassroots movement in Sault Ste. Marie to bring an 'Elbows Up' event here to Sault Ste. Marie following on the lead of 'Elbows Up' Toronto and 'Elbows Up' Ottawa . Working collaboratively with the 'Elbows Up' National group, it is the aim of our local committee to host a similar kind of event here in Sault Ste. Marie on Saturday, April 26th, 2025. The goal of these events is to bring Canadians of all stripes together to stand united, strong, and resilient in these difficult times.

Analysis
This family-friendly, nonpartisan, and peaceful event is planned to be held in the Roberta Bondar Pavilion or the Downtown Plaza venue. The preference would be to host the event at the Plaza. The date lands on a SOO MRKT day, which has local businesses providing their goods and services and aligns well with the theme of the event.

The event will include a rally (approximately one and a half hours) featuring a welcome by local First Nations drummers and dancers, who will also proclaim the land acknowledgment, speeches from local dignitaries, some musical interludes, and concluding with a massive singing of Oh Canada.

The second part of the event, after the official rally, will have performances by local musicians, food trucks present, local artisans, and beverages from the Can-tina .

Financial Implications
The group is looking for in-kind services to cover equipment, insurance, additional staffing costs, and clean services, which amounts to $1,300. This can be absorbed

through the Plaza operating budget. Staff recommends the City operate the Cantina Bar to potentially offset some of the costs noted.

Strategic Plan / Policy Impact / Climate Impact
The recommendation supports the focus area of the Community Strategic Plan for 2021-2024 in a number of ways.

- Within the Service Delivery focus area, it continues to assist in delivering excellent customer service to citizens.
- Developing Partnerships with our Key Stakeholders and collaboration with community partners, which is essential to our success.

Recommendation
It is therefore recommended that Council take the following action:

Resolved that the report of the Deputy CAO, Community Development and Enterprise Services dated April 7, 2025 concerning an 'Elbows Up' rally in Sault Ste. Marie be received and that Council approve a contribution of up to $1,300 towards the event.

Respectfully submitted,

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