



## North Bay Civic League

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Civic League releases Council Voting Record results**

NORTH BAY – Everyone wants municipal councilors who know and respond to the needs and values of the community. Is there a way for residents and councilors to discover together and communicate their priorities and vision for the City?

Recognizing the need for greater communication, a group of citizens came together in 2010 to form the North Bay Civic League. We developed the Community Values Survey and made it available to the public. The Survey received a strong response: over 500 surveys were completed. The top five values identified in the survey were:

Protecting the source of our **drinking water**

Feeling **safe** in all areas of the city

Having a **vision** for North Bay's social, economic and environmental future

**Communicating** on major issues is an important responsibility of City Council

Protecting the **environment**

Since the 2010 election, Civic League volunteers have combed through thousands of pages of North Bay City Council documents, including all Council minutes for three years. We compared how councilors voted on issues relating to the five values identified in the Community Values Survey. For example, the vote on lowering speed limits speaks to public safety. There was a vote to approve the preparation of a Comprehensive Asset Management Plan which reflects the intention to develop a long range vision. Another council agenda item regarding gravel pit approvals relates to safeguarding the environment.

The results were unexpected. Issues touching on source water protection, public safety, community long range vision, communication and environmental safeguards were infrequently on the Council agenda. Of course, Council has many different kinds of “business” to take care of, such as re-zoning applications, budgets, approving expenditures, and accepting staff reports, to name a few. What became clear in our review of the minutes, is that the things that get discussed at Council seem not to reflect what’s in the hearts and minds of average residents in North Bay. Yes, Council and City staff do listen at great length to those who have complaints. But where is the forum for people with constructive ideas and creative solutions? What is the Strategic Plan for North Bay?

In addition to reviewing decisions taken by Council, the Civic League looked at campaign financing during the 2010 Election. Using figures from the report on campaign financing posted on the City’s website in 2011, a few broad categories of donors emerged (based on total donations of nearly \$82,000):

Businesses provided 53% of all donations

Developers – 29%

Private individual - 17%

Unions – 1%

For the details, please go to our website: [North Bay Civic League Campaign Financing](#)

The North Bay Civic League is a collaborative group encouraging public discourse in North Bay. Our mission is to engage and increase public participation in the civic life of North Bay. Our goal is to advance local government that is inclusive, transparent and accountable. For more information, contact Peggy Walsh Craig at [peggy@peggywalshcraig.com](mailto:peggy@peggywalshcraig.com) (705-840-8466) or John Patterson at [John.Patterson@canadorecollege.ca](mailto:John.Patterson@canadorecollege.ca) (705-752-2387)