

North Bay is an amazing city, with incredible citizens. If it was the best it could be we would have an increase in our population. If you look at Statistics Canada census – we have declined in our numbers. In order to have an increase we need to be age friendly to all ages – especially to our youth. Our city has an exodus of youth that seems to increase on an annual basis. From our personal experience, after high school, our youth leave for post-secondary and/or work. When they leave many of them do not return to live and grow their families here.

How do we get there? We need to have activities that entice our youth to remain in our awesome city. This includes arts & culture, sports (indoor and outdoor), entertainment and most importantly acceptance of our youth and their needs by city council. These types of activities are also economic drivers for our community.

If I am fortunate enough to be elected to represent the citizens of North Bay I would work with my colleagues on council to form a youth advisory council. We need to speak to our youth in order to find out directly from them **WHAT THEY NEED.**

I hear quite often that citizens want North Bay to be an all-inclusive city – we can be that by being accepting of all residents in our community.

There is a popular saying that “the youth are our future” – I strongly state that the **YOUTH ARE OUR PRESENT!**

Submitted by Jeff Serran

North Bay was “the best it could be”, what would that look like and how would we get there?

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