



## Public Forum Summary Report

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Wednesday, April 27, 2005 ~ 7:00-9:00pm ~ Inco Cavern Science North

# 1.0 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1. Context

Clean Air Sudbury is a non-profit, community based organization with a primary focus of improving local air quality in the Greater Sudbury area. We are led by a multi-stakeholder committee with 13 representatives from public and private sectors in the community. Clean Air Sudbury was initially formed in 1999 by a group of concerned citizens interested in addressing air quality issues.

Steering Committee Members as of April 2005:

City of Greater Sudbury	MIRARCO
Falconbridge	NORCAT
Golder Associates Ltd	Potvin Air Management Consulting
Inco	Science North
Laurentian University	Sudbury & District Health Unit
Ministry of Environment	

## 1.2 Public Forum Purpose and Format

Clean Air Sudbury held their first Public Forum on Wednesday, April 27, 7:00-9:00pm., at the Inco Cavern in Science North. The Public Forum was publicized in the Sudbury area prior to the meeting through newspaper and radio advertising, free public notices, and online via the Clean Air Sudbury webpage posted on the City of Greater Sudbury's website. It was also promoted through the network of Clean Air Sudbury steering committee members and EarthCare Sudbury community partners.

### **The purpose of the Public Forum was to:**

- 1) Present the findings of '*Air Quality Trends: City of Greater Sudbury (1953-2002)*'
- 2) Obtain community perspectives on the proposed goals and actions of Clean Air Sudbury
- 3) Showcase air quality initiatives of Clean Air Sudbury steering committee members

### **The meeting format consisted of two main parts:**

- 1) Presentations by Clean Air Sudbury members
- 2) Facilitated roundtable discussions involving all Public Forum attendees

In total, 23 participants attended the Public Forum. The meeting agenda and list of participants can be found in Appendix A and Appendix B, respectively, attached to this report.

## **Overview of this Summary Report**

This report provides a summary of the Public Forum proceedings, focusing on the key messages from Clean Air Sudbury presenters and the feedback received from participants on the findings of *Air Quality Trends*, and the proposed goals and local actions.

Following this Introduction, Section 2 of the report provides concise synopses of the Clean Air Sudbury presentations. Section 3 presents highlights of the roundtable discussions and participants' perspectives on the goals and initiatives of Clean Air Sudbury. Section 4 outlines Clean Air Sudbury's next steps.

This summary report will be made available to all Public Forum participants and Clean Air Sudbury partners as a record of the key meeting outcomes, and for consideration as part of the next steps for Clean Air Sudbury.

## **2.0 OVERVIEW OF PRESENTATIONS**

### **Barb McDougall-Murdoch and Al Douglas, Co-Chairs of Clean Air Sudbury**

On behalf of the Clean Air Sudbury Steering Committee Barb McDougall-Murdoch and Al Douglas welcomed participants to the Public Forum. They summarized the beginnings of Clean Air Sudbury and introduced the steering committee members present to the general public. They stressed that clean air is vital to our quality of life and that the efforts of this organization will benefit the health and well-being of all Sudburians. The work that Clean Air Sudbury will undertake will also lead to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions; an added benefit for the local and global community. They concluded by encouraging participants to share their own goals and ideas for Clean Air Sudbury in the roundtable discussions, and in the months to come.

### **Ray Potvin, Potvin Air Management Consulting**

The evening began with a presentation of the findings from *Air Quality Trends* presented by Ray Potvin, of Potvin Air Management Consulting. Information was presented on the six air contaminants monitored, (sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, total reduced sulphur, total suspended particulates, inhalable particles (PM10) and ground-level ozone), their sources, effects, and emission trends in Sudbury. Also discussed was how our air quality stacked up to eight other urban centres in Ontario. Potvin noted that the overall findings indicate our air quality has improved significantly over the past couple of decades. Potvin concluded that *Air Quality Trends* was intended to provide a baseline of information for discussions on possible future actions to further improve air quality in the City of Greater Sudbury.

### **Dolores Sirola, Clean Air Sudbury**

A second presentation by Dolores Sirola, Coordinator of Clean Air Sudbury, included a description of 1) the group's proposed goals and objectives, 2) the process by which Clean Air Sudbury will implement these goals, and 3) several potential actions that could be undertaken within the community to improve air quality. She stressed that these actions represented preliminary ideas from the Clean Air Sudbury steering committee, and were intended to provide a basis for broader feedback by Public Forum participants. The proposed goals and objectives are shown in Table 1 below, the proposed process is shown in Table 2, and the proposed actions are presented in Table 3.

<b>TABLE 1</b>
<b>What do we want to achieve?</b> <b><u>Proposed Goals</u></b>
<p>GOALS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve local air quality</li> </ul> <p>OBJECTIVES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Act as a forum for the public to bring forward their questions/concerns</li> <li>• Disseminate information about local air quality issues</li> <li>• Provide opportunities for different sectors of population to get involved in air quality improvements (businesses, youth, general public)</li> </ul>

<b>TABLE 2</b>
<b>How do we want to achieve it?</b> <b><u>Proposed Process</u></b>
<p>PROCESS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop partnerships with local/regional organizations and government</li> <li>• Observe best practices in other communities</li> <li>• Ensure measurable targets are made</li> <li>• Receive and implement public input</li> </ul>

<b>TABLE 3</b>
<b>What do we need to do to get there?</b> <b><u>Proposed Local Actions</u></b>
<p>LOCAL ACTIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus on community generated emissions</li> <li>• Additional Monitoring &amp; Research</li> <li>• Vehicle Emissions Clinic (April 19-20, September 22-23)</li> <li>• Vehicle Fuel Management Workshops</li> <li>• Trip Reduction Program with local businesses and organizations</li> </ul>

## **3.0 ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS**

### **3.1 Feedback from Forum Participants**

Feedback from Public Forum participants was sought in two ways:

- Roundtable discussions involving 6-8 participants per table were facilitated by representatives of Clean Air Sudbury's steering committee;
- Participants were encouraged to complete an evaluation form and submit it at the end of the evening.

With both of these approaches, participants were asked the following questions:

- 1) What is your response to the findings of *Air Quality Trends*?
- 2) Do you support the proposals goals and actions of Clean Air Sudbury?
- 3) What are the most important actions that should be included in the plan? Are there additional actions that should be included?

### **3.2 Responses to *Air Quality Trends***

Several questions and concerns arose from Ray Potvin's presentation regarding the findings from *Air Quality Trends*. Clean Air Sudbury will attempt to address these questions and concerns in the months to come.

Comments included:

- The general public has a lack of understanding of air quality
- What can we do to reduce our local concentrations of ozone?
- Need to learn more about ozone in the Sudbury context
- More explanation is needed about the relationship between nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) and ground-level ozone (O<sub>3</sub>); post further information on website
- Many who have lived here for 30+ years still believe our air quality is bad
- How do we overcome the negative image of Sudbury as having poor air quality when ozone concentrations and AQI values are still high?
- Do higher temperatures change the effect of pollutants on the body? Do higher temperatures equate to higher ground level ozone?

### **3.3. Perspectives on Proposed Clean Air Sudbury Goals and Actions**

During the roundtable discussions every focus groups expressed support for the proposed goals and actions highlighted by Clean Air Sudbury. 95% of those who filled out the evaluation forms were also in agreement.

#### **Additional Actions for Consideration**

During the course of the Public Forum, participants also identified a wide range of additional actions and ideas (other than those proposed) for potential implementation by Clean Air Sudbury. A compilation of these suggestions, from the discussion and the evaluation forms, is provided below.

Monitoring/Reporting

- Simplify technical terms with future public involvement
- Continue to update our findings as new data is available

- Monitor community projects with implications for air quality in Sudbury; develop educational materials on implications of projects; provide input to owners/municipality on issues of concern related to project
- Include more health-based analysis of air pollution
- Get involved with PM 2.5 monitoring
- Facilitate prompt responses to community concerns (i.e. Inco/Falconbridge need to improve public access numbers)
- Launch public access number related to other pollutants besides SO<sub>2</sub>

#### Transportation

- Introduce portable vehicle emissions clinics that visit workplaces
- Make buses more accessible to seniors
- Add bike holders to public transit for longer travels
- Add bike racks to public spaces around City (ex. libraries, malls)
- Use smaller buses during non-peak hours
- Add Budd car service between Onaping and Sudbury
- Implement emissions testing for transit and taxi services
- Reduce usage of gas-powered vehicles such as SUV, snowmobiles
- Encourage use of gas free leisure activities, especially in the city
- Encourage alternate use of clean fuels (biodiesel) in large fleets/companies
- Promote hybrid vehicles
- Provide incentives for individuals to buy more fuel efficient vehicles
- Locate car pool lots at municipal facilities
- Establish a telephone hotline for vehicles with high emissions

#### Community Involvement

- Encourage more public and youth involvement
- Add public members to the Steering Committee
- Engage media; Have regular articles in community newspapers

#### Education

- Address the usage of wood stoves with educational programming
- Make presentations at local schools

#### Regreening

- Address the relationship between regreening and air quality
- Incorporate tree-planting into list of activities
- Utilize greenbelts around large parking lots

#### Other

- Lobby federal and provincial government with respect to levels of ground-level ozone
- Provide information on the local pollen count
- Advocate for improvements to Lasalle/Notre Dame intersection
- Address misuse of sand/salt by City

## **4.0 NEXT STEPS**

Al Douglas, co-chair of Clean Air Sudbury, thanked participants for their time and input, remarking that community involvement is very valuable in developing an action plan for Clean Air Sudbury. The steering committee of Clean Air Sudbury will review the suggestions from the Public Forum participants, prioritize these suggestions, and develop our action plan to reflect the concerns of the community.

In conclusion, Mr. Douglas invited participants to spread the word about Clean Air Sudbury to their friends, family, and neighbours. He also noted that more information is available on the web at [www.greatersudbury.ca/cleanairsudbury](http://www.greatersudbury.ca/cleanairsudbury).

# APPENDIX A

## Clean Air Sudbury Public Forum Agenda

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|---------------|---|
| 6:30 – 7:00pm | Registration, Displays  |
| 7:00 – 7:05pm | Welcome: Co-chairs of Clean Air Sudbury, <i>Barb McDougall-Murdoch and Al Douglas</i>   |
| 7:05 – 7:30pm | Findings from Air Quality Trends: <i>Ray Potvin, Potvin Air Management Consulting</i>   |
| 7:30 – 7:40pm | Clean Air Sudbury: What Do We Want to Achieve? What Do We Need to Do to Get There?<br><i>Dolores Sirola, Coordinator, Clean Air Sudbury</i> |
| 7:40 – 7:45pm | We Need Your Feedback! <i>Explanation of Roundtable Discussion</i>  |
| 7:45 – 8:45pm | Community Perspectives: What Do We Want to Achieve? What Do We Need to Do to Get There? <i>Roundtable Discussions</i>                       |
| 8:45 – 8:55pm | Summary of Roundtable Discussions: Co-chair, <i>Al Douglas</i>  |
| 8:55 – 9:00pm | Closing Remarks: Co-chair of Clean Air Sudbury, <i>Al Douglas</i>   |

## **APPENDIX B**

### **Clean Air Sudbury Public Forum Participant List**

Marc Butler  
Marco Chenard  
John Cochrane  
Scott Cosby  
Eva Firla  
Ros Firla  
Enzo Floreani  
Giovanni Grasseli  
Monika Greenfield  
Carolyn Hunt  
Jim Ilnitski  
George Lacko  
Helen Lacko  
Bill Lautenbach  
Stephen Monet  
Dave Murdoch  
Ed Nevala  
Allen Nursall  
David Pearson  
Ido Vettoretti  
Anne Watelet  
Glen Watson  
Steve Yawney

## **APPENDIX C**

### **Presenters**

Al Douglas, MIRARCO

Barb McDougall-Murdoch, City of Greater Sudbury

Ray Potvin, Potvin Air Management Consulting

Dolores Sirola, Clean Air Sudbury

### **Roundtable Facilitators**

Sandra Ausma

Peter Beckett

Mike Bruneau

Amy Henson

Bruce Mikkila

Laura Mucklow

Bud O'Donnell

Ron Paolin

### **Facilitators**

Al Douglas, MIRARCO

Barb McDougall-Murdoch, City of Greater Sudbury

### **Lead Organizer**

Dolores Sirola, Clean Air Sudbury