City Council at its meeting of April 1, 2009 approved Item 6 of the Emergency & Community Services Committee Report 09-005, as follows:

6. Referral from Council – Correspondence from the City of Greater Sudbury respecting the Regulation and Provision of Resources to Monitor Retirement Homes (Item 8.2)

That the correspondence from the City of Greater Sudbury, respecting the Regulation and Provision of Resources to Monitor Retirement Homes, be referred to the Medical Officer of Health for review and response to be included in the pending report to the Board of Health respecting a revised Residential Care By-law.

Your assistance in executing the direction of Council, with respect to this matter, is appreciated.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you.
February 26, 2009

All Ontario Municipalities

Re: Regulation and Provision of Resources to Monitor Retirement Homes

The following resolution #2009-65 was passed by Council of the City of Greater Sudbury on February 11, 2009:

WHEREAS in 2001 the Mayor and Council’s Roundtable on Seniors’ Issues recognized the need to regulate rest and retirement homes;

AND WHEREAS a working group of the Mayor and Council’s Roundtable on Seniors’ Issues was established in September 2001 and since that time the working group has gathered information and feedback from municipal officials and received input from privately owned retirement homes, advisory groups, residents and families;

AND WHEREAS the 2006 Ontario budget stated “the Government will continue to improve efficiency and accountability by engaging in formal consultations in 2006/2007, through the Ontario’s Seniors’ Secretariat, with the goal of establishing a new regulatory framework for strengthening standards of care in Ontario’s retirement homes”;

AND WHEREAS the Assistant Deputy Minister, Mr. Geoff Quirt, met with the Mayor and Council’s Roundtable on Seniors’ Issues in 2006;

AND WHEREAS the findings of the consultation which were distributed in April 2007 recommended the need to regulate retirement homes;

AND WHEREAS to date it appears that the Provincial Government has made no progress in implementing legislation to address this need;

AND WHEREAS there have been recent incidents that have resulted in residents of retirement homes being placed in life threatening situations such as a recent fire in Orillia that resulted in the unfortunate death and hospitalization of many residents

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the City of Greater Sudbury lobby all Ontario municipalities to have the Ontario provincial government take immediate action and pass the legislation that will regulate and provide resources to monitor all retirement homes and provide a safe home environment to those seniors who are most vulnerable;
AND THAT this resolution be forwarded to The Honourable Rick Bartolucci, M.P.P., Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services.

Yours truly

A. Haché

/f/b

Angie Haché
City Clerk

cc: Councilor Ted Callaghan, Co-Chair, Mayor and Council's Advisory Panel on Seniors' Issues
    Anadel Hastie, Co-Chair, Mayor and Council's Advisory Panel on Seniors' Issues
    G. Forget-Rose, Community Development Co-ordinator