

# REFERENDUM on Springfield's future

Voting ends October 24<sup>th</sup>

Call now to  
vote NO

204-515-1252

## KEEP OUR RURAL VALUES , OR BECOME A SUBURB OF WINNIPEG



Mark Miller

Plan 20-50 is a capital region planning strategy that has many direct and indirect impacts on our community, well into the future. I have read the document, seen the concerns of our neighbouring communities and reflected on the input of a growing number of residents that have either shared their input to me directly, via social media, in the press and others who have outright spoken overwhelmingly against the proposed plan. It has many enticing and yet largely undefined buzz words such as inclusive, sustainable and equality.

I am an optimist for the greater good. And I try to give the benefit of the doubt to most people and projects. However, when one dives deep into the current Plan 20-50 master plan, it poses several risks to our RM. First and foremost, is the overriding power of veto by the City of Winnipeg over planning matters. While this veto may be rare and some may say unlikely, Winnipeg would have over arching power to influence not only commercial and residential, but agricultural development in our RM and that of other surrounding communities. This power is also in the hands of the appointed and largely (publicly) unaccountable Plan 20-50 Board of Directors.

Next, I am always conscientious of costs. The mandatory fees for the RM are unknown other than the existing membership fee of approximately \$17,000. The Plan 20-50 Board would likely levy additional fees, project or participatory costs to the partners in Plan 20-50 going forward. It is unknown what these may be! How can we embrace the generalities of the Plan with certainty if there are no financial safeguards or forecasts?

Transparency and openness. This has been less than stellar so far. While the public has had some opportunity to review the document, a much better public awareness and engagement process should have unfolded to this point. It appears that some special interests are driving the agenda, perhaps those who would benefit most from its implementation. Are these developers or policy makers? Why has Mayor Therrien, (as our RM rep/Board member on the WMR), not been sharing information broadly with the public up to this point (before the public hearing process)? Or highlighted the direct and specific benefits Plan 20-50 has for our RM. Are there any direct benefits? I have yet to

hear any other than there's "misinformation" out there from him. Please point out all the defined benefits for Springfield. Not just cozy words and possibilities.

Other communities including Selkirk, Headingley, St. Andrews, and Niverville have all publicly shared additional concerns with Plan 20-50. From impacting their rural identity, the unknown costs and the unprecedented influence of those associated with access to the Plan 20-50 Board. How about accountability and public scrutiny?

Recently, Premier Kinew committed to creating new legislation, the Freedom Act, with the purpose of allowing municipalities to choose their own destiny without the heavy oversight of the Plan 20-50 Board. We now eagerly await what that new legislation will say specifically. Given this, I plan to vote No to the Plan, and upon the first opportunity, move a motion that the RM of Springfield opt-out, like a growing number of rural municipalities are anticipated to do. This, in an effort to protect Springfield and allow our community to determine its own destiny now and well into the future.

I encourage you to become aware of the potential risks and benefits. I invite you to send a strong message to Council to protect Springfield by phoning in your vote on the Referendum now.

### Therrien's Misguided Plan in a Nutshell

**He wants . . .** An expensive infrastructure plan that leads to Plan 20-50's accelerated growth of more than 200 residences/year for 20 years. His idea forces Springfield residents to pay 20-40% more in annual property taxes. He'll worry about secondary services like roads, traffic safety and schools later.

**We want . . .** To maintain our rural identity and existing quality of life, not become a suburb of Winnipeg. We want a realistic development plan that responsibly manages our growth and keeps our taxes low. Springfield residents have already paid many thousands of dollars for their own wells/septic fields or their piped water connections; therefore, we want all new water/sewage infrastructure to be the responsibility of the developers. We want new builds to pay their own way.

We will not pay thousands of dollars in new property taxes to support your poorly thought-out plan.



**SCAN THIS QR CODE  
TO WATCH A VIDEO OF COUNCILLORS  
KUCZYNSKI & MILLER DISCUSSING 20-50,  
OUR RURAL IDENTITY. A VISION THAT FITS  
WITH SPRINGFIELD**



## VIEWS FROM VIVIAN



I would like to remind Springfield that not so long ago, during the 2022 election, Vivian and area residents were promised (by both now councillor Melinda Warren and Mayor Therrien) that they would stop Sio Silica's proposed controversial Extraction and Processing plant.

Once elected they did the exact opposite! They were responsible for withholding engineering reports from the residents they represent, as well as at the Provincial Sio Silica CEC hearings. They did not

provide a professional engineer or legal representation to properly protect affected resident's rights at the hearing. They then went on to refuse status at the provincial hearings. This move left Springfield's rights unprotected at the negotiating table during the municipal board hearings, which were instrumental in advancing the MRP industrial rezoning. They turned turtle on us.

The Mayor and Councillor Warren appeared to have abandoned us for the greater good of the former provincial government. Much like throwing us under the bus. We were expendable, and their actions made that abundantly clear.

Now, through the new proposed updates to Springfield's Land Use bylaw 21-25 they have further taken our Hamlet status and protection away from us and handed it on a plate to Sio Silica.

Vivian and area residents' quality of life continues to be negatively impacted by the threat of mining in our aquifer, and our property values (which most of us have our life savings invested in) are continuing to reset to lower values.

I urge Springfield Residents that any promises coming from Mayor Therrien and Councillor Warren, and their promotion of 20-50, are empty promises and I doubt they have any intention of protecting Springfield's values. They most likely will continue to have their own agenda!

**Georgina & Josh Mustard:** Wesley, Hunter, Kiearah, Mckenna, McKinley, Ryder, Maisie, Callie



**Reverse Osmosis (RO)** is a treatment process contrary to principles of water conservation and sustainable development, which produces a deleterious effluent known as Reverse Osmosis Concentrate (ROC).

Without treatment or management, "contaminants in concentrate can impact ecosystems and water quality in areas where the concentrate is discharged." (Joo and Tansel, 2015)

The RM of Springfield and Water Services Board (WSB) propose to discharge the concentrate into the Cooks Creek Diversion to manage via dilution. The Sept 11, 2024, open house revealed the concentrate would be released during no to low flow conditions. The Red River would then be relied upon to dilute the concentrate.

However, impacts from the undiluted ROC to the floodway, where the Carbonate Aquifer is exposed, were not considered! Nor were impacts to private wells near the floodway, nor of retention of

concentrate in the Diversion, nor to fish or to indigenous traditional harvesting areas from release of fluoride levels above aquatic and agricultural guidelines, nor the sustainable yield of the aquifer, nor of saline water encroachment from intensive pumping, nor a cumulative impact assessment of the project including from the continual dumping of concentrate into waterways and Lake Winnipeg, nor on adverse human health impacts from drinking demineralized water. (World Health Organization 1996, 2004)

It would be irresponsible of the RM and WSB to move forward with this project in light of the many human health and environmental impacts from this treatment process.

*Our Line in the Sand MB is a group of concerned citizens advocating Watershed protection in eastern MB.*

**Tangi Bell**



# POLITICAL

## How did we get here?

### 1. Do these statements sound familiar to you?

**"I will have an open, transparent and accessible municipal Government."**

**"I believe in open and honest communication; I believe in collaboration between residents and government; I will continue to be a strong voice for residents."**

**"I am running for this position for the people of Springfield, that they may have a voice in zoning, water issues, drainage and development".**

**THEY SHOULD!** Those are direct quotes taken from Mayor Therrien, Deputy Mayor Fuhl and Councillor Warren's election brochures.

### 2. What is the role of a municipal councillor?

**Municipal government should be all about councillors giving back to their community and not politicizing challenges in Springfield; trust, transparency, open government, and standing up for their constituents on tough issues.**

### 3. How has Mayor Therrien handled Question Period since elected?

**Limiting and restricting people in Question Period, wanting to abolish it, calling the Police on residents and obstructing public input.**

### 4. What are the benefits Mayor Therrien has told us that Springfield residents will gain from Plan 20-50?

**Absolutely nothing! Mayor Therrien has refused to discuss any information about Plan 20-50. Do Mayor Therrien's loyalties lie with Springfield residents, or with the WMR (Winnipeg Metropolitan Region)? He cannot serve two masters. He must pick one. Claiming that he is neutral is not acceptable.**

### 5. What information has Mayor Therrien given to Springfield residents regarding how Plan 20-50 will benefit our municipality?

**In his refusal to discuss Plan 20-50, Mayor Therrien states that he is sworn to keep WMR's Plan secret at this point, which leaves us in the dark. Other affected Municipal Leaders, namely from Selkirk, Headingley, St. Andrews, and Niverville are publicly taking a stand and choosing to opt out. Our local residents need to know how this Winnipeg Plan will affect us, before he commits us to be a part of the WMR's scheme.**

### 6. Is there existing capacity for the Springfield Rec Centre, Vision 2020 Personal Care Seniors Complex, the Dugald Pool, and other new homes?

**Yes! CAO Draper is on record confirming the RM has capacity for these upcoming projects, and that the new Water Treatment Plant is for new development only. Currently we have the water capacity to service the available 454 vacant lots in Springfield.**

**Mayor Therrien says whatever he wants and doesn't mean anything he says !**

## A VISION THAT FITS with Springfield Resident's Expectations

Allan Akins, *Director of STRC*

I participated with other STRC members in the door-to-door canvas in Springfield, where we met with almost 1400 residents.

Over 90% of residents (1250) agreed we do not want to subsidize expensive infrastructure costs to service new developments. Most of the time, the Developer pays for the new infrastructure.

We are a rural municipality, and I believe we prefer to focus on a prudent, sustainable growth plan that allows us to maintain our status quo. 75% of residents are already on acreages (and happy). They have all invested their own money in their well and waste services. They should not have to pay a second time for new builds in Springfield.

Residents told me, "We do not want to see our quality of life affected by becoming a Suburb of Winnipeg. Are we trying to be something we are not?"

The National Association of Rural Municipalities estimate that for every \$1.00 the municipality collects annually from small, serviced lots, it costs the municipality \$1.26 to service the property. Those 26 cents come from your taxes. Taxpayers cannot sustain this reality.

### I believe the following strategies would be acceptable to most residents:

- Developing serviced lots must not be at the expense of existing residents.
- An annual cap on serviced lots needs to be developed.
- Council must withdraw the Borrowing By-law as the projected costs for service estimates are skyrocketing. Over \$80 million of debt is too large of a burden for residents to bear for new development, considering our current debt is only \$7 million.
- Maintaining our green space and farmland is a very high priority with residents. Don't give that up to developers or the WMR through Plan 20-50.
- Twin Hwy 15 before we welcome new development. Hwy 15 is already gridlocked.
- Freeze all property taxes, with a mandate to trim the fat from our operating budget.
- Support our current high education standards by keeping student ratios at a manageable level. Introducing 200 new homes/yr will drop our educational quality.

Our elected council members must respect our resident's concerns with transparent and open government. They must follow the intent and meaning of our bylaws, which are in place to protect resident's rights. If they do not, we should have the right to recall any member for either "acting in bad faith" or "exceeding their authority".

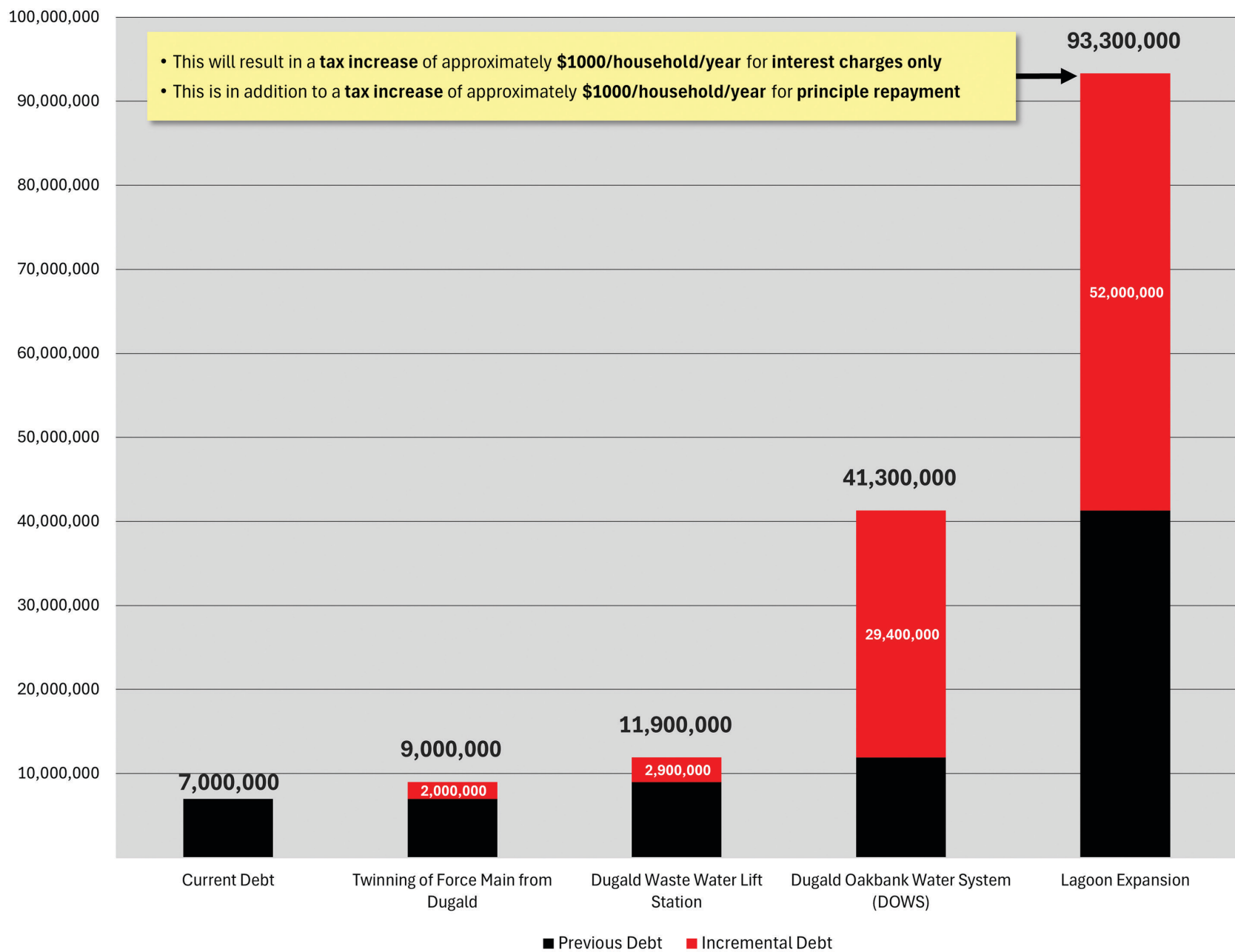
Mayor Therrien's quote *"More than 99.9 % of residents I talk to are against 20-50. However, I have not decided how I will vote."*

Well Mr. Mayor... Recall is just the recipe one would use for moving you out to pasture.



**CAO, Colleen Draper, posted online & released to the press MISINFORMATION on the true costs of this unnecessary water project! This is still currently on the RM's website!**

**Proposed RM of Springfield New Capital Spending**



**NOTE - Some costs will be covered by grants & reserves:**

- The project budget for DOWS is \$29.4M
- We have raised \$5.65M from the Province along with the original \$4.65M from the Manitoba Water Services Board
- \$6.237M is to come from the utility reserve & capital water levies reserve
- On Sep 17, the RM of Springfield Council said an additional \$4.5M from the Manitoba Water Services Board will be applied for

**We Stand by our Numbers:**

Total Expenditure:	\$93.30M
Less Grants:	\$10.30M
Less Reserves:	\$6.24M
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Net Expenditure:	\$76.76M
Interest Rate:	6.5%
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<b>Annual Interest Charge:</b>	<b>\$5M</b>

**OUR DEBT WILL BE NORTH OF 55 MILLION PLUS INTEREST OVER A 20 YEAR REPAYMENT SCHEDULE. ANNUAL PROPERTY TAX COULD EASILY INCREASE BY 20% TO 40% OVER THE NEXT 3 YEARS!**

**We Believe...**

Plan 20-50 legislation has been negotiated behind closed doors with Springfield's Mayor Therrien, the City of Winnipeg and the past Provincial Government led by Heather Stefanson. Mayor Therrien refuses to hold public meetings to answer questions about Plan 20-50, nor will he explain or discuss how Springfield and its residents will benefit from it. Mayor Therrien has voted for Plan 20-50 at 1st Reading without the support of Springfield residents nor was he authorized by Council. This eliminated a resolution, which would have provided for vigorous debate and a recorded vote. We believe Mayor Therrien has exceeded his authority. We are quite concerned that he may be acting in bad faith.

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|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Allan Akins              | Cynthia & Mike Sinclair  | Darren Tanner         | Georgina & Josh Mustard | Karen Lalonde            |
| Elaine & Bob Stechisen   | Janet Nylen              | Elizabeth Hrycak      | Kristyn Okaluk          | Gordon & Wendy Mackie    |
| Joyce Vaags              | Sue & Al Ziemski         | Darryl Speer          | Jill Overall            | Gloria Romaniuk          |
| Dr. David & Helene Marsh | Linda Muzyka             | Ron & Gerri Hildbrand | Richard & Gerri Kuffner | Maggie & John Grafeneder |
| Margaret Marion-Akins    | Bob & Audrey Bobnaruk    | Daniel Plett          | Karen & Colvin Watchorn |                          |
| Karen & Richard Ainsely  | Heather Ericksen         | Helen Garrod          | Pat Burbank             |                          |
| Keith Sharp              | Glen & Marline Zaboroski | Carolyn Whyte         | Craig & Jolene Beyers   |                          |

The Springfield Taxpayers Rights Corp (STRC) is a large group of over 1400 concerned Springfield residents, which was instrumental in stopping the Sio Silica project. The STRC consists of many professionals including, but not limited to, engineers, a retired Chief Administrator Officer, Professors of the University of Manitoba & Winnipeg, Lawyers, former councillors, politicians, doctors, teachers, business owners, farmers and a whole host of lay peoples.

Andy Kuczynski, Ward 2  
kasprod@mymts.net  
204-403-8971

Mark Miller, Ward 3  
mark@mmiller.ca  
204-403-8250

Allan Akins, STRC  
allanakinsis@gmail.com  
204-791-6270