



For Immediate Release  
November 15, 2018

## **Renowned Urban Expert Gil Penalosa Coming to Sault Ste. Marie *FutureSSM hosting free community event November 30 at The Tech***

**Sault Ste. Marie** – FutureSSM is excited to announce that Gil Penalosa, internationally acclaimed placemaking expert and Chair of World Urban Parks, will be speaking in Sault Ste. Marie on November 30 to discuss 'Age-Friendly Cities & Walkability'. Mr. Penalosa will be in Sault Ste. Marie as part of Algoma Public Health's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations.

Penalosa is the founder and chair of *8 80 Cities*, a Canadian nonprofit with a mission to improve sustainable mobility, parks, and public spaces to transform urban areas into cities that are great for both 8-year-olds and 80-year olds. The organization has worked with over 250 communities across six continents to promote improve residents' physical and mental health.

Gil will explore how evaluating our cities based on a simple "8 80" rule: ensuring the safety and joy of children and older adults (from 8 year olds to 80 year olds can improve the quality of life for all community members, regardless of economic, social or cultural background.

"With a number of positive community revitalization initiatives underway in Sault Ste. Marie, Gil's talk is definitely timely," stated Tom Vair, Deputy CAO, Community Development and Enterprise Services at the City of Sault Ste. Marie. "We look forward to learning about global best practices, providing information on projects underway in our city, and discussing what other innovative solutions we can develop to create a healthier, more vibrant community."

FutureSSM's team will provide an update on City projects related to community revitalization, and will be available to answer questions and gather feedback.

This is a free event open to everyone. For more information, visit [www.futuresm.com/events](http://www.futuresm.com/events)

**What:** Gil Penalosa – Age Friendly Cities & Walkability

**When:** Friday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, 10am – 12pm

**Where:** The Grand Gardens Downtown, 68 Dennis St.

This event is proudly supported by:



Algoma

PUBLIC HEALTH

Santé publique Algoma

'Celebrating 50 Years of Public Health'

-30-

Media Interviews: Tom Vair, Deputy CAO, Community Development and Enterprise Services is available for comment.

To arrange an interview, please contact:

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### **About Gil Penalosa:**

Gil Penalosa is the founder and chair of 8 80 Cities, a Canadian nonprofit with a mission to improve sustainable mobility, parks, and public spaces to transform urban areas into cities that are great for both 8-year-olds and 80-year olds. The organization has worked with over 250 communities across six continents to promote improve residents' physical and mental health.

Gil holds an MBA from UCLA's Anderson School of Management, where he recently was selected as one of the '100 Most Inspirational Alumni' in the school's history. In 2015, Gil received a Doctorate Honoris Causa from the Faculty of Urban Planning at the University of Sweden. In 2017, Gil was listed in Planetizen's Top 100 Most Influential Urbanists of all time.

### **About FutureSSM:**

FutureSSM is a forward-thinking division of the Community Development and Enterprise Services (CDES) Department at the City of Sault Ste. Marie.

FutureSSM's team is working alongside community members to fulfill and build upon the recommendations laid out in the Community Adjustment Committee report, *A Common Cause and New Direction for Sault Ste. Marie*. Recommendations that include building our labour force, growing our post-secondary institutions, advancing Indigenous relationships, celebrating our arts & culture, revitalizing our downtown and welcoming newcomers to our community.

We know through best practices that the only way to reach our true potential is to take a holistic four pillar approach to supporting community resilience; cultural vitality, economic growth & diversity, environmental sustainability and social equity. Focusing on these four pillars will allow us to achieve our goals. For more information, visit

[www.futuresm.com](http://www.futuresm.com)