



TecZen Digital Inc
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April 13, 2018

Mayor Don Darling and Common Council
City of Saint John
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Mayor Darling and Members of Common Council

It is my pleasure to support the City of Saint John's application for the Government of Canada's Smart Cities Challenge.

I have been impressed with the level of community engagement conducted to develop the Challenge Statement and the application. I am particularly heartened that the community chose Population Decline with a focus on Newcomer Attraction and Retention as the focus of the application.

With the new digital economy, people now have more choices than ever as to where to physically live, while making their living everywhere online.

Having the city as a community focused on this issue harnessing the power of innovation and technology is a great fit for our organization of digital citizens. Given that we choose to live here and work anywhere. We want and need a diversity of great friends and neighbors physically surrounding us.

Saint John has much beauty, culture and potential; however, the lack of population growth is the most serious threat we face.

We believe that a successful application could mean positive change for our population and could well serve communities by being a replicable model across the country facing a similar situation.

Sincerely

Glen Hicks
President
TecZen Digital Inc.