



April 12, 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 Retention as the focus of the application.

NBCC attracts students from around the world who are often interested in staying in New Brunswick after they graduate. They are job ready and keen to be part of the community. We how important this is for all of all who live or would like to live in Saint John as the city was the only municipality in the country to lose population in the 2016 census.

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

Sincerely

Ryan Sullivan
Director of International Education