



April 11, 2018
Mayor Don Darling and Common Council
City of Saint John
P.O Box 1971
Saint John, NB
E2L 4L1

Re: The Government of Canada's Smart Cities Challenge

The Saint John Local Immigration Partnership is pleased to support the City of Saint John's application for the Government of Canada's Smart Cities Challenge.

The Saint John region currently faces a number of socio-economic concerns, from generational poverty and high rates of obesity and illiteracy, to continuing population decline. A number of organizations are collaborating to tackle these challenges, including the Saint John Local Immigration Partnership, a group of over fifteen organizations working together to enhance settlement and integration outcomes among newcomers in our city.

Having participated actively in the Smart Cities Challenge Workshop, I have been impressed with the level of community engagement in developing the challenge statement and the application. Above all, I am tremendously delighted that the community chose Population Decline with a focus on Newcomer Retention as the emphasis of the application. Our community is beginning to understand that the way out of population decline is to attract and integrate newcomers into the community and it has become a top priority.

As a newcomer who loves Saint John and wants to remain in the community to welcome other newcomers and help them integrate smoothly, I strongly believe that a successful application could mean a positive change for this great community and for other communities going through similar challenges.

The Saint John Local Immigration Partnership is excited that the community chose Newcomer Retention as its main focus, and we fully support this exceptional selection.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Abiola Daramola".

Abiola Daramola

Project Officer

Saint John Local Immigration Partnership

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