



April 14, 2018

Mayor Don Darling and Common Council  
City of Saint John  
PO Box 1971  
Saint John, NB  
E2L 4L1

[CommonClerk2@saintjohn.ca](mailto:CommonClerk2@saintjohn.ca)

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 moved that our community recognizes that Population Decline is and continues to be a major challenge that need to be addressed. I am also pleased that our community wants our city to focus this application on Newcomer Attraction and Retention. The Saint John Multicultural and Newcomer Resource Centre (SJMNR) will support and assist the City of Saint John in its population growth strategy, so we can be a community of choice for newcomers and immigrants who are already here or want to move here to make Saint John their new home. The SJMNR has a suite of settlement programs and resources to help newcomers integrate, orient, connect and be successful in our community.

Our community recognizes how important this is for all of us who live or would like to live here. Saint John was the only CMA in Canada to lose population in the 2016 census. We want to ensure that this does not happen again – we as a community are ready to undertake a “Smart” move to turn around the population decline challenge.

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

Sincerely,

Mohamed Bagha  
Managing Director  
Saint John Multicultural and Newcomers Resource Centre Inc.