



Newcomer Connections
YMCA of Saint John
191 Churchill Blvd.
Saint John, NB E2K 3E2

April 10, 2018

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

Your Worship and Esteemed Members of Common Council,

On behalf of the YMCA of Greater Saint John, I am writing to support the City of Saint John's application for the Government of Canada's "Smart Cities Challenge".

We have been impressed with the level of community engagement conducted to develop the Challenge Statement and application. We are also encouraged that the community has chosen to focus its application on the topic of population decline and newcomer attraction and retention. As the largest provider of settlement services in the Saint John region, and as the Co-Chair of the newly formed Local Immigration Partnership, we fully agree these are among the top challenges our community must address. Furthermore, the YMCA has identified diversity and growth as key impact areas under its current strategic plan, and we are happy to know our efforts will continue to align with community needs and innovation.

Saint John was the only city in the country to lose population in the 2016 census. Having since helped navigate the community through the Syrian Response, we at the YMCA understand first-hand how urgently our systems need to evolve in order to fully address the population challenges facing our City.

We believe that a successful application could mean positive change for our population and could positively impact communities across the country facing similar circumstances.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Angélique Simpson".

Angélique Simpson, MA, LLB
Vice President, Newcomer and Community Connections

Building healthy
communities