



Human Development Council

Identifies and addresses social issues in Greater Saint John through research, information, coordination and networking.

April 12, 2018

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

Mayor Darling and Members of Common Council:

Re: Smart Cities Challenge

The Saint John Human Development Council (HDC) is pleased to offer its support to the City of Saint John's application for the Government of Canada's Smart Cities Challenge.

As the region's social planning council, the HDC studies - and seeks to respond to - local social conditions that affect the quality of life of Saint John's residents. A number of these issues are connected. And a number of them have been affected negatively by recent population decline.

The importance of this demographic challenge was affirmed during the development of the city's challenge statement. A thorough and inclusive selection process led to the choice of Population Decline with a focus on Newcomer Retention as the subject of the application.

A successful application would provide our community with an opportunity to address this urgent issue. We further believe that our responses to the challenge of population decline would help inform strategies in other communities that face similar demographic challenges.

Sincerely,

Randy Hatfield
Executive Director