



**City of Saint John
Public Safety Committee - Open Session
AGENDA**

Wednesday, July 17, 2024

4:00 pm

Meeting Conducted by Electronic Participation

	Pages
1. Call to Order	
2. Approval of Minutes	
2.1 Minutes of June 20, 2024	1 - 4
3. Approval of Agenda	
4. Disclosures of Conflict of Interest	
5. Consent Agenda	
6. Presentations / Delegations	
7. Service Review Safety Assessment	
8. Standing Committee Reports	
8.1 Outside Fire Bylaw	5 - 28
8.2 SJFD Community Needs Survey	29 - 36
9. Supplemental Agenda	
9.1 Housing for All: Homelessness Strategy	37 - 54
10. Adjournment	



The City of Saint John

MINUTES - OPEN SESSION PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
JUNE 20, 2024 AT 5:30 P.M.
MEETING CONDUCTED THROUGH ELECTRONIC PARTICIPATION

Present: Chair Councillor D. Hickey
Mayor D. Noade Reardon
Councillor J. Killen
Councillor B. Ogden

Absent: Councillor G. Stewart

Also

Present: Chief Administrative Officer B. McGovern
Fire Chief / Emergency Management Services R. Nichol
Commissioner Utilities & Infrastructure I. Fogan
Director Public Works T. O'Reilly
Commissioner Human Resources S. Hossack
Manager Health, Safety & Wellness C. Curnew
Manager Analytics, Risk Management and Support L. Robichaud
Senior Manager Community Support Services C. Coes
SJPD Officer J. Wright
Councillor P. Radwan
City Clerk J. Taylor
Administrative Assistant K. Tibbits
Administrative Assistant A. MacLean

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the Public Safety Committee open session meeting to order.

2. Approval of Minutes

2.1 Minutes of March 27, 2024

Moved by Mayor Noade Reardon, seconded by Councillor Killen:
RESOLVED that the minutes of March 27, 2024 be approved.

MOTION CARRIED.

3. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Mayor Noade Reardon, seconded by Councillor Ogden:
RESOLVED that the agenda of June 20, 2024 be approved.

MOTION CARRIED.

4. Disclosures of Conflict of Interest

No disclosures were declared.

5. Consent Agenda

6. Presentations / Delegations

6.1 Save Your Skin Foundation

Kathy Bernard, Save Your Skin Foundation, reviewed the submitted presentation and discussed the importance of skin safety, early detection, and prevention to effectively manage skin protection. The presentation included a discussion on how to protect yourself and the community from sun exposure.

Moved by Mayor Noade Reardon, seconded by Councillor Killen:
RESOLVED that the Save Your Skin Foundation presentation be received for information.

MOTION CARRIED.

7. Service Review Safety Assessment

7.1 Fire Prevention Moment – Wildfire

Chief Nichol provided a Fire Prevention Moment on wildfire prevention and encouraged citizens to visit the FireSmart Canada website for additional information and further public education.

Moved by Mayor Noade Reardon, seconded by Councillor Ogden:

RESOLVED that the verbal update, Fire Prevention Moment regarding wildfires, be received for information.

MOTION CARRIED.

8. Standing Committee Reports

8.1 Road Safety Strategy

Referring to the submitted presentation, Director of Public Works, T. O'Reilly, discussed the creation of the City's first Road Safety Strategy. Using an evidence-based approach, the strategy would outline a path to reduce collisions and risks and make improvements to road safety. A request is being made for an initial investment of approximately \$75K in the 2025 General Fund Operating Budget. A staffing increase is also being recommended to lead the strategy development and subsequent implementation.

Moved by Mayor Noade Reardon, seconded by Councillor Ogden:

RESOLVED that the Public Safety Committee recommends to the Finance Committee that the completion of the City's first comprehensive Road Safety Strategy be considered for funding in the 2025 General Fund Operating Budget, including a preliminary City staff increase for its creation and initial implementation.

MOTION CARRIED.

8.2 Senior Fraud Prevention

Officer J. Wright, Saint John Police Force, reviewed the submitted presentation "Coffee with a Cop Fraud Prevention Initiative" noting that the aim of the program is to create awareness and education of fraud prevention. The initial target audience was aimed at senior citizens in the Saint John area, but the program is being expanded to include all age groups as well as newcomers to Canada.

Moved by Councillor Killen, seconded by Councillor Ogden:

RESOLVED that the submitted presentation entitled "Coffee with a Cop Fraud Prevention Initiative" be received for information.

MOTION CARRIED.

8.3 Prevention of Excessive Noise (Councillor Hickey)

Councillor Hickey discussed the importance of addressing quality of life challenges in the community, including enforcement of the noise by-law, specifically as it relates to muffling devices on vehicles and suggested that a pilot project, to collect decibel readings, record evidence and enforce the existing by-law be considered.

Moved by Councillor Killen, seconded by Councillor Ogden:

RESOLVED that the Public Safety Committee request an update on enforcement of By-Law M-22, Respecting the Prevention of Excessive Noise from Saint John Police at its next meeting; and that the Public Safety Committee request a pilot project introducing decibel monitoring as a means of further enforcing the noise by law.

MOTION CARRIED.

9. Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Killen, seconded by Councillor Ogden:

RESOLVED that the open session meeting of the Public Safety Committee be adjourned.

MOTION CARRIED.

The Public Safety Committee open session meeting held on June 20, 2024 was adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT

Report Date	July 15, 2024
Meeting Date	July 17, 2024
Service Area	Public Safety Services

Chairperson David Hickey and Members of the Public Safety Committee

SUBJECT: Proposed Outdoor Fire By-law

OPEN OR CLOSED SESSION

This matter is to be discussed in Public Safety Committee Open Session.

AUTHORIZATION

Primary Author	Commissioner/Dept. Head(s)	Chief Administrative Officer	Chairperson
<i>Dan LeBlanc</i>	<i>Fire Chief Rob Nichol</i>	<i>Brent McGovern</i>	<i>David Hickey</i>

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Public Safety Committee receive and file this report regarding the proposed by-law regulating outdoor fires in The City of Saint John.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

With the occurrence of wildfires becoming more frequent; with the Bay of Fundy ‘effect’ not reaching the outskirts of the city; with a healthy forest around the watersheds (east and west) being the main means of protecting our water quality; and where a large-scale forest fire (in the watershed) could have a devastating impact on the City’s potable water supply; it was within this context that staff of Saint John Water (SJW) reached out to the Fire Department to inquire about the level of firefighting protection available for watershed lands outside of the municipal boundary.

In response to Saint John Water’s question, the Fire Department reached out to representatives of the Department of Natural Resources and Energy (DNRE). When asked about their level of support to the municipality, DRNE staff readily offered their support.

It was during the initial and subsequent discussions with DNRE, that DNRE officials asked if Saint John recognized the provinces ‘no burn’ periods. Currently Saint John has outdoor fire safety ‘guidelines’ but no by-law which manages outdoor fires or adherence to the forest fire watch no burn periods. Where this was a touch point for DNRE and in response, the Fire Department surveyed other major municipalities in New Brunswick to see who did and who did not have some form

of by-law regulating outdoor fires. In summary, Saint John is the only major city not to have such a by-law.

Although not explicitly stated by DNRE staff, to have such a by-law would reflect well on our partnership with DNRE in combatting wildland fires in or outside of Saint John.

With the assistance from General Counsel Staff, the Fire Department undertook to research and draft the basics of by-law to regulate outdoor fires. The purpose of this report is to present to the Committee an outline of the draft by-law to regulating outdoor fires in Saint John.

PREVIOUS RESOLUTION

No previous resolutions

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

Vibrant, livable and growing City: Ensure the delivery of efficient public safety services addresses the evolving needs of a growing community.

REPORT

Background – Why now

Saint John Water (SJW) staff reached out to the Fire Department to inquire about the level of firefighting response available to fight forest fires in our watershed given:

- The Bay of Fundy ‘effect’ does not always reach the outskirts of the city.
- Saint John is experiencing more hot days on average than in the past (*Climate Change in New Brunswick*).
- Many areas outside of the city experience multiple more hot days on average than Saint John.
- The forest around the watershed (east and west) is the main means of protecting our water quality (potable and industrial).
- The occurrence of wildfires is becoming more frequent.
- A large-scale forest fire in the watershed could have a devastating effect on the City’s potable water supply.

In response to SJW’s query, the Fire Department reached out to the Department of Natural Resources and Energy (DNRE) to ascertain the level of support available to the City to fight a wildland fire within or outside of Saint John. DNRE readily offered support. It was during these discussions that DNRE officials inquired if Saint John currently recognized the provinces ‘no burn’ periods. The City has outdoor fire safety guidelines posted on its website, but nothing enforceable (e.g. by-law).

Although not explicitly stated by DNRE, the existence of a by-law regulating outdoor fires would be an act of good faith when requesting DNRE firefighting services including waterbomber service. This triggered the Fire Department to undertake a review of other major municipalities in New Brunswick to see who did and who did not have some form of by-law regulating outdoor fires. The survey revealed that Saint John was the only major city not to have such a by-law.

What do we currently have?

Currently, Saint John has outdoor fire safety 'guidelines' posted on the City's website. These guidelines are essentially a mix of outdoor fire by-law like terms along with separation distances referenced in DNRE's requirements for a Category 1 burn. To advance to a by-law from our current guidelines is not a radical step. The main difference being our current guidelines have no enforceability and do not require citizens to adhere to the Forest Fire Watch no burn days and/or times.

The proposed by-law

For the purposes of drafting an outdoor fire by-law we modeled the bulk of the terms after Bathurst's by-law, with selected terms from other outdoor fire by-laws as well as adding a few unique terms.

The intent of the proposed outdoor fire by-law is to regulate the use of outdoor fireplaces on public or private property, only permitting fires on days or times where such fires are permitted in accordance with the Province's Forest Fire Watch.

Like the current 'guidelines', the proposed by-law:

- Does not require a permit for an outdoor fireplace (firepit) on owner occupied property.
- Requires the use of screening on outdoor fireplaces to reduce the dispersion of large embers.
- Requires a nearby means of extinguishing the fire.
- Requires separation from structures and combustibles.
- Limits the outdoor fireplace fuels type to clean dry wood, prohibiting the burning of noxious materials (*also a Schedule C item*).
- Prohibits open fires.
- Exempts open flame barbeques (wood chip or charcoal) and propane or natural gas fueled outdoor fireplaces (fire bowls).

Unlike the City's current Outdoor Fire Safety Guidelines and in addition, the proposed by-law will

- Acknowledge the exemption private campgrounds have in Regulation 84-204 under the Forest Fires Act.
- Require the inspection of outdoor fireplaces (firepits) in campgrounds for compliance with the Forest Fires Act on a frequency determined by the Fire Chief.

- Prohibits outdoor fireplace use on days and/or times a Category 1 fire is not permitted in this region.
- Creates a 'permitting' mechanism to allow open fires for public events conducted for the advancement of cultural, religious, charitable, educational or community objectives; or public events designated by the City as an event as significant to the City; or private events for commercial gain or profit.
- Prohibits outdoor fires on City land, parks, beaches, or rights of way without prior consent from The City of Saint John (e.g. beach fires).
- Creates a fee schedule for any required inspection or permit.
- Creates offences, penalties and enforcement mechanisms.

For Clarity

The Forest Fires Act stipulates the placement, size and separation requirements of outdoor fireplaces (firepits) in private campgrounds. Due to staffing limitations, DNRE stated that they rarely inspect firepits in all private campgrounds. Where Saint John has one private campground with firepits, it would not be onerous to inspect these firepits once every few years.

As nuisance fires and related penalties were previously referenced in Schedule C of a *By-law respecting Fees for Fire Protection Service in The City of Saint John (Fees for Services)*, the Fees for Service By-law requires amendment. The deletion of any reference to nuisance fires will be addressed as part of a planned by-law update.

Due to the potential devastation caused by uncontrolled fires and a desire to encourage by-law compliance, the lowest fine associated with an offence under this proposed by-law is \$2,400 and the highest being \$5,200. Like the Parking By-Law, an administrative penalty can be paid in lieu of the fine (and prosecution). In this instance, the Administrative Penalty is 10% (or less) of the associated Fine (e.g. \$240 to \$480).

Permits and potential revenue

The intent of this by-law was not to create administrative processes which can't be supported by existing resources; hence no permit or inspection will be required for an outdoor fireplace on private property.

Conversely and to formalize an existing practice, permits will be required in advance of an open fire for cultural or religious practices, or outdoor fireplace use on public land or non-owner-occupied land.

Where the intent to the by-law is more about regulation than revenue, it is estimated that this by-law will only generate about \$800 annually in permit and inspection fees. That said, if the public opts to ignore the by-law and the Fire Department must respond to numerous nuisance fire complaints, annual revenues could increase to \$3,000 annually.

Proposed effective dates

Where the intent of the by-law is not to make money through fines but to educate the public on the safe use of outdoor fireplaces, and because the proposed by-law can be enforced by any member of the Fire Department, a Police Officer or Peace Officer, a procedure document must be created to ensure a common understanding of enforcement and education. Where it will take several months to create a procedure document, fine books, and an education work plan, the proposed effective date of the by-law is January 1, 2025. The exception being compliance with the province's burning ban for Category 1 fires (Forest Fire Watch) which will come in effect upon adoption of the by-law.

Next Step

The next step in the process is to formerly hand off the draft by-law to the General Counsel's Office to review, edit, format and make ready for Common Council's consideration. It is anticipated that a report to Common Council could be forthcoming in the next 1 to 2 months.

SERVICE AND FINANCIAL OUTCOMES

As noted above, this by-law is not anticipated to be a significant revenue generator. The intent is to educate the public on acceptable backyard burning practices and adherence to the province's forest fire watch.

INPUT FROM OTHER SERVICE AREAS AND STAKEHOLDERS

The Fire Chief met with representatives from the Department of Natural Resources and Energy (DNRE) to discuss wildfire fighting support which led to the impetus for advancing our outdoor fire safety 'guidelines' to a draft by-law.

By-laws from six New Brunswick communities were reviewed prior to drafting the proposed by-law for Saint John. Conversations were held with Fire Department staff from Edmundson and Dieppe to discuss issues with their respective by-laws.

A conversation was held with the campground representative of the Saint John Horticulture Association regarding this by-law.

The General Counsel's Office provided guidance with the development of the draft by-law and will soon take the lead in shaping the proposed by-law in a form for Council's consideration.

Saint John Water, being the impetus for this initiative, has been working on a communication piece to residence who live in or next to the watershed. The intent of the communique is to encourage fire safe practices on their land or when recreationally enjoying watershed land.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Overview – Outdoor Fire By-law

Overview: A By-law Regulating Outdoor Fires in The City of Saint John

Guiding Principle

The City of Saint John is committed to managing outdoor fires within the municipality to allow residents to have fires at their residential property safely and in a manner that respects their neighbours.

Definitions

Removed from this overview.

Body of By-law

This By-law may be cited as the "Saint John Outdoor Fire By-law".

Outdoor Fire

1. No person, owner, or occupant shall light, ignite, start, alter, or cause to be lit, ignited, or started an *outdoor fire* of any kind whatsoever within The City of Saint John except:
 - I. As permitted in this By-Law.
 - II. Fires used for the purpose of cooking food on a barbeque;
 - III. Fires in a propane or natural gas fueled outdoor fireplaces, heating appliances, or cooking appliances.
 - IV. Open fires within a private campground provided the fireplace(s) meets the conditions outlined in Article 3.7(2)(c) in Regulation 84-204 under the Forest Fires Act ((O.C. 84-676); or for
 - V. Fire Fighter / Fire Department education or training purposes.

Inspection of fireplaces in private campgrounds

Subject to fees and on a frequency determined by the Fire Chief, the Fire Department may inspect fireplaces in campgrounds to verify fireplaces complies with New Brunswick Regulation 84-204 under the Forest Fires Act (O.C. 84-676).

Prohibited material

No person, owner, or occupant shall burn *prohibited material* within The City of Saint John. This includes private campgrounds.

Outdoor Fireplace

1. Anyone who wishes to have a fire in an outdoor fireplace shall check the provincial forest fire watch to determine if a burn or restricted category 1 fire is permitted at that time; otherwise, no fire is permitted. (Effective immediately)
2. Outdoor fireplaces and their use are allowed in The City of Saint John, subject to the following regulations:
 - a. No person shall have more than one outdoor fireplace per property.
 - b. The outdoor fireplace shall not be placed on a patio or a combustible platform.
 - c. The outdoor fireplace shall be equipped with spark arrestors allowing no more than 12 mm openings, including the chimney.
 - d. Burn only dry seasoned firewood which emits little or no smoke shall be used in the outdoor fireplace.
 - e. The outdoor fireplace shall be installed on a non-combustible surface that shall extend at least 60 centimetres beyond the said fireplace.
 - f. The outdoor fireplace shall be located;
 - I. 3 metres from any *building* or structure;
 - II. 3 metres from tall grass;
 - III. 3 metres from any hedge, tree, overhead wiring, or other combustible material;
 - IV. 6 metres from any *building* or structure on an adjacent property;
 - V. 15 meters from and wooded areas and
 - VI. in the rear or side yard of a property.
 - g. A portable fire extinguisher, a pail of water (5 US gallons) or garden hose in good order must be readily available.
 - h. No flammable liquids are to be used to ignite materials to be burned.
 - i. Constant monitoring and control by an adult over the outdoor fireplace until the fire is completely extinguished.
 - j. All embers must be extinguished with water when burning is complete.
 - k. Except for the loading clean dry wood or the extinguishment of the fire, the door or cover of the outdoor fireplace must remain closed or in place during burning.

Open fire

1. Subject to this by-law, no person shall start, ignite, tend, fuel, or make use of or cause to be started or ignited an *open fire* of any kind whatsoever unless a valid permit has been issued hereunder, or authorization from the Fire Chief or his/her designate who may impose conditions and fees which shall be respected.

2. At the discretion of the Fire Chief or his/her designate and on terms and conditions set by the Fire Chief, a permit for an open fire may be issued for
 - a *special event*, or
 - a purpose other than a *special event*.

Permits

1. Required application information for an open fire permit is outline in Schedule A.
2. Permits, when granted can be one-time or seasonally depending upon the application.
3. The Fire Chief or his/her designate can revoked or suspend a permit if the continued use of the permit and associated burning constitutes:
 - I. a risk to the health and safety of the public;
 - II. a nuisance to abutting properties;
 - III. considered a nuisance fire; or
 - IV. the permit holder fails to comply with the terms of the permit.
4. When the Fire Chief or his/her designate revokes or suspends a Permit, the Permit holder shall immediately cease burning. No further burning is permitted without a new permit.
5. A permit will not be granted or issued to:
 - i. any person who has not reached the age of majority; or
 - ii. any person other than the owner of the property where the permit is intended to be used, except on presentation of written consent from the owner.
 - iii. Any person with an outstanding offence under this by-law.
6. Permits are not transferable.
7. A permit issued pursuant to this by-law is valid from January 1 to December 31 within the year the permit is issued unless specified otherwise in the permit (e.g. one-time event).
8. A Permit is only valid on days or hours a restricted category 1 fire is permitted according to the provincial forest fire watch.

Prohibitions – land, owned or managed by The City of Saint John

No person shall light or cause to be lit an *outdoor fire* or *open fire* in or on any lands, public grounds, rights-of-way owned by or managed by The City of Saint John, including its beaches to the low water mark without 1) prior permission of The City of Saint John; and 2) a permit conforming to this by-law, otherwise penalties shall apply.

Fees

The City shall collect fees for inspections and/or permits as noted in Schedules B.

Enforcement

Any employee of the *Fire Department*, any *police officer* or peace officer shall have the authority to enforce this By-law.

Extinguishment

For reason of complaint or for any cause, the Fire Department may extinguish any nuisance fire, outdoor fire, open fire or outdoor fireplace fire which is contrary to any clause of this By-law; or is considered a danger to the public or is not in the public good as deemed by the *Fire Department*.

Offences

A person who violates any of the provisions of this By-law is guilty of an offence and liable upon summary conviction to a fine of not less than two thousand four hundred dollars (\$2,400.00) and not more than five thousand two hundred dollars (\$5,200.00) as set out in Schedule C. Should this be a POPA statement, then offer the Administrative Penalty.

Administrative Penalties

1. The City may require an administrative penalty to be paid with respect to a violation of a provision of this By-law as described in Schedule C.
2. A person who violates any provision of this By-law may pay to the City within thirty (30) calendar days from the date of such violation an administrative penalty as set-out in Schedule C, and upon such payment, the person who committed the violation is not liable to be prosecuted therefor.

Date of Effect

Except as stipulated herein, this by-law shall come into full force and effect at 12:01 AM on January 1, 2025 and shall remain in effect until repealed or replaced.

Schedule A – Required Permit Application Information

RE: Special Event Open Fire Authorization

1. An application for an open fire permit shall be filed with the Fire Department, in the form and manner approved by the Fire Chief, no less than fifteen (15) days prior to the first proposed date for the open fire. Such applications and supporting documentation may include:
 - (a) Name, address and telephone number of the applicant and any other person(s) who may be responsible for the supervision of the open fire;
 - (b) Location where open fire is to be placed;
 - (c) Site plan with measurements illustrating the location of the open fire at its location, relative to all structures, wooded areas, combustible materials, and property boundaries on the subject premises or on neighbouring premises (when applicable);
 - (d) Start date for the commencement of open fire at the location;
 - (e) Duration of time for which the open fire(s) authorization at the location is being requested;
 - (f) Indicate if this is a one-time or ongoing event (multiple times in the same calendar year);
 - (g) Description of the public event or the cultural or religious practices, ceremonies, or events to which the open fire relates;
 - (h) Burnable materials;
 - (i) Written permission from the property owner, if the property owner is not the applicant; and
 - (j) Proof of liability insurance with The City of Saint John named co-insured (if applicable).
 - (k) Any other information required by the Fire Department to facilitate the issuance of a permit.

Scheule B – Fees

Inspection Services

Inspection – Special Event	\$100.00
Inspection – Campground	\$100.00 plus \$10 firepit inspected to a maximum set by the Fire Chief
Inspection – Outdoor Fireplace	\$125.00
Inspection – Other	\$250.00

Permits

Special Event – one-time	\$25.00
Special Event – Seasonal	\$100.00
Other – one-time	\$200.00
Other – Seasonal	\$500.00
Reissuance of a revoked or suspended permit	\$250.00 plus proof of payment of fine

All fees are subject to HST

Scheule C – Offences and Administrative Penalties

<i>Offence</i>	<i>Fine</i>	<i>Administrative Penalty</i>
Nuisance fire	\$2,400	\$240
Failure to fully extinguish or monitor an outdoor fireplace fire or open fire	\$5,200	\$480
Failure to have a means of extinguishment at or near the outdoor fireplace or open fire	\$5,200	\$480
A fire (including an open fire and outdoor Fireplace fire) during a period of no-burn as per the Forest Fires Act, not exempt by the Act.	\$5,200	\$480
Unauthorized fire on lands or rights-of-way owned or management by the City of Saint John	\$2,400	\$240
Failure to follow the terms of a valid permit	\$5,200	\$480
Failure to cease burning, or igniting a new open fire after a permit has been revoked or suspended.	\$5,200	\$960



Small City, Big Heart

Public Safety Committee

Proposed Outdoor Fire By-law

July 17, 2024



Purpose

The purpose of this presentation is to provide the Public Safety Committee with an overview of the proposed by-law to regulate outdoor fires in Saint John.



Why Now?

- *Climate change*
- *Increase in wildfires*
- *Request to verify wildfire firefighting capabilities in or near watershed lands.*
- *Meetings with DNRE*
- *Research results*



Current state

Regarding outdoor fires.....

- *Saint John currently has 'guidelines' and not a by-law.*
- *No requirement for citizens to adhere to the Province's forest fire watch.*
- *No enforceability other than for a nuisance fire.*



Research and Findings

- Saint John is the only major municipality in New Brunswick without a by-law regulating outdoor fires.
- Outdoor fire by-laws are generally similar.
- Some municipalities requires permits and inspection some do not.
- Offences and penalties vary slightly.
- Bathurst's by-law was straight forward and similar to our current guidelines.



Principle of proposed By-law

The City of Saint John is committed to managing outdoor fires within the municipality to allow residents to have fires at their residential property safely and in a manner which respects their neighbours.



Proposed By-law

Similar to the current 'guidelines', the proposed by-law:

- Does not require a permit for an outdoor fireplace on owner occupied property.
- Requires the use of screening on outdoor fireplaces to reduce the disbursing of large embers.
- Requires a means of extinguishment near the fire (e.g. hose).
- Requires separation from structures and combustibles.
- Limits the outdoor fireplace fuels to clean dry wood.
- Prohibits open fires.
- Exempts open flame barbeques (wood chip or charcoal) and propane or natural gas fueled outdoor fireplaces (fire bowls).



Proposed By-law

Unlike the 'guidelines', the proposed by-law:

- Acknowledges the exemption private campgrounds have under the Forest Fires Act (i.e. *burning*).
- Permits the Fire Department to inspect fireplaces (firepits) in a campground.
- Prohibits outdoor fireplace or open fires on days / times a Category 1 fire is not permitted in this region (i.e. *subject to the Forest Fire Watch*).
- Creates a 'permitting' mechanism to allow open fires for *Special Events* (e.g. religious, cultural, etc.)



Proposed By-law

- Prohibits outdoor fires on City land, parks, beaches, or rights-of-way without prior consent from The City of Saint John.
- Creates a fee schedule for any required inspection or permit.
- Creates offences, fines, and administrative penalties.
- Enforceable by Fire, Police, or Peace Officer.
- Proposed effective date is January 1, 2025; except adherence to the forest fire watch (immediate upon enacting the by-law).



Proposed By-law

What it is not....

- Not intended to be revenue generator. The by-law might add \$800 to 2025 revenues.
- Other than resources to communicate and create procedures and workflows, it is not envisioned that this by-law will require additional staff support to sustain the by-law.
- The Fire Department will mainly respond to requests and complaints as we currently do.



Next Steps

- Finalize input and update of the draft.
- Turn the draft over to the General Counsel's Office for vetting, translation, and formatting.
- Present the proposed by-law to Common Council for its consideration.
- If / when the by-law is enacted
 - *start the communication process; and*
 - *create the supporting 'procedure' and workflow documents.*



Recommendation:

This report on the proposed *By-law Regulating Outdoor Fires in The City of Saint John* be received and filed.

Questions?



Small City,
Big Heart.

Petite ville,
grand cœur.

Alignment

- Saint John Fire Strategic Plan
- Saint John Fire existing obligations
- Council Priorities
 - GROW
 - GREEN
 - BELONG
 - MOVE
 - PERFORM

City of Saint John Strategic Plan



VIBRANT

We value a city that pulsates with life through arts, culture, recreation, education, employment, innovation and diversity.



PROSPEROUS

We are creating an environment where all our citizens, neighbourhoods, natural spaces and businesses thrive.



SERVICE

We are a professional public service and an engaged, informed community working together to ensure quality and innovative service delivery that benefits all citizens in a growing Saint John.



ACCOUNTABLE

We are committed, with our partner agencies, boards and commissions, to demonstrate transparency in financial stewardship, performance management and reporting outcomes so our taxpayers and customers see value in their investments.



Community Needs Survey.

- An opportunity for our community to provide input and feedback related to the services provided by Saint John Fire Department.
- The survey will give the department a better understanding of the expectations, areas for improvement, and assist in developing the long-term goals and priorities for the Department.
- Development of a long-term strategic plan based on current policy, systems and feedback.
- Stakeholder engagement to include external agencies, industry, residents, City departments and internal Saint John Fire employees.
- Review and update mission, vision, values for the department based on feedback, data and information.




Community Needs Survey.

- Shape Your City platform
- Survey available from July 17, 2024, until August 25, 2024
- Direct invitations to be sent to key stakeholders

Home / Saint John Fire Department: Community Needs Survey

Saint John Fire Department: Community Needs Survey

[f](#) [t](#) [in](#) [e](#)



With over 160 firefighters, command, training, fire prevention, and support staff at six strategically located fire stations and one training academy, the Saint John Fire Department services 315 square kilometers of urban, rural, and undeveloped land to the City of Saint John's 75,000 residents.

As the Saint John Fire Department undertakes the creation of a new strategic plan, the community, residents, businesses and visitors have the opportunity to contribute to its development through a *Community Needs Survey*. You will find a link to the survey below as well as an open ended question for comments and feedback to the department and services. This feedback will be considered along with a full review of the current programs and services, opportunities and restraints will be conducted to provide direction to the department and awareness to the community we serve.

The feedback received from this *Community Needs Survey* will assist in better understand the community's needs, expectations and concerns related to fire and rescue services. It will help inform decisions on the prioritization of services, and help identify critical needs and areas for improvement.

Survey **Community Feedback**

All unpublished surveys are shown as "Draft". Only admins will be able to see it in the preview mode.
Please note that you can take the survey in draft mode to test it, but submissions will **NOT** be saved.

32

Community Needs Survey - Draft

Related Reports

- [MERP Dec 2023 approved.pdf \(863 KB\) \(pdf\)](#)
- [2023 Annual Report.pdf \(9.9 MB\) \(pdf\)](#)



Survey Questions.

- Are you responding as a resident, business owner, industry partner, visitor or other?
- Please rate the following overall statements about Saint John Fire Department. (Definitely agree – Definitely disagree)
 - I feel the Saint John Fire Department meets the public safety needs of the community.
 - SJFD has the appropriate resources to respond to emergencies in our community.
 - My experience with SJFD in the past has been positive.



Survey Questions (continued).

- Please rank the following services provided by SJFD based on importance for you.
 - Fire response and suppression
 - Responding to natural disasters in the community
 - Medical response
 - Vehicle collision response
 - Fire code enforcement
 - Public education related to fire prevention and safety
 - Hazardous Materials response
 - Technical rescue response including water, ice, high angle, confined space rescue
- Have you interacted with Saint John Fire employees at an incident or community event in the past year?
 - What was your overall level of satisfaction with your interaction?
- How can Saint John Fire improve our services to better meet community needs?



Open ended feedback.

How can Saint John Fire Department best serve you?

- Tell us how SJFD can best serve you and our community. This is an open invitation for comments, feedback, suggestions and concerns. We want to hear from you and will ensure that all feedback is reviewed and considered in our future plans.



Saint John Fire Department Community Needs Survey

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Public Safety Committee receive and file the verbal update for a community needs survey for the Saint John Fire Department.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT

Report Date	July 09, 2024
Meeting Date	July 17, 2024
Service Area	Growth and Community Services

Her Worship Mayor Donna Noade Reardon and Members of the Public Safety Committee

SUBJECT: Housing for All: Homelessness Strategy

OPEN OR CLOSED SESSION

Open

AUTHORIZATION

Primary Author	Commissioner/Dept. Head	Chief Administrative Officer
<i>Cara Coes</i>	<i>Amy Poffenroth / David Dobbelsteyn</i>	<i>J. Brent McGovern</i>

RECOMMENDATION

The Chief Administrative Officer recommends:

That the Public Safety Committee endorse the Housing for All Homelessness Strategy and recommend its adoption by Common Council and that Common Council direct the CAO to:

1. begin implementation of the strategy; and
2. bring a resourcing plan to Common Council on an annual basis for the duration of the strategy for their consideration as part of annual budget deliberations.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Housing for All Homelessness Strategy identifies our community’s coordinated response to address homelessness over the next three years (2024 to 2027). The delivery of the action plan will collectively result in transitioning more people experiencing homelessness into permanent housing, greater coordination of services, providing additional places to sleep, reducing unhoused sites scattered throughout the city, and pilot projects that could be used in other communities if successful in Saint John.

PREVIOUS RESOLUTION

April 2, 2024 – Council received and filed a presentation from the CAO on the 2024 Corporate Work Plan, which included *Housing For All*:

Develop recommendations on the City’s response to homelessness using a policy approach, in partnership with other levels of government.

December 11, 2023 - Council approved the following resolution

Common Council adopt the Housing for All Vision as a steering statement during the creation of policy and guidelines, in collaboration with the Province of New Brunswick and Community Agencies, in support of our homeless population.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

Belong: Quality of Life, Social Well-being, Affordable Housing, Safe Community Spaces.

This strategy also aligns with Council’s advocacy efforts related to affordable housing, including the Affordable Housing Action Plan.

REPORT

Housing is a basic human right, a fundamental building block of a healthy, inclusive, sustainable community. Home is where we extend our roots to build our lives, nurture ourselves and our loved ones, and engage in our community.

Background

Late fall 2023, the **Housing for All Vision Statement** was presented to the Public Safety Committee for discussion and approval to bring forward to Council. Work completed in developing this vision statement involved extensive research, interviews and discussions with subject matter experts, community agencies and other partners. This work provided necessary direction in development of the vision statement which captures Saint John’s greater community.

The **Housing for All Vision Statement** was adopted by Council in December 2023.

“Every resident within the City of Saint John is entitled to a safe, supported, and sustainable home. In the spirit of the right to adequate housing articulated in the 1948 United Nations’ Universal Declaration of Human Rights, The City of Saint John wishes for its residents to live in security, peace, and dignity, regardless of the home’s permanence. The City of Saint John’s goal is to provide safe community spaces for access by all its residents, while supporting individuals as they access housing that meets their specific needs.”

Overview

Housing affects everyone, in turn affecting the health of our community, impacting healthcare resources, crime and safety, and yields profound physical, mental, and emotional strains. Despite these challenges, our community is working together to support people experiencing homelessness through prevention and diversion initiatives, collaborating on creative solutions, and exploring various housing opportunities to best meet our community's needs.

As stated in the 2022-2025 New Brunswick Action Plan; 2018-2028 CMHC – New Brunswick Bilateral Agreement Under the National Housing Strategy:

'Social Development will work to reach the province's goal of ending chronic homelessness by operationalizing and implementing the New Brunswick Housing Strategy – A Home for Everyone (2019-2029), the federal homelessness strategy – Reaching Home and on the Human Development Council's "Home for Recovery". It targets the five (5) priority areas: Partnerships, Housing, Health and Wellbeing, Prevention, and Data.'

Designating safe spaces for all community members, as well as creating space for individuals residing in unsheltered sites is in accordance with the Human Rights Act. Ensuring services are accessible for our homeless supports this vulnerable population and strengthens the health and safety of our greater community.

Recognizing that this will take time, and that traditional approaches may not fit today's social circumstances, this strategy demonstrates how the city, province, and community agencies are working together to help the homeless population.

Process

Through continued research, interviews, and stakeholder engagement, the team has gathered and evaluated inputs from external and internal discussions.

It is clear through these conversations that a collaborative approach is imperative in developing and strengthening tools and resources to better support those living rough.

Regular input on the development of the Housing for All Homelessness Strategy was sought through an iterative process from all City Departments, Saint John Police, the Government of New Brunswick, Community agencies, and the Public Safety Committee.

This feedback has provided valuable insight pertaining to how we can continue to work together to further increase coordination and ultimately help move Saint John closer to a state where homelessness is rare, brief, and non-recurring.

Next Steps

With Council approval of the Housing for All Homelessness Strategy, for actions where the City is identified as a *Lead* or a *Partner* staff will begin to implement the actions of the four objectives identified: Coordination and Governance, Emergency Supports, Prevention, Education and Safety, Housing Supports.

Staff will provide regular updates on the strategy to the Public Safety Committee.

SERVICE AND FINANCIAL OUTCOMES

The actions in the strategy where the City is the lead will require individual project plans and will likely require additional staff or financial resources to be fully successful. Resourcing considerations for the City's involvement in delivering the strategy have not yet been fully identified and they will be included in the City's annual budget process. Resources will also continue to be actively sought from senior levels of government and in partnership with our front-line agencies.

The City of Saint John is actively working in collaboration with the Province of New Brunswick and Community Agencies. To date, staff time, cleanup of vacated shelters on city property, and garbage pickup from unhoused sites have been financially supported by the city.

Costs incurred for cleanup of vacated shelters deemed to pose safety risks in 2023 were just under \$100,000. The City continues to support site cleanup efforts costing approximately \$54,000 (2024 YTD). In addition to this investment, internal in-kind resources are used for cleanups, collection of garbage, as well as administrative efforts.

There have been over 200 calls for service YTD to the Saint John Fire Department related to smoke or fires, near or at encampment sites. 56% of respondents to the 2023 Point in Time Count interacted with Police in the past year.

The action plan is designed to be flexible, the time frames are high level estimates, but are subject to change based on overall project and community needs. Specific measurable outcomes and timelines will be developed as the various actions begin to be implemented.

INPUT FROM OTHER SERVICE AREAS AND STAKEHOLDERS

The development of the Housing for All Homelessness Strategy was developed with the support of all City departments and under the guidance of the Public Safety Committee.

A list of contributors to the development of strategy is listed in the strategy appendix.

ATTACHMENTS

FINAL DRAFT Housing for All Strategy

Housing for All

Saint John Homelessness Strategy (2024 to 2027)

DRAFT



CONTENTS

CONTENTS	1
HOUSING FOR ALL STRATEGY - IN BRIEF	3
OVERVIEW.....	4
VISION	6
ALIGNMENT	6
SUMMARY OF ACTION PLAN	7
Strategic Objective 1: Coordination and Governance.....	7
Strategic Objective 2: Emergency Supports	8
Strategic Objective 3: Prevention, Education and Safety.....	9
Strategic Objective 4: Housing Supports	10
IMPLEMENTATION CONSIDERATIONS	11
APPENDIX A - STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT	13
APPENDIX B: GLOSSARY AND DEFINITIONS.....	14

DRAFT

HOUSING FOR ALL STRATEGY - IN BRIEF

Purpose

The Saint John Housing for All Strategy identifies our community's coordinated response to addressing homelessness over the next three years using a person-centered and human rights approach. This strategy advances our shared vision of every resident having a safe, supported, and sustainable home.

Outcomes

1. To provide safe community spaces for access by all residents, while supporting individuals as they access housing that meets their specific needs.
2. We will strive to make homelessness rare, brief and non-recurring.

Strategic Priorities

Strategic Objective 1: Coordination and Governance

Strategic Objective 2: Emergency Supports

Strategic Objective 3: Prevention, Education and Safety

Strategic Objective 4: Housing Supports

OVERVIEW

Hope is a home.

Housing is a basic human right, a fundamental building block of a healthy, inclusive, sustainable community. Home is the place where we extend our roots to build our lives, nurture ourselves and our loved ones, and engage in our community.

Canada is facing a housing, and a housing affordability crisis and Saint John is not immune to its effects. Across the country Canadians are struggling and the number of persons experiencing homelessness¹ is rising.

People experiencing homelessness in Saint John in 2024²

- 663 individuals in Saint John experienced homelessness for at least 1 day in the past year.
- Over the last two years the number of people who experienced chronic homelessness³ in Saint John has more than doubled to 344 individuals.
- There has been a 62% increase in the number of emergency shelter users in the past two years.
- 69% of people experiencing homelessness visited an Emergency Room in the last year on an average of 5 times.
- Over half of people (57%) experiencing homelessness interacted with Police an average of 15 times.
- In the first six months of 2024, the Saint John Fire Department has responded to almost 200 calls for service to encampments related to reports of smoke in the area, outside fires, and tent fires.

¹ There are many terms used to describe homelessness, such as homeless, unhoused, houselessness, housing insecurity. In this document, definitions are primarily used from the *Homeless Glossary for Communities* from Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy (April 2024). This Housing for All strategy refers interchangeably to 'people experiencing homelessness' or 'houselessness.' This person-centred approach emphasises the individual experiencing the crisis and recognizes that their identity cannot be solely defined by where they live.

² Data provided courtesy of the Saint John Human Development Council (SJHDC)

Sources: Saint John Point in Time Count, 2023 and 2021, and Homelessness Individual and Family Information System (HIFIS)

Visible homelessness is noticeable to the public and refers to situations where individuals are staying in shelters, or in unsheltered locations not intended for human habitation. More and more unhoused sites have been established all throughout the City, and they are often found in very unsafe locations, close to vulnerable populations (such as children in schools or daycares), can often become very unsightly and a risk to public health, and at worse become places where people living there experience tragic and untimely death due to fires, cold weather, drug use, and other preventable issues.

Hidden homelessness is also prevalent and refers to people staying temporarily with others without guarantee of continued residency (“couch surfing”) or people staying in short term rentals with no security of tenure, such as a motel. These individuals are often living in precarious situations that can change at a moment’s notice.

Homelessness affects the health of our community, impacting healthcare resources, crime and safety, and yields profound physical, mental, and emotional strains. However, despite these challenges, our community is working together to support people experiencing homelessness through prevention and diversion initiatives, collaborating on creative solutions, and exploring various housing opportunities to best meet our community’s needs.

There are a significant number of organizations and individuals already collaborating together to end homelessness. Saint John is very fortunate to have community agencies organizing emergency shelters, food banks and food security, drop-in service, outreach, harm reduction, education and skills development, data collection and analysis, crisis care, transitional housing, counselling, public safety, clean-ups, financial assistance, and a whole host of other much needed services, including the support of all three levels of government to address homelessness and support individuals experiencing it.

The purpose of this strategy is not to replace this important work; this three-year strategy is a collective action plan to further increase coordination and ultimately help move Saint John closer to a future state where homelessness is rare, brief and non-recurring.

VISION

Every resident within the City of Saint John is entitled to a safe, supported, and sustainable home.

In the spirit of the right to adequate housing articulated in the 1948 United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights, The City of Saint John wishes for its residents to live in security, peace, and dignity, regardless of the home's permanence.

The City of Saint John's goal is to provide safe community spaces for access by all its residents, while supporting individuals as they access housing that meets their specific needs.

ALIGNMENT

The *Housing for All Strategy* outlines how Saint John will provide support to people experiencing homelessness. This will be accomplished in partnership with all levels of government, local organizations and stakeholders, and generous community members, through compassionate, informed, and innovative ways to provide dignified housing options and a wide variety of social supports. A 'Housing for All' approach also focuses on the unhoused having temporary housing, as permanent housing options are being implemented.

This strategy is aligned with Common Council's priority *BELONG* as well as Council's catalytic advocacy efforts related to affordable housing, including the City of Saint John *Affordable Housing Action Plan*. The *Housing for All Strategy* is also informed by and aligns with the *New Brunswick Housing Strategy 2019-2029* and *Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy*.

SUMMARY OF ACTION PLAN

See APPENDIX B for abbreviations.

Many of the actions in this strategy are already taking place, and collectively all the actions will result in transitioning more people experiencing homelessness into permanent housing, greater coordination of services, providing additional places to sleep, reducing unhoused sites scattered throughout the city, and several pilot projects that could be used in other communities if successful in Saint John. Organizations listed as *Lead* or *Partners* in the Action Plan have committed to help support that specific action in this Strategy. The Action Plan will serve as our community’s three-year work plan on supporting our unhoused population.

Strategic Objective 1: Coordination and Governance

#	Action	Deliverable	Lead	Partners	Time frame
1	Service Agreements	Service Agreements will be created between Government and front-line agencies or service providers to provide supports to people experiencing homelessness.	GNB	Front Line Agencies, CITY	2024 and Ongoing
2	Legislation	The City will draft enabling by-laws and policies for the implementation of this strategy	CITY		Beginning Q4 2024
3	Relocation and decommissioning	The City in collaboration with the Province of New Brunswick will create a program for the respectful and dignified relocation of individuals sleeping rough in red and yellow zones. The program will also coordinate the restoration of an encampment area to its natural and clean state	CITY, GNB	Front Line Agencies, CITY	Beginning Q2 2025
4	Compliance	The City will review By-Law Enforcement Officer(s) resources and where necessary recommend additional resources to support the implementation of the Housing for All Strategy, subject to budget approval	CITY	GNB	Beginning Q4 2024

5	Mapping	Mapping tools will be used to identify the locations of all unhoused sites so supports can be offered.	CITY, Front Line Agencies	CITY	Q4 2024
---	---------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------	------	---------

Strategic Objective 2: Emergency Supports

#	Action	Deliverable	Lead	Partners	Time frame
6	Unhoused Sites (supported sites with structures)	Saint John in collaboration with the Province of New Brunswick will implement supported unhoused site(s) program for pilot sites for up to twenty-five (25) individuals per location.	CITY, GNB	Front Line Agencies	Beginning Q4 2024
7	Foundation Centre - Homelessness HUB	The Province of New Brunswick will establish and operate a HUB for individuals experiencing homelessness where they can access a variety of services in the city.	GNB, Outflow Ministry	CITY, Front Line Agencies	Q2 2024
8	Out of the Cold Shelter	The Province of New Brunswick will open an Out of the Cold Shelter in Saint John annually between December and March/April to provide emergency housing for people sleeping rough.	GNB	Front Line Agencies	Q4 Annually
9	Increased Shelter Beds	The Number of Emergency Shelter Beds in the City will be permanently increased and adjusted based on future demand with considerations being given to accessibility and other factors such as older adults and families.	GNB	CITY, Front Line Agencies	Beginning Q3 2024
10	Unsheltered Sites(Tent Sites)	As a pilot, the City working with the Province of New Brunswick will identify permitted areas where the unhoused can erect tents within the City limits and establish appropriate policies and processes <u>The program will identify:</u> Green Zones where Unhoused Sites (structured)	CITY	GNB, Front Line Agencies	Q3 2024

		<p>will be located</p> <p>Yellow Zones where erecting a tent is permitted at certain times of the year</p> <p>Red Zones where unsheltered structures of any kind are not permitted and removal will be enforced</p>			
--	--	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--	--	--

Strategic Objective 3: Prevention, Education and Safety

#	Action	Deliverable	Lead	Partners	Time frame
11	Site Cleanup Service	Saint John will implement a cleanup program to assist residents of occupied unsheltered sites by offering garbage collection as appropriate	CITY	GNB, Front Line Agencies	Ongoing
12	Non-Emergent Calls	Identify a means for the public to communicate concerns or questions regarding unsheltered sites or homelessness, and educate the public on this means of communication	CITY, Police		Q2 2025
13	By Names List	The By-Name List (BNL) is a real-time list of all people known to be experiencing homelessness in Saint John. A Point in time count will be run annually to provide current information regarding people experiencing homelessness in Saint John	HIPSJ	Front Line Agencies, GNB	Annual
14	Data Collection and Sharing	Increase the amount of relevant real-time data to support the implementation of the housing for all strategy	HIPSJ	Front Line Agencies, GNB	Ongoing
15	Information Campaigns	Saint John will communicate to the public accurate information regarding homelessness, harm reduction, mental health and addictions, housing, and other related content.	CITY	GNB, Front Line Agencies,	Annual
16	Sharps Containers	The City will install additional sharps containers and front-line agencies will make portable sharps containers available to clients	CITY, Avenue B	GNB	Q2 2025

17	Site Visitation	Front Line Agencies and Saint John Fire will make routine visits to sites to provide information and supports to those residing there	Front Line Agencies	Saint John Fire	Ongoing
18	Site Health Services	Public Health and other health services will visit sites as identified by the outreach team(s) to provide needed health services.	Frontline agencies / GNB		Q2 2025 and ongoing
19	Update Municipal Emergency Management Plan	Saint John EMO will update the Municipal Emergency Management Plan to clarify resources to support unhoused individuals during an emergency	CITY	GNB, Front Line Agencies	Q1 2025
20	Staff Training	Select city staff and service providers will be offered trauma informed training, and some staff will be offered harm reduction training on handling of sharps, emergency use of Naloxone (Narcan), and harm reduction	CITY, Front Line Agencies	Avenue B	Q4 2025 and ongoing
21	Community based projects	Additional funding for new innovative community-based projects will be sought to prevent and reduce homelessness in alignment with the National Housing Strategy	HDC	GoC, GNB, Front Line Agencies	2024 and ongoing

Strategic Objective 4: Housing Supports

#	Action	Deliverable	Lead	Partners	Time frame
22	Transitional Housing Options	A new transitional housing project will be established to house 25 individuals	GNB	CITY, Front Line Agencies	Q4 2024
23	Public Housing	The Province of New Brunswick will construct new public Housing in Saint John	GNB	CITY	Beginning 2025
24	Supportive Housing Options	The Province of New Brunswick, Frontline Agencies and City will collaborate on potential supportive housing options	GNB, Frontline agencies	CITY	Q3 and ongoing
25	Use of Sea Cans	Decommission at the appropriate time the Exmouth / Waterloo Streets unhoused site and relocate residents and sea cans	Kaleidoscope	HDC, CITY	Evaluated bi-annually

26	Coordinated Access	Front Line Agencies and Partners will use the Coordinated Access System which is a process through which individuals and families experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness, are provided access to housing and support services, based on a standardized intake procedure, assessment of need, and matching and referral to housing	HIPSJ, HDC	Front line agencies	Ongoing
27	Rent Supplements	Additional Rent supplements will be sought from Government funding partners by using the By-Name List.	HDC, GoC	Front Line Agencies	2024 and ongoing
28	Skills Development for Housing	New programs will be offered to assist people experiencing homelessness with developing life skills to move forward through the housing spectrum based on their individual needs.	Front Line Agencies	GNB	2024 and ongoing

IMPLEMENTATION CONSIDERATIONS

It is important to note that the *Housing for All Strategy* is a living document; it will continue to develop and change in response to our community’s needs and based on lessons learned from implementing the various actions. It is important to recognize that this three-year strategy will not completely solve the issue of homelessness, nor is it designed to. Rather, this strategy is the next series of steps we are taking as a community to address homelessness over the next three years using a person-centered and human rights approach.

The strategy represents a shared and collective vision of the direction we are heading. To be effective it is critical that all stakeholders delivering on the actions are all rowing in the same direction and working collaboratively.

Equally important is the commitment of proper resources from all levels of Government, each according to their proper role and responsibilities. Without sufficient resources, and especially the construction of new transitional housing units and more affordable

housing, Saint John will continue to witness a further proliferation of encampments and people experiencing homelessness.

However, Saint John is fortunate to be home to so many outstanding organizations and individuals who day in and day out work on the front lines, and behind the scenes to address the issues of homelessness and support the people experiencing it. But continuing to work together with compassion, innovation, and dedication, Saint John can become a place where homelessness is rare, brief and non-recurring.

DRAFT

APPENDIX A - STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

These organizations have provided invaluable feedback related to homelessness in Saint John and their input was used to draft this strategy. Many of the organizations listed are also direct and active contributors to the development of the action plan and have committed to assisting in the successful delivery of the overall strategy.

Organization	Department
Avenue B	
Centre for Youth Care	
City of Saint John	General Counsel Office
City of Saint John	Growth and Community Services
City of Saint John	Public Safety Committee
City of Saint John	Public Works and Transportation
City of Saint John	Saint John Fire Department
City of Saint John	Strategic Services
City of Saint John	Utilities and Infrastructure
Coverdale Centre for Women	
EY	
Fresh Start Services for Women Inc.	
Government of New Brunswick	Social Development
Government of New Brunswick	Public Health
Horizon Health Network	
Housing New Brunswick Corporation	
Human Development Council	
Kaleidoscope Social Impact	
Mobile Mental Health	
Outflow Ministry	
Saint John Police Force	
[Police] Chief's Community Action Group Roundtable	
Saint John Transit	
Salvation Army	
Stone Church	
Teen Resource Centre	

APPENDIX B: GLOSSARY AND DEFINITIONS

GLOSSARY

City	City of Saint John – including its various departments
Front Line Agencies	Non-Governmental Organizations directly funded by the Government to provide services directly to people experiencing homelessness.
GNB	Government of New Brunswick – including its various departments
GoC	Government of Canada
HDC	Human Development Council
HIPSJ	Homelessness Information Partnership Saint John
Kaleidoscope	Kaleidoscope Social Impact
Police	Saint John Police Force

DEFINITIONS

By-Name List (BNL)	The By-Name List (BNL) is a real-time list of all people known to be experiencing homelessness in the Saint John area.
Chronic Homelessness	Refers to persistent homelessness where people have been homeless for 180 days or more at some point over the course of a year (not necessarily consecutive days); and/or recurrent episodes of homelessness over three years that total at least 18 months.
Homelessness	The state of an individual or family who does not have a permanent address or residence, and does not have the immediate prospect, means, and ability of acquiring it. In general, homelessness includes people staying in unsheltered locations, in shelters or somewhere temporarily because they do not have the resources to secure their own permanent housing. People experiencing homelessness often transition between locations, as most people who sleep outside are likely to access shelter at some point.
Point in Time (PiT) Count	One of the best methods of determining progress is through the use of Point-In-Time (PiT) Counts. Alternatively referred to as “Street Counts,” “Homeless Counts” or “Street Needs Assessments” PiT Counts are a measure of the number of homeless people on a specific day (hence the point in time reference).
Homelessness Individual and Family Information System (HIFIS)	The Homelessness Individual and Family Information System (HIFIS) is a real-time list of all people known to be experiencing homelessness in the community.