



**City of Saint John  
Growth Committee - Open Session  
AGENDA**

Tuesday, April 16, 2019

11:30 am

8th Floor Common Council Chamber (Ludlow Room), City Hall

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<b>1. Call to Order</b>	
1.1 Approval of Minutes - March 21, 2019	1 - 4
1.2 Guest Presenter: Yan Del Valle	
1.3 2018 Reporting and 2019 Outlook	5 - 29
1.3.1 2018 Growth Work Plan Overview	
1.3.2 2019 Growth Targets and Key Initiatives	
1.3.3 Growth Info-Graphics	
1.4 Saint John Local Immigration Partnership	30 - 34
1.5 Vacant and Dangerous Buildings Program: Growth Reserve Fund Request	35 - 38



The City of Saint John

MINUTES - OPEN SESSION GROWTH COMMITTEE MEETING  
MARCH 21, 2019 AT 2:30 P.M.  
8<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR COMMON COUNCIL CHAMBER (Ludlow Room), CITY HALL

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Present: Mayor D. Darling  
Deputy Mayor S. McAlary  
Councillor J. MacKenzie  
Councillor B. Armstrong  
Councillor R. Strowbridge

Also

Present: City Manager J. Collin  
Commissioner Growth and Community Development J. Hamilton  
Deputy Commissioner Building and Inspection Services A. Poffenroth  
Deputy Commissioner Growth and Community Development P. Ouellette  
Population Growth Manager D. Dobbelsteyn  
Manager Infrastructure Development H. Young  
Administrative Assistant K. Tibbits

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1. Meeting Called To Order

Mayor Darling called the Growth Committee open session meeting to order.

1.1 Approval of Minutes – February 12, 2019

Moved by Councillor MacKenzie, seconded by Councillor Armstrong:  
RESOLVED that the minutes of February 12, 2019 be approved.

MOTION CARRIED.

1.2 2018 Year-End Reporting and 2019 Outlook

1.2.1 Economic Development Greater Saint John

(Mr. Gaudet, Mr. Oland, Mr. McPherson, Mr. Lawson and Ms. Crozier entered the meeting)

Mr. Oland, chair of EDGSJ, stated that the two main objectives for 2018 were the achievement of the key performance indicators and the development of a three year work plan, which is focused on growing the labour force in greater Saint John.

Mr. Gaudet commented on the submitted report, reviewing key performance measurements for 2018, the three year economic development plan, and the work plan for 2019. The vision of the work plan is consistent long-term economic growth and alignment of economic development. The plan strives to make a positive impact on workforce development, entrepreneur development, business investment and innovation and marketing greater Saint John. The goal is to increase consumer confidence in the area by increasing the employment level, labour force, and GDP beyond that of the province of New Brunswick. Increased consumer confidence leads to increased quality of life and how people feel about the area in which they live and work.

There are many unfilled jobs in the City. It is not an issue of not having jobs in Saint John but having skill sets and people to fill those jobs. The target in 2019 is to fill 350 of these unfilled jobs. To date, 220 of those have been successfully filled. EDGSJ assists local companies by reviewing their hiring practices, matching people with jobs, and assisting to re-skill people to fill these vacant positions. A job database has recently been developed to match and recruit skill sets to unfilled jobs.

In response to a question, Mr. Gaudet stated that not enough is being done to positively market Saint John and surrounding areas.

Moved by Deputy Mayor McAlary, seconded by Councillor Armstrong:

RESOLVED that the presentation from Economic Development Greater Saint John, be received for information.

MOTION CARRIED.

#### 1.2.2 Develop Saint John

(Mr. Irving, Mr. Carson, Ms. Comeau, Mr. Cyr, Mr. Power and Ms. Magee entered the meeting)

Mr. Power stated that the mission of Develop SJ is to increase the tax base by working together as a team with other agencies and people. A positive customer centred experience is fundamental. It is also necessary to have a common theme and a common vision to identify our value proposition and our brand.

Mr. Carson, referring to the submitted report, stated that three catalytic projects, identified as a new school in the Southern Peninsula, Fundy Quay site and Route 1 Interchange project, were selected in 2018 to drive growth and leverage private sector investment. Develop SJ is involved with 55 active projects with a potential tax base lift of \$463M. Not all of these projects will come to fruition but they are optimistic that a number of them will move forward.

Develop SJ assists developers through the process of securing funds, site acquisition and preparation, building permits, construction and other overcoming other challenges.

Moved by Deputy Mayor McAlary, seconded by Councillor Armstrong:

RESOLVED that the presentation from Develop Saint John, be received for information.

MOTION CARRIED.

#### 1.3 Growth and Community Development Services – Customer Service Enhancements

Mr. Collin stated that the goal is to enhance good customer service into better customer service. The organization is being re-aligned to focus on the growth agenda. Growth and Community Development services are undertaking initiatives to enhance customer service and responsiveness to the client.

Ms. Hamilton, referring to the submitted presentation, commented on the customer service enhancement plan for 2019. Enhancing customer service is a key priority in an effort to drive tax base growth to ensure sustainability going forward. The One Stop Development Shop is a very powerful economic development tool and the goal is to improve that model to ensure a positive environment for developers. The plan for customer service focuses on three key areas which include fostering a customer centric culture; reducing barriers and incentivizing smart growth; and improving processes to reduce red tape.

Ms. Hamilton stated that the customer relationship is a key priority and the Project Champion program, in which point people are assigned to key projects, assists the developer in navigating the process, anticipate issues and develop solutions for positive outcomes.

Moved by Deputy Mayor McAlary, seconded by Councillor Armstrong:  
RESOLVED that the Growth committee approve the following:

That the submitted report be received for information; the presentation be provided to Common Council at the meeting of March 25, 2019; that staff move forward with client engagement and deliver customer service enhancements that are responsive to client needs; and that regular updates be provided to the Growth Committee and Council at key milestones.

MOTION CARRIED.

#### 1.4 Development Incentive Programming

Ms. Hamilton stated that improvements and reforms to the development incentive programs are being reviewed to enhance the suite of offerings.

##### 1.4.1 Urban Development Incentive Pilot Program/Beautification Grant

Mr. Reid commented on the Urban Development Incentive Program and Beautification Program, outlining the recommended amendments to these policies. Referring to the submitted report, Mr. Reid reviewed some of improvements that occurred in the Southern Peninsula due to the incentive programs.

Minor amendments are being proposed to the Beautification Grant Policy such as extending eligibility to exterior painting of side yards under certain circumstances; improving administration of the program; and aligning the program with the Central Peninsula Neighbourhood Plan.

Referring to the Urban Development Incentive Program, Mr. Reid reviewed the program's performance and commented on the policy amendments and impact.

Moved by Deputy Mayor McAlary, seconded by Councillor Armstrong:  
RESOLVED that the Growth Committee:

- Receive and file the Urban Development Incentive and Urban Beautification Pilot Program Evaluation (2016-2018) presentation;
- Adopt the amended Urban Beautification Grant policy and recommend for approval to Common Council;
- Authorize staff to proceed with amendments to the Urban Development Incentive Program for Common Council's consideration as outlined in the submitted report.

MOTION CARRIED.

##### 1.4.2 Heritage Development Grant: Growth Reserve Fund Request

Ms. Poffenroth stated that the Heritage Development Board requested an increase of \$120K to their Heritage Grant program for total funding of \$200K. Staff is recommending an \$80K increase to the grant program.

Ms. Sampson stated that the Heritage Grant Program assists property owners with the maintenance and upgrades to their properties. The value of work linked to these projects such as return on investment, property value increases, and building permit fees on projects that otherwise may not have occurred, have contributed strongly to growth objectives.

The recommendation to increase the Heritage Grant budget by \$80K is based on two considerations:

- 55% of the budget has already been earmarked; it is expected that the entire budget will be allocated before peak application season
- Adding aluminum-clad wood windows to the list of ineligible materials; anticipated that the demand for reimbursement of these windows will be high

Staff recommends that the reimbursement of aluminum clad wood windows only be implemented with the approval of the \$80K increase to the grant budget as a one year test program. Staff is also proposing that this grant be made available to all heritage property owners, not just those with conservation plans, to provide access and opportunity to those buildings that would benefit most strongly.

Deputy Mayor McAlary expressed concern with the proposed increase, noting that it was not approved in the operating budget, and Council publicly stated that there was no extra money to support heritage grants.

Mr. Collin noted that there is currently over \$600K in the Growth Reserve Fund. The recommendation is to withdraw \$80K from this fund for the Heritage Grant program.

Moved by Councillor MacKenzie, seconded by Councillor Armstrong:

RESOLVED that the Growth Committee make the following recommendation to Common Council:

That Common Council authorize the transfer of a maximum of \$80,000 from the Growth Reserve Fund to increase the 2019 Heritage Grant Program operating budget; and that amendments to the Heritage Grant Program Policy as outlined in the submitted report be approved.

MOTION CARRIED with Deputy Mayor McAlary voting nay.

#### 1.5 Vacant and Dangerous Buildings Program: Growth Reserve Fund Request

Moved by Councillor MacKenzie, seconded by Councillor Strowbridge:

RESOLVED that item 1.5 Vacant and Dangerous Buildings Program: Growth Reserve Fund Request, be deferred to the next Growth Committee meeting.

MOTION CARRIED.

### **Adjournment**

Moved by Councillor MacKenzie, seconded by Councillor Strowbridge:

RESOLVED that the open session meeting of the Growth Committee be adjourned.

MOTION CARRIED.

The open session meeting of the Growth Committee held on March 21, 2019 was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

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Recording Secretary



# 2019 Growth Work Plan

## Growth Committee

April 16, 2019



SAINT JOHN

# It's all about GROWTH

## WHO ENABLES GROWTH

- Everyone
- Common Council, Growth and Finance Committees
- City departments and agencies
- Provincial and federal counterparts
- Private and community sector partners

# It's all about GROWTH

## **Core municipal team delivering on growth**

- Economic Development Greater Saint John
- Develop Saint John
- Discover Saint John
- City Manager's Office
- Growth and Community Development Services



# 2018 Summary

## Key growth partners

- Uptown Saint John
- Port Saint John
- Saint John Airport
- Post Secondary Training and Labour (GNB)
- Population Growth Division (GNB)
- Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency
- YMCA Newcomer Connections
- University of New Brunswick – Saint John
- Local Immigration Partnership
- Regional Chamber
- Opportunities New Brunswick (GNB)
- Labour Market Team (GNB)
- Saint John Newcomer Centre
- PRUDE
- Local Associations
- The Chamber
- Atlantic Human Services
- New Brunswick Community College

# 2018 Summary

Economic Development Greater Saint John 2018 Year-End Report ([March Growth Committee](#))

Develop Saint John 2018 Year-End Report ([March Growth Committee](#))

Population Growth and Growth and Community Development Services 2018 Year-End Report ([April Growth Committee](#))

Discover Saint John 2018 Year-End Report ([May Growth Committee](#))

# 2018 Summary

## Financial Overview (excluding capital)

Investment	2018 Investment
Economic Development Agencies <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Develop Saint John</li><li>• Discover Saint John</li><li>• Economic Development Greater Saint John</li></ul>	\$2,329,497
Economic and Cultural Facilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• RF: Trade and Convention Centre</li><li>• RF: Harbour Station</li><li>• RF: Harbour Station</li><li>• RF: Imperial Theatre</li><li>• RF: Saint John Arts Centre</li><li>• Saint John City Market</li><li>• Market Square</li></ul>	\$4,876,776
Growth and Community Development Services	\$5,230,653
10	\$12,436,926

# 2018 Summary

## Financial Overview (Other)

Investment	Category	Total
Neighbourhood Plan	Capital funding	\$500,000
Growth Fund (\$350,00/year)*	Operating reserve	\$814,580.24

# 2018 Summary

## **Growth Reserve Update (as of Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019)**

Total: \$814,580.24

### Committed and Active

- Succeed and Stay - \$116,974 (February 2019)
- Communicating Growth - \$57,750 (Sept. 2018)
- Digital Rendering Neighborhood Plan - \$25,000 (Sept. 2018)

### Pending

- Vacant and Dangerous Building Program - \$25,000
- Heritage Development Grant - \$80,000

# 2018 Summary

- Introduction of Develop Saint John
- Development of new Economic Development Greater Saint John 2019-2021 Strategic Plan
- Adoption and implementation of Population Growth Framework
- Wrapping-up Roadmap for Smart Growth
- Impressive achievement of growth targets
- Public roll-out of initial draft of new Neighborhood Plan for the Central Peninsula and new Heritage Bylaw

	Status	 <b>2018 Projects – <u>Population</u></b>
City	Delivered	Finalize Population Growth Plan
City	Active	Launch Newcomer Guide
City	Delivered	Love your City Campaign
City	Delivered	Host welcome ceremonies for newcomers
City	Active	Dollars-and-cents case for living in City
City	Active	Conduct research on living in SJ
City	Active	Evaluate and recommend options for an arts & culture framework to link with neighbourhood revitalization
City/YMC A	Active	Newcomer success stories
SJMNR	Delivered	Enhanced process/presentation for Exploratory Visits

# Immigrant Entrepreneurs

- New Provincial Nominee Stream
  - Net Worth of at least \$600,000 CDN
  - Entrepreneurs need to invest at least \$250,000 in their business in NB
  - Create 2 new full time jobs
- 2018 Results
  - 25% Entrepreneurs selected Saint John = 56 Nominations
    - 57% Chinese, 25% Vietnam, 9% Iran, 9% other countries
    - This represents a potential of >112 new jobs and >14M in business investment





The Saint John  
Newcomers  
Centre



Le Centre  
de nouveaux arrivants  
de Saint-Jean







	Status	 2018 Projects – <u>Population</u>
PETL	Delivered	Promote Atlantic Immigration Pilot Program to employers
Uptown SJ	Delivered	Host apartment/condo tours of Uptown
SJMNRC	Delivered	Host new Multicultural Festival in SJ
EDGSJ	Active	International Business/ Employee Relocation
PETL	Delivered	Recruitment Mission
PETL	Active	Predictive model on local job needs
Chamber	Delivered	Student mixer program
YMCA	Active	Launch Youth Retention Task Force & Youth on-ramp program
PETL	Delivered	Hiring fair enhancements
SJLIP	Active	Profile most successful immigrants

# Population Growth Framework - Trends



ATTRACT	2018	2019 Target	Status
Landings of Permanent Residents	835	1075	On Target
Percentage of Economic Immigrants	82%	70%	Exceeding Target
Net Increase of New Residents	432	>400	Exceeding Target

ENHANCE	Status
SJ LIP – Release of Settlement Strategy by 2018	Delayed – Connected to new Succeed and Stay Program

RETAIN	2018	Baseline	Status
Reduction in interprovincial migration compared to 2016 Census	-214	-795	Significant Improvement

	Status	 2018 Projects – <u>Employment</u>
EDGSJ	Delivered	New strategy and work plan
EDGSJ/ City	Active	Pursuit of Filling Unfilled Jobs initiative

	Status	 <b>2018 Projects – <u>Tax Base Growth</u></b>
City	Active	Finalize Neighborhood Plan (Urban Design Policies, Zoning By-law, PlanSJ amendments, Uptown noise framework (phase 1), rewrite of the Heritage By-law to support enhanced investment and development in central peninsula)
City	Delivered	Water Rate Analysis on Vacant Properties
City	Delivered	Vacant property and lot matching program
City	Active	Industrial raw water to the eastside
City	Active	Vacant Building Fee-for-Service Program
City	Deferred	Development Signage Policy
City	Active	Support the development of the new South End School

	Status	 <b>2018 Projects – <u>Tax Base Growth</u></b>
City	<b>Deferred</b>	Launch of the Neighbourhood Improvement Program (Targeting strategic areas of urban blight)
Develop SJ/City	<b>Active</b>	Support the redevelopment of Fundy Quay
Develop SJ/City	<b>Active</b>	Pursue properties: Lantic Sugar, 90-102 Mecklenberg, 45 Boars Head, Grannan/Canterbury

	Status	 2018 Projects – <u>Process Improvement</u>
City/ Agency	Active	Strategic Marketing Enhancements (Value Proposition)
City/ Agency	Deferred	5-10 Year Economic Plan
ESJ/City	Delivered	Smart Cities Journey
City	Active	Capital Investment Strategy for Neighbourhood Plan
Develop SJ/City/ Chamber	Delivered	Developer award program
City	Delivered	Development and distribution of growth info graphics

2018 Target	Lead	2018 Year-End Results
\$75 million tax base increase	DevelopSJ	<u>\$29.6 million in tax base growth</u> 55 active projects
PlanSJ Geographic Targets - 95% development in PDA - 85% development in Intensification areas	GCDS	90% in PDA 59% in intensification areas
Permit Turnaround Time - Tier 1 – 5 business days - Tier 2 – 10 business days - Tier 3 – 20 business days	GCDS	Tier 1 - 3.8 Tier 2 - 8.3 Tier 3 - 9.4
Vacant and Dangerous Buildings Program - 75 resolved cases	GCDS	<u>83 total closed cases</u> 50 repaired/reoccupied (33 demolitions)
Community Standards Program - 25 resolved cases	GCDS	<u>75 total resolved cases</u>
Development Incentive Program - \$150,000 of leveraged facade upgrades / 20 projects	GCDS	<u>41 approved properties</u> \$551,636 estimated leveraged investment
Heritage Development Grant - Pay out minimum of 95% of grant budget by Nov. 30	GCDS	<u>29 approved properties</u> \$381,012 estimated leveraged investment
25 new start-ups	EDGSJ	37 start-ups
845 new and retained jobs 22	EDGSJ	<u>821 hired</u> 896 announced jobs

# 2019 Growth Outlook

## Summary of feedback from Growth Committee

- Continue focus on beautification of neighborhoods
- Celebrate our success in economic growth
- City continue to play enabling role for growth
- Our ability to grow must continue to have a link to our sustainability efforts and vice versa
- Review unnecessary obstacles to spurring growth
- Customer service excellence must be prioritized
- Maintain rigor on evaluating our progress in achieving economic growth



# 2019 Growth Projects

#	Project	Lead	Timeline
1	Outcomes associated with the sustainability working group	CM	TBD
2	Preparation and development associated with destination marketing fund	CM	Q4
3	Deliver recommendations on a new aligned economic development model for Saint John	CM	Q4
4	Begin the implementation of the Succeed and Stay Project and continuation of Population Growth Framework	GCDS	2021
5	Finalize Neighborhood Plan for the Central Peninsula	GCDS	Q4
6	Finalize new Heritage Bylaw	GCDS	Q4
7	Enhanced customer service: (1) customer centric OSDS; (2) barrier reduction; (3) process improvement	GCDS	Q4

# 2019 Growth Projects

#	Project	Lead	Timeline
8	Filling unfilled jobs	EDGSJ	Q4
9	Pursue three catalytic growth infrastructure projects	DevelopSJ/GCDS	Q4
10	Improve culture of customer service initiative(s)	CI	Q4
11	Introduce new City Hall	CI	Q4
12	Introduce new City website	IT	Q4
13	Develop and implement strategic communications framework	CM	Q4
14	Submit application to transfer local immigration partnership to the City of Saint John	GCDS	Q2

# 2019 Growth Projects

#	Project	Lead	Timeline
15	Finalization of Roadmap for Smart Growth projects	GCDS	Q4
16	Recommend renewal and updates to Development Incentive Program	GCDS	Q2
17	Recommend enhancements to the Heritage Development Grant funding and policies	GCDS	Q2
18	Digital rendering of Neighborhood Plan	GCDS	2020

# 2019 Growth Projects

## What did not make the list of projects for 2019

- Full review of Municipal Plan
- Neighborhood Plan for other areas of the City
- 10-year economic plan
- Expansion of incentive programs to other geographic areas of the City

Organization	2019 Growth Targets
<b>Economic Development Greater Saint John</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in employment – from 62,500 to 64,062</li> <li>• Increase in labour force – from 66,600 to 68,265</li> <li>• Increase GDP 0.5% greater than provincial GDP</li> <li>• Increase in Consumer Confidence – from 99.1% to 100.1%</li> </ul>
<b>Develop Saint John</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support \$50 million in tax base growth</li> </ul>
<b>Discover Saint John</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To be presented in May to Growth Committee</li> </ul>
<b>Growth and Community Development Services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Permit Turnaround: Tier 1-5 days/Tier 2-10 days/Tier 3-20 days</li> <li>• Vacant and Dangerous Buildings Program - 75 resolved cases</li> <li>• Community Standards Program - 85 resolved cases</li> <li>• Development Grant- \$150,000 of leveraged investment/20 projects</li> <li>• Heritage Grant- \$240,000 of leveraged investment/20 projects</li> <li>• Population Growth – Admission of 1,075 PRs / net population increase</li> </ul>
<b>City of Saint John</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Produce 20 growth improvements and 20 customer service enhancements within 28 municipal departments</li> </ul>

# Growth Committee: What to expect?

- Continue to play role as stewards and ambassadors to growth
- Mid-year reporting from agencies and targets
- New expectation letters towards year-end
- Receive recommendations on new aligned economic development model
- Each meeting to begin with a “Growing in Saint John” presentation
- Ensure regular reporting and updating on growth activity with Common Council
- Link growth-related efforts to ongoing fiscal challenges

## GROWTH COMMITTEE REPORT

M&C No.	# found on Sharepoint
Report Date	April 09, 2019
Meeting Date	April 16, 2019
Service Area	Growth and Community Development Services

His Worship Mayor Don Darling and Members of the Growth Committee

***SUBJECT: Saint John Local Immigration Partnership***

### ***OPEN OR CLOSED SESSION***

This matter is to be discussed in open session of Common Council.

### ***AUTHORIZATION***

Primary Author	Commissioner/Dept. Head	City Manager
<b><i>Phil Ouellette/David Dobbelsteyn</i></b>	<b><i>Jacqueline Hamilton</i></b>	<b><i>John Collin</i></b>

### ***RECOMMENDATION***

Staff recommend that:

Growth Committee endorses a recommendation to Common Council that the City of Saint John apply to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada for funding to host the Saint John Local Immigration Partnership starting in 2020.

### ***EXECUTIVE SUMMARY***

“Saint John will be a City whose population is growing because new residents from around the world across Canada and New Brunswick choose our community as their new home” – **Population Growth Framework**

#### Context

A local immigration partnership (LIP) is Federally-funded local initiative that aims to improve settlement and integration outcomes for newcomers in its host community, and to strengthen the community’s ability to better meet the needs of newcomers. LIPs promote strategic alignment of its partners’ plans and priorities, facilitates their collaboration across sectors, and mobilizes engagement and resources to develop effective responses to complex and persistent barriers and challenges. LIPs are not legal corporations, but are typically hosted by an agreement holder.

There are over 77 LIPs across Canada. As the primary function of a LIP is to provide a table for cross-collaboration of all local stakeholders in a community, to avoid duplication of services, and greater local alignment in the settlement sector, the majority of LIPs are hosted by local government; the remaining LIPs in other communities are typically housed by non-profits, settlement agencies, economic development agencies, chambers of commerce, among others.

In Atlantic Canadian cities there are currently 5 LIPs. Halifax, Moncton, and St. John's are hosted by the local municipality, Fredericton is hosted by Ignite Fredericton, and Saint John LIP is currently housed by the Human Development Council (HDC).

In Saint John, HDC received federal funding in May 2017 for a period of three years from Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) to be the agreement holder for the Saint John Local Immigration Partnership (SJLIP). The Federal funding for SJLIP was \$87,687 in year one, \$88,805 in year two, and \$90,288 in year three for a project total of \$266,780

At the time of HDC's application for SJLIP, immigration and population growth were not identified priorities from Common Council, so HDC and corresponding partners hoped the LIP exercise would more fully invite the municipal government into the immigration landscape of Saint John. After Common Council set its priorities for 2016-2020, population growth issues became increasingly important and were officially prioritized through the Roadmap for Smart Growth exercise. This eventually led to the creation of the Population Growth Manager, and a more deliberate effort to coordinate and manage population growth efforts across the City.

#### Transitioning Local Immigration Partnership to the City

Through the Roadmap for Smart Growth and the Population Growth Framework, the City has demonstrated its commitment and leadership on supporting population growth and vision to be the most welcoming city in Canada. Housing the SJLIP within the City of Saint John will enhance the City's ability to play a coordinating and leadership role with key local partners involved in supporting and welcoming newcomers. Housing the SJLIP within the City of Saint John will also invite added synergy with the existing population growth initiatives and portfolios, including the urban planning team, population growth manager, arts and culture coordinator and the population growth officer. There are further synergies that can be found as every City Department plays an active role in



facilitating growth throughout the City, and all City staff are currently receiving cultural awareness training.

As early as 2017, the HDC and the City have been working together to prepare to Transfer the existing SJLIP from HDC to the City of Saint John. The City's Population Growth Manager has been acting as co-chair of the LIP Council and has briefed them on the proposed transfer, and received their endorsement. The City and HDC have also worked collaboratively to prepare for the eventual transition of the SJLIP from HDC to the City, by aligning some key initiatives of SJLIP with that of the City's Population Growth Framework (adopted by Common Council in February 2018). In addition, over 2019, the current Project Coordinator for the SJLIP has started working partially out of City Hall, to begin the transition of the SJLIP into the City of Saint John. HDC fully supports the City's application to house the SJLIP and a letter of support from HDC can be found attached to this report.

With the approval of Council, staff intend to apply for the City of Saint John to be the agreement holder of Saint John LIP from April 1<sup>st</sup> 2020 to March 31, 2025

IRCC Application Timeline:

Application Deadline: April 30, 2019

Final Funding Decision: by August 30, 2019

Contribution Agreement or Grant Negotiation: Until February 2020

Contribution Agreement or Grant Signing: March 2020

Projects Begin April 1, 2020

In the event the City is successful in its application to house the SJLIP, it will result in approximately \$100,000/annually for five years to support the hiring of a local immigration partnership coordinator and to operate the LIP. While the contract would be for five years, there is a history amongst more mature LIPs in other parts of Canada that funding from the Government of Canada is renewed as long as the partnership continues to achieve its objectives.

***PREVIOUS RESOLUTION***

Saint John Common Council adopted the Roadmap for Smart Growth in March 2017, which included action item #9:

**"Transfer of existing local immigration partnership."** HDC to CSJ

“Strategic focus on attraction, integration, and retention of all Saint Johners is needed in the community, and our new Local Immigration Partnership will be essential in developing a longer term strategy for our community.” – Population Growth Framework

### ***STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT***

The Transfer of SJLIP aligns with the **Roadmap for Smart Growth** and the **Population Growth Framework**.

Common Council has adopted a new set of Council Priorities: 2016-2020 in early November 2016, and under the heading of “Growth and Prosperity,” the following is stated: “Saint John is recognized by residents and businesses as a positive and supportive city. We grow in a smart way and attract talent, innovation and opportunities so all people can thrive.” In addition, Council adopted key performance indicators to evaluate its ability to *Grow SJ*, including, among others: “Building permit value,” “Change in tax base assessment within the City,” “Change in population.”

### ***SERVICE AND FINANCIAL OUTCOMES***

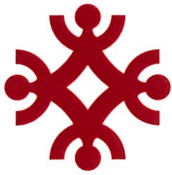
The intended outcomes of the City of Saint John’s growth-related efforts and investments are to achieve new levels of employment, population and tax base growth.

### ***INPUT FROM OTHER SERVICE AREAS AND STAKEHOLDERS***

This report was developed with the support of the Human Development Council.

### ***ATTACHMENTS***

Letter of support from Human Development Council



# Human Development Council

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

April 10, 2019

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

Dear Mayor Darling,

The Saint John Human Development Council (HDC) has been pleased to host our community's Local Immigration Partnership (LIP) since 2017. As Agreement Holder with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), the HDC has provided oversight, office and meeting space, along with many in-kind supports to bolster the city's efforts to integrate and retain newcomers. This is in keeping with our role of incubating organizations to address issues of local concern.

We believe that the LIP has made solid progress and is on track to meet its initial three-year objectives. We also believe that it is time to embed the LIP within the City to ensure that the retention and integration of newcomers contributes to, and aligns with, Saint John's new focus on population growth. The ambitious goal of growing our population requires a coordinated, connected effort with strong municipal leadership.

Accordingly, the HDC is happy to support the City's application to IRCC for Agreement Holder status for the next round of federal funding. We are prepared to assist in the preparation of the formal application. If the City is successful, we commit to ensuring a smooth transition of the LIP to City Hall.

If you have any questions or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Yours truly,

Randy Hatfield  
Executive Director

## GROWTH COMMITTEE REPORT

M&C No.	# found on Sharepoint
Report Date	March 14, 2019
Meeting Date	March 21, 2019
Service Area	Growth and Community Development Services

His Worship Mayor Don Darling and Members of the Growth Committee

***SUBJECT: Growth Reserve Fund Request - Dangerous and Vacant Building Program***

### ***OPEN OR CLOSED SESSION***

This matter is to be discussed in open session of Common Council.

### ***AUTHORIZATION***

Primary Author	Commissioner/Dept. Head	City Manager
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### ***RECOMMENDATION***

Staff recommend that the Growth Committee adopt the following resolution for Common Council's consideration:

Common Council authorizes the transfer of \$25,000 from the Growth Reserve Fund to support the enhanced Dangerous and Vacant Building Program for 2019.

### ***EXECUTIVE SUMMARY***

In 2017, the Dangerous and Vacant Building Program was included in the Roadmap for Smart Growth to help deliver tax-base growth within the City of Saint John by eliminating dangerous, vacant buildings that negatively impact property value and compromise the safety and quality of life of citizens. The accelerated Program resolved 80 cases in 2017.

In 2018, the Program's momentum continued with additional resources allocated to enhance the program's mandate which included a focused approach in the City's North End. In 2018, 83 cases were resolved.

The following report will provide a 2018 year-end Program update, in addition to providing 2019 targets given the same level of funding as 2018.

## **PREVIOUS RESOLUTION**

On September 10, 2018, Common Council adopted the following resolution:

“RESOLVED that as recommended by the City Manager in the submitted report, M&C2018- 256: Growth Reserve Fund Request Common Council authorizes the transfer of up to a maximum of \$200,000 from the Growth Reserve Fund towards Growth and Community Development Services to support the pursuit of growth - related activities.”

This investment included \$25,000 to deliver an additional 10 notices to comply under the Vacant and Dangerous Buildings Program in 2018 and continue efforts to encourage more repair and reoccupation of buildings.

## **STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT**

Enforcement of the *Saint John Unsightly Premises and Dangerous Buildings and Structures By-law* aligns with Council’s Vibrant, Safe City priority.

## **REPORT**

### **2018 Dangerous and Vacant Building Program Results**

Aggressive, strategic targets, a temporary professional resource and a focused, streamlined approach were key components to the success of the enhanced Dangerous and Vacant Building Program in 2018. Public response to the accelerated Program continues to be extremely positive. The success of 2018 was made possible with the additional temporary resource allocated to the program from May – December. The extension funded by the Growth Reserve, allowed for the target number of Notices issued to increase from 25 to 35 and for the targets for demolitions and repairs to be exceeded.

The 2018 North End Focus area, which included 26 properties, saw significant results. A total of 10 buildings were demolished and 2 buildings were repaired and reoccupied. Focus in the North End will continue throughout 2019.

The table below details 2018 Program targets and year end results. A total of 83 cases were resolved in 2018, with 33 demolitions and 50 repaired and reoccupied buildings. The City completed 27 of the 33 demolitions.

<b>2018 Dangerous and Vacant Building Program</b>		
	Target	Result
Notices to Comply	35	32
Demolitions	30	33 (27 City Demolitions)
Repaired/ Reoccupied	45	50
<b>Total Closed Cases:</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>83</b>

## 2019 Dangerous and Vacant Building Program

The Program momentum of encouraging owners of vacant and dangerous properties to repair, reoccupy or demolish buildings will continue in 2019 with a target of 80 resolved cases. Targets have been adjusted to reflect anticipated challenges and case management predictions, which includes:

- Issuing 30 Notices to Comply, this is on par with 2018 at 32 Notices issued. Entry warrants will be required to inspect abandoned buildings or to gain entry into buildings with uncooperative owners. Active owners will also yield more discussion, negotiating and potential appeal hearings.
- Total of 30 demolitions. It is anticipated that fewer city demolitions will be required as the severity of conditions in the buildings at the top of the priority list are decreasing. Focus will remain on encouraging property owners to repair and reoccupy, in addition to encouraging owners to demolish derelict buildings themselves.
- 50 Repaired/ Reoccupied buildings. This volume is expected to remain steady with continued focus on encouraging repairs as opposed to demolishing, yielding tax-base growth. In addition, a number of buildings on the list have open building permits and are expected to be completed in 2019.

See the below table which reflects 2019 Targets for the Dangerous and Vacant Building Program.

2019 Dangerous and Vacant Building Program		
	2018 Results	2019 Target
Notices to Comply	32	30
Demolitions	33	30
Repaired/ Reoccupied	50	50
<b>Total Closed Cases:</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>80</b>

There are currently 190 vacant buildings on the City's monitoring list. In 2018, a high of 220 active cases was reported, with an average case load of approximately 200 in the past few years. Although it appears as minimal progress, the program is trending in the right direction with the quality of buildings on the list improving. It is anticipated that a pivot of program direction will be required in the near future; from the focus on enforcement and demolitions to encouraging and spurring re-investment and revitalization of communities.

## SERVICE AND FINANCIAL OUTCOMES

As included in this report, in addition to:

As per section 143(1) of the *Local Governance Act*, City staff submitted reimbursement packages to the Province of New Brunswick in December for 2018 demolition and unsightly clean-up bills left unpaid. In total, 22 properties

were submitted for reimbursement and all were approved by the Province, resulting in reimbursement in the amount of \$304,833.89, which will be paid to the City in the March transfer payments.

***INPUT FROM OTHER SERVICE AREAS AND STAKEHOLDERS***

N/A

***ATTACHMENTS***

N/A