

GROWTH COMMITTEE REPORT

M&C No.	# found on Sharepoint
Report Date	August 21, 2019
Meeting Date	August 27, 2019
Service Area	Growth and Community Development Services

His Worship Mayor Don Darling and Members of the Growth Committee

SUBJECT: Mid-Term Update on 2019 Growth Work Plan and Targets

OPEN OR CLOSED SESSION

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

AUTHORIZATION

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

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend that Growth Committee receive and file this report and submit it to Common Council as an information item.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report intends to provide the Growth Committee and Common Council with a mid-term update on the progress of the 2019 growth work plan and the corresponding growth targets. After the creation of the Growth Committee, and the subsequent adoption of the Roadmap for Smart Growth, the Population Growth Framework, the creation of Develop SJ, the City of Saint John is strategically equipped to deliver new growth outcomes for the community in the areas of employment, tax base and population. This reinvigorated focus on growth is a key feature of the 2016-2020 Council Priorities and remains a key priority across service areas of the City Saint John, as is illustrated in Saint John's 2019 corporate work plan.

A summary and update of the 2019 growth work plan is attached to this report, which offers an overview of key features of growth-related efforts from January 1st, 2019 to June 30th, 2019 within the City of Saint John.

The key highlights of the mid-year report include:

- 7% increase in employment since June 2018, and EDGSJ outpacing its year-end targets in the area of employment and labour force growth.

- DevelopSJ is currently supporting various projects in its pipeline with an estimated value of \$100 million in tax base growth to flow into 2020
- DiscoverSJ already outpacing its year-end target of contracts generated for meetings and conventions.
- DiscoverSJ has secured \$2.2 million in bids for future business.
- Continuing trend of outperforming permit turnaround through the One Stop Development Shop.
- Far outpacing our year-end targets for resolved unsightly premises cases.
- Recent investments into heritage program has resulted in impressive leveraged investment - \$1.1 million.
- The admission of 485 new permanent residents in Saint John by the end of Q2 – an 18% increase YTD over 2018.

In addition, before year-end, there are several key initiatives that are expected to take shape, including: Neighborhood Plan for the Central Peninsula and Heritage By-law amendments; economic development alignment exercise recommendations; and, new accommodation levy bylaw.

PREVIOUS RESOLUTION

Saint John Common Council adopted the Roadmap for Smart Growth in March 2017.

Saint John Common Council adopted the Population Growth Framework in February 2018.

Saint John Common Council received the 2019 growth work plan in April 2019.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

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 assembled with the support of various colleagues from the Growth and Community Development Services, City Manager's Office, Economic Development Greater Saint John, Develop Saint John and Discover Saint John.

ATTACHMENTS

2019 Mid-Year Growth Update Power Point