



The City of Saint John

January 13th, 2020

The Honourable Marco E. L. Mendicino P.C., M.P.
Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship
House of Commons Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Minister:

The City of Saint John would like to congratulate your Government on proceeding with the new and innovative *Municipal Nominee Program*. We would also like to voice our support of the decision to make the successful *Atlantic Immigration Pilot* permanent.

As Canada's first incorporated City, Saint John has a rich history and a long-standing tradition of welcoming wave after wave of newcomers to our shores. That strong heritage of welcoming and supporting new Canadians continues to this day.

However, Saint John has been also struggling with population decline for many years. The 2016 Census indicated that our community had the distinction of being the only CMA in Canada to shrink (-2.2%) during that time.

To that end, the City of Saint John officially released a new *Population Growth Framework* in February of 2018 which is our community's official plan to grow our population. As part of this plan, our community is taking new and proactive steps to attract and retain new residents to our City. Saint John has a particular focus on attracting and retaining new Canadians, and is working closely with our local partners, settlement agencies, and senior levels of government to align resources, and to better support newcomers to our community.

We have observed with interest your Government's intention to introduce a Municipal Nominee Program that will allow local communities, chambers of commerce and local labour councils to directly sponsor permanent immigrants.

We believe that this program could be transformative for our community. Saint John has significant labour force needs with thousands of people retiring over the next decade. Increasing the amount of immigrants to our community will not only help alleviate our labour market shortages, it will allow our community to grow and become more diverse and vibrant.

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The City of Saint John is in favour of the proposed Municipal Nominee Program and is interested in becoming a participating community in this pilot at the earliest opportunity.

Saint John values intergovernmental collaboration that attracts and supports new Canadians, and we look forward to continue fostering growing partnerships with the Government of Canada and the Province of New Brunswick.

Sincerely,

Don Darling
Mayor

cc Hon. Trevor Holder, Minister of WorkingNB
Wayne Long, MP, Saint John – Rothesay
Andrew Oland, Chair, Economic Development Greater Saint John
Deirdre Wade, Chairperson, Saint John Region Chamber
Theresa Phillips, Co-Chair, Saint John Local Immigration Partnership

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