

COMMON COUNCIL REPORT

M&C No.	2019-100
Report Date	April 16, 2019
Meeting Date	April 23, 2019
Service Area	Growth and Community Development Services

His Worship Mayor Don Darling and Members of Common Council

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
<i>Growth Committee</i>		

RECOMMENDATION

On April 16th, 2019, Growth Committee endorsed the following recommendations for Common Council's consideration:

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 1st 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