



# City of Saint John Common Council: Heritage Grant Program

April 23, 2019



SAINT JOHN

# Background

- Incentives available to Heritage property owners for over 25 years
- Annual program budget set by Common Council
  - Increased mid-year 2018
- Program currently administered at staff level
- Complemented by:
  - CoSJ Beautification Grants (non-Heritage properties on Central Peninsula)
  - UptownSJ's Façade Grant Program (qualifying properties in the Business Improvement Area)



# Background

- Heritage Development Board requested a \$120,000 increase to the budget for 2019, bringing the total to \$200,000
- Staff recommends a \$80,000 increase (\$160,000 total budget), which was moved by Growth Committee in March
- Request based on two considerations:
  1. Increased uptake in applications
    - Over 2/3 of the budget is already conditionally allocated
    - Peak application season has not yet begun
  2. The proposed reimbursement for aluminum-clad windows
    - Popular item for Heritage Permits
    - High demand would likely use majority or all of current grant budget

# Proposed Changes to Policy

## **If \$80,000 top-up is approved:**

- Continued intake and approval of grant applications beyond original budget
- Addition of aluminum-clad windows to list of work eligible for reimbursement as one-year pilot program
  - One of the most expensive upgrades to a property
  - Often not carried out due to financial constraints
  - Benefit to energy efficiency → Savings used for other improvements
  - In line with Beautification Grant reimbursements

# Recommendations

**Growth Committee recommend that Common Council adopt the following resolution:**

- 1. 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;**
- 2. Common Council approve amendments to the Heritage Grant Program as outlined in the corresponding report.**

