



Responses to City of Saint John Position Paper

Wayne Long, Liberal Candidate for Saint John – Rothesay

01.09.2021.

Funding Support

Yes. Over the past six years, I have worked hand-in-hand with my municipal, provincial, and federal to deliver unprecedented federal investments to Saint John. This hard work has paid off in spades; it has resulted in a tripling of average annual federal investments in our riding, compared to the tenure of my Conservative predecessor.

However, this has only been possible because of the pressure I have worked with my federal and municipal colleagues to put pressure on our provincial colleagues to stop blocking federal infrastructure funding from flowing to the City of Saint John through the Canada – New Brunswick Investing in Canada Bilateral Infrastructure Agreement.

This bilateral infrastructure agreement effectively gives the provincial government control over the flow of federal infrastructure funding in New Brunswick. In doing so, it allows the provincial government to effectively veto projects it is unwilling to contribute to or even prioritize for the federal government.

That is why I have long been advocating for the creation of more direct federal funding pathways for municipalities.

In 2020, this advocacy paid off when our federal government amended the bilateral agreement to create the COVID-19 Resilience Stream. This Stream allows the federal government to cover up to 80% of eligible project costs. It also allows for projects to move forward to federal approval without provincial funding contributions.

The Resiliency Stream is what made the \$9 million federal investment to unlock our waterfront for development, which I was thrilled to deliver in February, possible.

This advocacy as paid off earlier this year when, as a part of Budget 2021, our federal government invested \$2.2 billion to double the Gas Tax Fund (now known as the Canada Community Building Fund), which provides direct federal infrastructure funding to municipalities.

I have never been afraid to put the interests of the Saint John first, before any partisan interests;

that's why I am now pleased to publicly call upon the federal government eliminate limitations around the stacking of funding for projects from other government programs.

I have long advocated for the permanent doubling of gas tax transfers to municipalities, including the City of Saint John, and, if re-elected, I will continue to fight for this in Ottawa.

I am proud to be a part of a federal government that has made unprecedented investments in green infrastructure, including through the creation of a dedicated Green Infrastructure Stream. Now, I am fully committed to build upon those investments by advocating for the creation of a direct federal funding stream that will allow cities like Saint John to green their municipal vehicle fleet.

Finally, it is completely unacceptable to me that the number of federal jobs in Saint John has decreased in recent years. I have never shied away from criticizing my own government when it's in the best interest of people of our riding, and that's why I am not afraid say this. If re-elected, I will continue to fight to ensure Saint John gets the federal economic impact it needs and deserves.

Social Issues

Yes. Everyone in Saint John – Rothesay has a right to a safe and affordable place to call home. That's why I'm proud to be standing for a real plan for affordable housing for everyone in this federal election.

This plan will:

- Help renters become owners by committing \$1 billion in loans and grants to develop and scale up rent-to-own projects with private, not-for-profit, and co-op partners, creating a pathway to home ownership for renters in 5 years or less.
- Help young Canadians afford a down payment faster by introducing a tax-free First Home Savings Account, which will allow Canadians under 40 to save up to \$40,000 toward their first home, and withdraw it tax-free to put toward their purchase, with no requirement to repay it. This would allow young Canadians to set aside 100% of every dollar they earn up to \$40,000 toward the most important investment they will make in their life. Tax-free in, tax-free out.
- Make the First Time Home Buyer Incentive more flexible to give Canadians the option of a deferred mortgage loan, as an alternative to the current shared equity model, and reduce their monthly mortgage costs.
- Help Canadians save on closing costs by doubling the First-Time Home Buyers Tax Credit, from \$5,000 to \$10,000, which will put \$1,500 back in the pockets of Canadians.
- Reduce monthly mortgage costs by reducing the price charged by the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation on mortgage insurance by 25 per cent. For a typical person, this will save them \$6,100.

- Introduce a Home Buyers' Bill of Rights that will:
 - Ban blind bidding;
 - Establish a legal right to a home inspection;
 - Ensure total price transparency on the history of recent house sale prices;
 - Require real estate agents to disclose to all participants in a transaction when they are involved in both sides of a potential sale;
- Move forward with a publicly accessible beneficial ownership registry;
- Build, preserve, or repair 1.4 million homes in the next four years. That's 30 per cent more homes than The O'Toole Conservatives have promise.
- Give cities the tools to speed up housing construction through a Housing Accelerator Fund, which will make \$4 billion available to challenge the country's largest cities to accelerate their housing plans, creating a target of 100,000 new middle-class homes by 2024-25. Help cities enforce use it or lose it: that core urban land should be available for new housing, not held vacant by speculators.
- Build and repair more affordable housing by permanently increasing funding to the National Housing Co-investment fund for a total of \$2.7 billion over 4 years, more than double its current allocation.
- Convert empty office space into housing by doubling our existing commitment to \$600 million.
- Help generations of families live together by introducing the Multigenerational Home Renovation tax credit to support families looking to add a secondary unit to their homes, to allow a family member to live with them.
- Support Indigenous housing by co-developing with Indigenous partners an Urban, Rural, and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy, and creating a National Indigenous Housing Centre which will see Indigenous people overseeing federal Indigenous housing programs.
- End chronic homelessness by supporting communities across the country in delivering locally-oriented homelessness prevention and reduction programs.
- Ensure banks and lenders offer mortgage deferrals for up to 6 months in the event of job loss or other major life event; and
- Require mortgage lenders to fully inform buyers of the full range of financing choices and programs available;
- To help better protect renters, we will also stop "renovictions" by deterring unfair rent

increases that fall outside of a normal change in rent.

- Crack down on speculation and house flipping with an anti-flipping tax on residential properties, requiring properties to be held for at least 12 months.
- Ban new foreign ownership of Canadian houses for the next two years to ensure Canadians have more access to purchasing homes. We will also expand the upcoming tax on vacant housing owned by non-resident, non-Canadians to include foreign-owned vacant land within large urban areas.
- Stop excessive profits in the financialization of housing by reviewing tax treatment of large corporate owners and speculators trying to amass large portfolios of Canadian rental housing, and putting in place policies to curb excessive profits.
- Strengthen federal oversight of the housing market by establishing the Canada Financial Crimes Agency to investigate and combat all forms of major financial crime, including the presence of money laundering in the housing market.

I am proud to be a part of government that has significantly increased immigration to Saint John and our province as a whole through programs like the Atlantic Immigration Pilot. If re-elected, I am fully committed to fighting to ensure we build upon this by making New Brunswick a primary recipient of new immigrants to Canada and providing funding to create the necessary infrastructure and support network to enable the increase in population in order to ensure new Canadians stay and succeed in New Brunswick.

It is absolutely unacceptable to me that our city is underrepresented in federal jobs on a per capita basis. No one will be a more vocal advocate for ensuring our city gets its fair share of federal jobs than me.

I am proud to have delivered a historic \$68 million federal investment in the Port of Saint John's West Side Container Terminal Modernization Project in 2016. This unprecedented federal investment has facilitated the resurgence of our port. Now, I am focused on securing the federal funding through the National Trade Corridors Fund needed to deliver phase two of the port modernization and expansion. If re-elected, I will get this project, which will create hundreds more well-paying jobs in our city, over the finish line.

Finally, there has been no stronger advocate for our city's non-profit sector at the federal level in the history of our riding. After years of neglect under the previous Conservative government, I am proud to have delivered unprecedented investments – including investments like a \$2.7 million investment in the Human Development Council's UYES! Program – to support the incredible work our non-profits are doing to address issues like homelessness, mental health, poverty reduction, and the opioid epidemic. If re-elected, I will continue to build upon the investments I have already delivered to ensure our non-profits have the federal funding they need to successfully end chronic homelessness, poverty, the mental health crisis, and the opioid epidemic in Saint John.

MEL K. NORTON

257 Princess St
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August 29, 2021

Donna N. Reardon, Mayor
and Members of Saint John Common Council

Your Worship and Councillors:

**RE: City of Saint John Position Paper
Prepared for Candidates Running in the
Saint John-Rothesay Riding in the 2021 Federal Election**

Overview

Thank you for the opportunity to formally engage with the City of Saint John in advance of the upcoming Federal Election. I have had the good fortune of connecting with many Members of Council both before and after the most recent municipal election, and the singular privilege of serving on Common Council with several current Council Members and Her Worship between 2010 and 2016. As a former Ward 3 Councillor and Mayor, the importance of a solid and collaborative working relationship with the Member of Parliament for our community is vital.

Equally vital is the need for your Member of Parliament to understand the opportunities and challenges facing Saint John and a willingness to work shoulder to shoulder with you. Even more critical is the need to deliver results for our community. In the past few years, Common Council solved long-standing challenges, including:

- A new municipal plan, Plan SJ, and zoning by-law to focus development and growth within the Primary Development Area;
- Adopting a solution to the pension crisis that threatened to bankrupt the city and leave pensioners and City workers without retirement income;
- Building a clean, safe drinking water system and, in doing so, providing top quality water to tens of thousands of residents both now and for decades to come;
- Focusing on recreation spaces, including the Emera Turf Field, the Field House, a Regional YMCA, expanding and resurfacing Harbour Passage, restoring access and use of Tin Can Beach, building splash pads and playground, renovating and restoring Queen Square South;
- Completing Harbour Clean-Up and eliminating all wastewater from our Harbour;

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- Rebuilding and resurfacing record kilometers of roads;
- Starting the development of Fundy Quay; and
- Approving a fiscal responsibility plan and lowering taxes.

The needs of our community are constantly changing, and all levels of government have a role in addressing the needs. There is, after all, only one voter and taxpayer, and we owe a collective responsibility to ensure that we invest wisely, with a significant return, and in alignment with the community's needs.

If I am fortunate enough to be elected your Member of Parliament, I am committed to working with Mayor Reardon and Common Council to achieve the shared goals of the Council and our community.

Canada's Recovery Plan

Our party has prepared a very detailed plan: Canada's Recovery Plan. The entire Plan, which is roughly 160 pages long, is available at: <https://www.conservative.ca/plan/>. The most important thing about the Plan is that it's about the future. In this case, that means the personal and financial-economic future of Canadians. It is a plan to secure Canada's recovery from the pandemic. To get the economy back on track. To bring back jobs. To get spending back under control. To tackle high prices (especially home prices) and fight inflation. To get serious about the mental health crisis in our country. To secure our independence from other countries for the things we need in an emergency. So, while the Plan is detailed, the priorities are quite simple. Next, it's a plan for all Canadians. It's one that puts working Canadians at the front of the recovery.

The Plan addresses inequality seriously because that's becoming more of a problem in our country. At heart, I'm an optimist. I've never found looking back to be terribly helpful. I know it's a cliché, but I genuinely believe that Saint John's best days are ahead. Saint John is a community. Our goal is the common good of all Saint Johners: a city where everyone can fulfill their potential. Our goal is to release the human spirit and potential of individual people, families, and groups. To nurture, mobilize, and encourage generosity, individual talent, patriotism, and a sense of community. And to provide the framework for a more sensitive and powerful means of protecting and supporting the vulnerable.

The Pillars of the Plan

The focus of Canada's Recovery Plan is on five priorities:

- RECOVERING THE 1 MILLION JOBS LOST DURING THE PANDEMIC WITHIN ONE YEAR

- Every Canadian deserves the security and dignity that comes with a secure, stable, and well-paid job. Canada's Conservatives will enact a comprehensive job plan to get Canadians back to work across the country.
- Taking immediate action to help the hardest-hit sectors, helping those – including women and young Canadians – who have suffered the most.
- Rebuilding Main Street by assisting small businesses and providing incentives to invest in, rebuild, and start new businesses.
- Creating opportunities in all sectors of the economy and all parts of the country.

- ENACTING A NEW ANTI-CORRUPTION LAW TO CLEAN UP THE MESS IN OTTAWA
 - Put the country first by enacting the strictest accountability and transparency laws in Canada's history.
 - Toughen the Conflict of Interest Act and impose higher penalties.
 - Toughen the Lobbying Act to end abuse by insiders.
 - Increase transparency to end cover-ups.

- MENTAL HEALTH ACTION PLAN
 - The last year has made clear the mental health crisis we face. It's time to make it clear that mental health IS health and to treat it properly.
 - Boost funding to the provinces for mental health care.
 - Provide incentives to employers to provide mental health coverage to employees.
 - Create a nationwide, three-digit suicide prevention hotline.

- CREATING A STRATEGIC STOCKPILE OF ESSENTIAL PRODUCTS AND BUILDING THE CAPACITY TO MANUFACTURE VACCINES AT HOME
 - We must never again be caught as unprepared as we were when COVID hit last year. We will make Canada more resilient, reduce our reliance on foreign countries, and take our responsibility seriously to protect the health of Canadians.
 - Partner with pharmaceutical companies to increase production of critical medicines and build domestic vaccine production capacity.
 - Use procurements by the government and those receiving government funding to strengthen domestic production of PPE.
 - Overhaul and rebuild Canada's National Emergency Stockpile System to ensure we have the supplies we need to be prepared at all times for future threats.

- **BALANCING THE BUDGET OVER THE NEXT DECADE**
 - Spending to protect Canadians in the pandemic was the right thing to do. But we can't pass the unsustainable debt on to future generations. Once the recovery starts, we will need to get spending under control.
 - Wind down emergency COVID support programs in a responsible way as Canadians are vaccinated and the economy re-opens.
 - Ensure that stimulus measures are targeted and time-limited to avoid creating a structural deficit.
 - Get the economy growing again after years of slow growth so that we have the revenue.

Funding Support and Support for Social Issues

Within Canada's Recovery Plan are the intended actions and policies to work with the Canadian Federation of Municipalities and support the City of Saint John Position Paper objectives, including, job and economic growth initiatives like:

- **Canada Job Surge Plan:** paying up to 50% of the salary of new hires for six months following the end of CEWS.
- **Canada Investment Accelerator:** getting companies spending money and creating jobs by providing a 5% investment tax credit for any capital investment made in 2022 and 2023, with the first \$25,000 to be refundable for small businesses.
- **Rebuild Main Street Tax Credit:** providing a 25% tax credit on amounts of up to \$100,000 that Canadians personally invest in a small business over the next two years, to get money flowing into main street businesses and create jobs.
- **Main Street Business Loan:** providing loans of up to \$200,000 to help small and medium businesses in hospitality, retail, and tourism get back on their feet, with up to 25% forgiven.
- **\$1/hour raise for working Canadians** by doubling the Canada Workers Benefit up to a maximum of \$2,800 for individuals or \$5,000 for families and pay it as a quarterly direct deposit rather than a tax refund at year-end. This will put an average of an extra thousand dollars into the pockets of the most vulnerable workers, helping three and a half million families put food on the table.

- Double the disability supplement from \$744 to \$1,500 to help almost 90,000 disabled workers.
- A Super EI that temporarily provides more generous benefits (75% of salary instead of 55%) when a province goes into recession.
- Require gig economy companies to make contributions equivalent to CPP and EI premiums into a new, portable Employee Savings Account every time they pay their workers. The money will grow tax-free and can be withdrawn by the worker when needed.
- Increase EI sickness benefits to 52 weeks for those suffering from a severe illness. The current EI sickness benefit limit of 15 weeks is not enough for those undergoing treatment for serious illnesses like cancer.

Regarding home prices and affordability, we will swiftly increase supply and implement a plan to build 1 million homes in the next three years. To do so, we will:

- Leverage federal infrastructure investments to increase the housing supply. We will:
 - Build public transit infrastructure that connects homes and jobs by bringing public transit to where people are buying homes; and
 - Require municipalities receiving federal funding for public transit to increase density near the funded transit;
 - Review the extensive real estate portfolio of the federal government – the largest property owner in the country with over 37,000 buildings – and release at least 15% for housing while improving the Federal Lands Initiative;
 - Incent developers to build the housing Canadians both want and need, by:
 - Encouraging Canadians to invest in rental housing by extending the ability to defer capital gains tax when selling a rental property and reinvesting in rental housing, something that is currently excluded; and
 - Exploring converting unneeded office space to housing.

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- Continue the Conservative commitment to Reconciliation with Canada’s Indigenous Peoples by:
 - enacting a “For Indigenous, By Indigenous” strategy – long called for by Indigenous housing advocates, who have been ignored by the current government;
- Enhance the viability of using Community Land Trusts for affordable housing by creating an incentive for corporations and private landowners to donate property to Land Trusts for the development of affordable housing. The incentive will mirror that which exists for donating land to ecological reserves.

To address homelessness, we will:

- Re-implement the Housing First approach, which has been watered down by the current federal government, to aid in the fight against Canada’s addictions crisis.
- Revise the federal government’s substance abuse policy framework to make recovery its overarching goal.
- Invest \$325 million over the next three years to create 1,000 residential drug treatment beds and build 50 recovery community centres across the country.
- Support innovative approaches to address mental health challenges and addiction crises, such as land-based treatment programs developed and managed by Indigenous communities as part of a plan to enhance the delivery of culturally appropriate addictions treatment and prevention services in First Nations communities with high needs.

Concerning health sciences, like vaccine manufacturing, we will:

- Ramp up Canadian research and production capacity by making Canada one of the best jurisdictions globally for pharmaceutical research and development and the production of vaccines and medicine.
- Overhaul Canada’s Pandemic Plan and preparedness to include domestic vaccine research trials development and manufacturing capacity and readiness - with a focus on novel vaccine platforms, keeping and attracting the best minds in Canada, and ensuring secure access to supply during pandemic scenarios - working with universities, the private sector, provinces and territories, and international partner countries to build for the future.

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- Review Health Canada’s regulatory processes and the balance between Canada’s industrial, health, and economic relationships with the global biomanufacturing sector in light of Canada’s poor performance in accessing vaccines during COVID-19.

To support non-profits and those working hard on mental health and addictions, we will take immediate action to restore health funding and to tackle the urgent crises of mental health by:

- Meeting with the Premiers within the first 100 days of forming a government to propose a new health agreement with the provinces and territories that boosts the annual growth rate of the Canada Health Transfer to at least 6%. This will inject nearly \$60 billion into our healthcare system over the next ten years.
- Introduce the *Canada Mental Health Action Plan* that will:
 - Propose to the provinces that they partner with us by dedicating a significant portion of the stable, predictable health funding to mental health to ensure that an additional million Canadians can receive mental health treatment every year.
 - Encourage employers to add mental health coverage to their employee benefit plans by offering a tax credit for 25% of the cost of additional mental health coverage for the first three years.
 - Create a pilot program to provide \$150 million over three years in grants to non-profits and charities delivering mental health and wellness programming.
 - Create a nationwide three-digit suicide prevention hotline.
- Invest \$325 million over the next three years to create 1,000 residential drug treatment beds and build 50 recovery community centres across the country.
- Support innovative approaches to address mental health challenges and addiction crises, such as land-based treatment programs developed and managed by Indigenous communities as part of a plan to enhance the delivery of culturally appropriate addictions treatment and prevention services in First Nations communities with high needs.
- Partner with the provinces to ensure that Naloxone kits are available for free across Canada.

- To help Canada become a place where all Canadians who suffer are offered relief, we will double the direct federal investments in palliative care to places like Bobby's Hospice.

We have a detailed and serious plan to provide green funding and address climate change and its impact on our community. To address climate change and meet or exceed our international obligations, we will take many steps, including:

- Immediately invest in projects that will put Canadians to work, cut commute times, and clean up the environment.
- Creating an accelerated Impact Assessment process for projects that will reduce GHG emissions.
- Investing a billion dollars in Small Modular Reactors, to get this zero-emissions source of electricity and heat to the point that it starts to be deployed across the country.
- Studying the potential for introducing new taxes on frequent flyers, non-electric luxury vehicles and luxury second homes to deter activities that hurt the environment.
- Introducing a zero-emission vehicle mandate based on British Columbia's, requiring 30% of light duty vehicles sold to be zero emissions by 2030;
- Investing in transmission infrastructure to bring clean energy to where it's needed and ensure that our electricity grid can support the growth in electric vehicles;
- Investing a billion dollars in building out electric vehicle manufacturing in Canada, including investing in battery production, parts manufacturing, micro-mobility solutions, and electric trucks;
- Investing a billion dollars in deploying hydrogen technology including hydrogen vehicles;
- Working with provinces, territories, and municipalities to encourage the inclusion of a minimum number of EV charging spaces for new developments;
- Supporting improved electric vehicle battery repurposing and recycling in order to lower the environmental impact of these batteries and lower the cost of vehicles on the resale market.

- Develop a National Clean Energy Strategy that will include the following components:
 - Strengthening Canada’s Grid: a plan to build a cleaner, more resilient grid that is adaptable to regional conditions and priorities. This will include strategies for developing and expanding smart grids, improving interties, increasing the use of mass storage, and developing and deploying new clean energy technology such as nuclear, hydrogen, and renewables.
 - Building a Hydrogen-Powered Future: a plan to explore how Canada can become a world leader in the production of blue and green hydrogen, how hydrogen technology can contribute to a low carbon future, and how Canada can build a foundation for taking advantage of hydrogen’s potential.
 - Liquid Natural Gas Exports: thanks to our clean grid, Canada is able to make the lowest-emission LNG in the world. LNG can be used as an important transition fuel to replace coal as a source of reliable base power, and to provide responsive back-up power for inconsistent renewables in the absence of adequate grid storage.

In order to kick-start building emissions reductions by 2030 and achieve significant, broad-scale reductions in building emissions by 2050, Conservatives will:

- Work with provinces and territories to promote Energy Savings Performance Contracting for government and publicly funded institutional buildings, including a “2030 Bonus” that will provide an additional benefit for those buildings that complete their retrofits prior to 2030.

Last, but certainly not least, concerning immigration, to secure Canada’s future and restore Canada as the model immigration system for the world, we need to rebuild a robust immigration system that:

- Welcomes the best and brightest from around the world to fill critical gaps and robustly grow our economy.
- Offers refuge to heroic human rights defenders and those fleeing persecution who would enrich our national life.
- Strengthens Canadian families by uniting them with their loved ones.

We will implement bold and necessary solutions to the key challenges facing our immigration system to meet these objectives, including:

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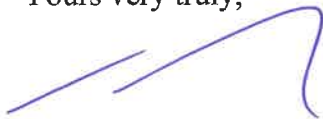
- Creating an efficiency mechanism, where those waiting for their application to be reviewed can pay a fee for expedited processing.
- All revenues from this expedited processing fee will be directed towards hiring additional people to streamline processing wait lines even more.
- Those unable to afford the expedited processing fee will benefit from significantly shortened waits, directly resulting from increased immigration processing capacity.
- This will dramatically speed up processing times, delivering improved outcomes at no additional cost to the taxpayer.
- Working to identify underutilized resources and ensure that our processing capacity is used to its full potential.
- Simplifying and streamlining application processes, reducing red tape, and eliminating duplication.

Conclusion

On behalf of our local campaign and the Conservative Party of Canada, thank you immensely for the opportunity to discuss these critical matters.

Should I be successful in my bid to become the Member of Parliament for Saint John-Rothesay, I look forward to working with you to identify and implement opportunities that will secure the future for Saint John and our region.

Yours very truly,



Mel K. Norton

MKN/mn

From: Ann McAllister <annmcallister72@gmail.com>
Sent: September 1, 2021 12:21 PM
To: Common Clerk <commonclerk@saintjohn.ca>
Subject: Response to City of Saint John Position Paper 2021

[External Email Alert] **Please note that this message is from an external sender. If it appears to be sent from a Saint John employee, please forward the email to spamsample@saintjohn.ca or contact IT Service Desk at 649-6047.**

Dear Mr. Taylor:

As Green Party candidate running in Saint John-Rothesay, I'm pleased to send you my response to the City of Saint John's Position Paper for the 2021 federal election for inclusion on Common Council's agenda for September 7. The response follows below.

August 30, 2021

Mayor Reardon and Councilors:

Re: City of Saint John Position Paper for Saint John- Rothesay candidates in the 2021 federal election

Thank you for **sending** this statement of the City's concerns. I'm pleased to provide a response to the two questions.

The Green Party's policies addressing municipalities align quite well with the City's concerns. One example is this excerpt from the policy manual, Vision Green 2020 on homelessness, a social emergency for almost every municipality in Canada.

Ending homelessness

The Green Party believes it is the right of every Canadian to have affordable, safe, and secure housing. It enhances people's health, dignity, and life opportunities. It is an essential prerequisite to an equitable society. The Green Party supports the delivery of social housing dollars to provincial, territorial, and municipal governments through the traditional vehicle of the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). The funding for social housing needs to be dramatically increased. CMHC programs must be directed to the communities most in need, and fast-tracked to provide homes for people

at risk. The housing provided must be designed with energy conservation in mind.
(Pages 111-112).

https://www.greenparty.ca/sites/default/files/vision_green_-_2019_update_final.pdf

For policies addressing the remaining concerns in the Position Paper, I've attached a copy of Appendix 2, from Vision Green 2020.

In response to the two questions, I agree that the City should receive direct funding from the federal government without the provincial cut, and I also believe that the province should continue contributing to the City.

I therefore support the City's request that future federal government policies align with the position of the Saint John Common Council regarding municipal and social funding, and will seek the Green Party's endorsement.

Ann McAllister

Candidate for Saint John-Rothesay

Green Party of Canada

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Appendix from Vision Green 2020

City Council asked two questions.

Question 1

Are you prepared to support and seek your party's endorsement that future federal government policy should align with City of Saint John's position as follows?

- Place more emphasis on direct funding instead of involving provinces and insisting on a provincial share.
- Remove limitations around stacking of funding for projects from other government programs.
- Continue to provide opportunities to increase gas tax allocations when possible.
- Provide and emphasize direct green funding for small cities (population less than 100,000) so that they may be able to "green" their municipal fleets (electric public works and transit vehicles).
- Place an emphasis on federal government economic impact through federal employment centres or climate change initiatives.

Question 2

Are you prepared to support and seek your party's endorsement that future federal government policy should align with City of Saint John's position as follows?

Support for Social Issues

- Support for affordable housing and homelessness.
- Provide greater support for immigration by making New Brunswick a primary recipient of new immigrants to Canada and providing funding to create the necessary infrastructure and support network to enable the increase in population to ensure new Canadians stay and succeed in New Brunswick.
- Consider Saint John for location as a home for future federal programs
- Invest in Health Sciences in Saint John
- Support the non- profits sector working hard on social issues, such as mental health and poverty reduction

[vision_green_-_2019_update_final.pdf\(greenparty.ca\)](#)

These are specific sections out of the policy document of the Party of Canada related to some of the concerns of the city.

Urban Canadians need their garbage collected, good transit services, safe roads, and dependable water supplies. They also want new investment in green urban infrastructure including recycling,

mass transit, energy efficiency upgrades to buildings, water conservation, and community amenities like parks, sports fields, and arts, culture and community centres. Underlying this is an urgent need to replace aging sewer systems, roadways, and water pipes. All of these are municipal responsibilities, but Canadian municipalities simply don't have enough money to do it all. According to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, only 10% of all taxes collected goes to municipal governments. Canada's biggest fiscal imbalance is the imbalance between municipal governments and everyone else.

The Green Party will redress the real fiscal imbalance facing the level of government least able to tax fully to cover its costs. To support communities, we need to invest in critical infrastructure of transport and water works, to modernize and reduce energy demand.

Green Party MPs

- will support the gas tax commitment to municipal governments.
- will advocate innovative strategies to liberate billions of dollars a year through RRSP deductions for municipal bonds.
- will create a new pool of municipal infrastructure funding by changing tax rules to create a Municipal Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP) bond that can be held in RRSPs and self-directed RRSPs.
- Institutionalize federal transfers to municipalities through the creation of a Municipal Fund, renaming the Gas Tax funds, which were delinked from gas tax revenue years ago.
- Ensure a doubling of current funding to ensure predictable and reliable funding to municipalities.
- Use the Municipal Fund to support sustainable transportation initiatives such as public transit, cycling and pedestrian infrastructure, and rural roads;
- Recognize that access to high-speed internet connections is now a critical aspect of infrastructure and work to expand access to address the 'digital divide';
- Make employer-provided transit passes tax-free by exempting them from taxable benefit status, thereby encouraging workers and businesses to use public transport, and make employee parking a taxable benefit;
- Change tax policy to create a new pool of long-term municipal infrastructure funding by allowing municipalities to issue new Municipal Registered Retirement Savings Plans Bonds which can be held in RRSPs and self-directed RRSPs;
- Fund 'Green Cities' initiatives, ensuring (through contractual agreements) that the funding is not used in ways that encourage urban sprawl, but instead to reduce sprawl and GHG emissions, conserve electricity and water, increase densification, expand convenient, safe, reliable and affordable public transit, and build cycling and walking paths.

The proposed funds are:

- Community Brownfield Remediation (CBR) Fund to provide assistance in cleaning up toxic and brownfield sites;
- Water and Waste Treatment Facilities (WWTF) Fund to upgrade water treatment, sewage treatment, and recycling facilities to make them efficient, safe, and sustainable;
- Sports, Cultural, and Recreational Facilities (SCRF) Fund to support the development of green recreational and cultural facilities and refurbish existing facilities;
- Mass Transit Promotion (MTP) Fund to improve and expand urban mass transit infrastructure and inter-modal connections, as well as car-sharing initiatives;
- Cycling and Pedestrian Promotion (CPP) Fund to support pedestrian and cycling infrastructure and smart-growth developments that transform urban areas and towns into walkable communities linked by transit to reduce the need for owning and using cars; and,
- Community Housing Options Promotion (CHOP) Fund supporting a national housing program to build energy efficient co-operatives and affordable housing units where there is a shortage of such housing options

SOCIAL ISSUES

Greens are committed to nurturing families and communities through integrated policies that focus on the welfare of the child, starting with prenatal nutrition all the way to affordable housing and accessible post-secondary education. We believe we must stop designing our communities around the car and start designing them around families and children. There are no easy solutions. We have to address the multi-layered problems facing families through new, innovative fiscal, labour, and social policies.

Green Party MPs will:

- Urge reforms to our tax and labour policies in ways that will increase the opportunity for Canadians to spend more time with family;
- Promote an integrated program of supports, tax cuts, and awareness-raising emphasizing that time spent with children and/or in the community is essential for the continuation of our society.
- Deliver on the most comprehensive approach to reduce stress on the middle class, while eliminating poverty – a Guaranteed Livable Income.

Green Party policies will create age-friendly communities, where active living and well-being are promoted, where seniors have financial security, and where housing and transportation needs are met. In accordance with a Canadian Senate report in April 2009, the Green Party recognizes the need for improved support for mental health, and palliative care, and the need to combat ageism, abuse, and neglect. Long-term care should not be the only housing and care choice. In a

Balance of Care model, more care can be provided in a cost-effective manner by home and community support services.

Immigration and new Canadians

We have fostered a multicultural democracy that welcomes diversity as an asset, not a threat. Newcomers are a source of incredible skills and potential for our country. We have been enriched as peoples and cultures from all around the world have come to Canada to build their lives here. Other than Indigenous peoples of Turtle Island, we are all immigrants or descendants of immigrants. Immigrants come in search of greater freedoms and opportunities to build fulfilling lives for themselves and their families. Refugees and asylum seekers arrive here having fled unimaginable situations in their home countries, and they seek the exact same things we all aspire to: safety, dignity, and community. We must make sure all migrants are supported in achieving their hopes and ambitions as new Canadians. Canada must review its immigration policy, especially with the imbalance of our demographics escalating to the point where younger generations will be required to bear the burden of supporting our aging population. We need to attract immigrants, and establish a system that is fair.

A Green government would:

- Ensure professionals being considered for immigration will have the licensing requirements for their professions clearly explained before entry
- Work with professional associations to create a robust system for evaluating the education and training credentials of immigrants against Canadian standards, with the goal of expediting accreditation and expanding professional opportunities for immigrants;
- Lead a national discussion to define 'environmental refugee' and advocate for its inclusion as a refugee category in Canada, and accept an appropriate share of the world's environmental refugees into Canada;
- Allocate much greater funding for training in official languages (ESL and FSL) for new immigrants, knowing that many new immigrants are not fluent in either official language, through earmarked transfers to the provinces for primary and secondary public school and free night school programs
- Work with municipalities and provinces to improve the integration of new Canadians into the multicultural fabric of our country;
- Support multicultural communities by assisting cultural organizations to obtain charitable status;
- Eliminate the Temporary Foreign Workers Program and increase immigration where there are labour shortages, working with employers to establish paths to permanent residency;
- Establish a program to process the estimated 200 000 people living in Canada without official status, providing a pathway to permanent residency for those who qualify;

- Reintroduce legislation to establish a Civilian Complaints and Review Commission for the Canada Border Services Agency;
- Terminate Canada's Safe Third Country Agreement with the United States;
- Regulate the immigration consulting industry to ensure universally fair, legal and accessible services to help people navigate the immigration system.
- Increase penalties in the Criminal Code for immigration consultants convicted of human smuggling, and devote more resources to investigations and enforcement;
- Amend the Anti-Terrorism Act and the Public Safety Act to require that, after a reasonable length of time, formal charges be brought against all those detained;
- Open an investigation into allegations by the United Nations Human Rights Committee of Canadian officials cooperating with foreign agencies known to use torture;
- Ensure the 'lost Canadians' quietly being denied citizenship through archaic laws are protected and that their citizenship is restored. Although some significant progress has been made, some are still 'lost';
- Implement the recommendation made by the Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration to grant permanent resident status immediately to those who have refused or left military service in a war not sanctioned by the United Nations;

Ending homelessness

The Green Party believes it is the right of every Canadian to have affordable, safe, and secure housing. It enhances people's health, dignity, and life opportunities. It is an essential prerequisite to an equitable society. The Green Party supports the delivery of social housing dollars to provincial, territorial, and municipal governments through the traditional vehicle of the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). The funding for social housing needs to be dramatically increased. CMHC programs must be directed to the communities most in need, and fast-tracked to provide homes for people at risk. The housing provided must be designed with energy conservation in mind.

August 31, 2021

Attn: Mayor Reardon, Council, City officials

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to respond to the City of Saint John's position paper. I have broken down my response and commitments in the order as the paper itself.

Funding support:

I will start by saying that it has been frustrating to watch Saint John be overlooked for advancements and investments for my entire life living here as a voter and resident. We have the space, we have the need, we have the workforce to fill the jobs. Saint John is a destination that many look to when they want small town, home like feel, mixed with 21st century progressive opportunities. I would like to see that expanded on with the development of more green energy production. With the strongest and highest changing tides in the world we have the opportunity to be a model city for green energy production. If I am your next MP, I will push in Ottawa for development on this platform immediately. Partnered with our ability in New Brunswick to foster a growing wind and solar industry we can be the envy of Canada and the world in green energy production. As discussed in this paper I 100% support the removal of red tape in gaining funding for government programs. If the funding is possible it will be explored and provided in all cases that focus on the growth and prosperity of our city and citizens.

I have for years fought against the excuse of "jurisdictional barriers" as your MP I will never use that as an excuse for inaction. Though many problems faced by our municipality and community fall out of said Jurisdiction I believe that a member of parliament's job is to bring all parties (municipal, provincial, federal as well as the people we serve) to the table to ensure cooperation and open dialogue in planning, negotiation and implementation. I also believe that It is the duty of our MP to pressure our provincial government to work in the best interest of the people of Saint John – Rothesay. Federal MPs have the power to create pressure on provincial counterparts and I intend to relentlessly apply said pressure while working directly with the municipal leaders on these files. Myself and the NDP plan to implement funding programs direct with municipalities should there be the interest and need on such projects. Projects including public transportation expansion within and between communities. We will work with municipalities to eventually achieve no fair transportation should that be the goal. We will work with Mayor and council directly to encourage, fund, and grow active transport in one of the most beautiful places in Canada. All current benefit programs in place that benefit the city should remain until such time as a better, stronger replacement is in place. With the support of my entire caucus we will work toward investing in the people of Saint John through the creation of green jobs, incentives, and supports. Such statements as "green transportation" will no longer be just an election conversation. To conclude this section I will state that I believe that respectful partnership needs to happen between all levels of government and across all party lines to

achieve contribution from all involved, while also having direct conversation and investment between federal and municipal governments.

Support for social issues

I have lived in Saint John for most of my life and have faced many of the social issues that are present today. Affordable housing, well paying job availability and much more. My fight is for affordability as a whole and the systemic break down that leads us to an economy and world that is unaffordable.

Being without a place to live should never be a situation people in our community are forced to face. I along with my NDP colleagues commit to building 500,000 QUALITY affordable homes within 10 years with at least half being complete in the first 5. You will notice the focus on the word quality because it is not enough for us to just give folks a place out of the rain, but to give people in our communities a place to call home. We need to build, and ensure upkeep on these affordable homes so that safety and health do not create the situation of financially affordable but otherwise unusable. We will focus on what I describe as the bigger picture. Committing to build homes is only the beginning and does not come without ripple effects. I will push for a focus on the broader issues such as addiction, mental health, Senior care, and a livable income (be it from a 20\$/ hour federal minimum wage, addressing the Old Age Security issues, or a universal basic income). We will also work to remove student debt and create accessible education to allow more folks to pursue the trades that will be needed to build these homes. Constructing buildings and walking away is a band aid and not a fix in itself. We need to tackle the issues that lead to homelessness and poverty. We need to work with provinces to increase funding for mental health and LTC. We need to create programs such as pharmacare and dental care to ensure that folks regardless of their income or employment status do not have to choose between rent and medications. This also takes the responsibility of such important benefits out of the hands of employers, ensuring that it is not a factor when filling employment gaps. We plan to stop treating addiction as a crime and focus on the important aspect; treatment and recovery. by breaking down the systemic barriers we can achieve not only affordable housing but sustainable progress on the file of poverty as a whole, which I believe you can all agree is a large local issue. The previously mentioned programs around access to housing, health coverage and accessible education encourages population growth in our municipality. UNBSJ is a internationally well-respected institution bringing in large numbers of international students every year. By pushing this city as a viable option post schooling, we can increase our population with newcomers by the hundreds per year. Partnered with our desirable location with deterrents like lack of a livable income and unaffordable cost of living being removed, we can meet and exceed the 2000 person influx per year needed in population growth stated in previous city council reports.

Lastly I will speak to health sciences. As a health care worker, I recognize more than most the state of our system. The lack of funding, low worker retention, and for profit LTC has brought our healthcare system in NB to the brink of collapse. We have heard constantly for the

past few months about the 900 vacancies in nursing jobs and the restrictive hours in some emergency rooms across the province. This is not sustainable. The first step toward increasing our ability to create health science-based jobs is training. With our plans around access to education including but not limited to: EI availability for those pursuing education, removal of student debt, and affordable housing we will support those who want to pursue education in health sciences. The next step relies on a previously mentioned commitment; To work directly with municipal government while bringing the provincial leaders to the table to contribute to the funding and development of such infrastructure. These conversations and agreements however should not rely solely on the acceptance of all three levels. Finally we return back to breaking down barriers and removing bureaucratic red tape that restrict non profits and municipal governments from accessing funding. These commitments will directly and positively impact the people of Saint John.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Don Paulin', with a stylized, cursive script.

Don Paulin
NDP Candidate, Saint John – Rothesay