



CITY OF SAINT JOHN | NEW BRUNSWICK

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

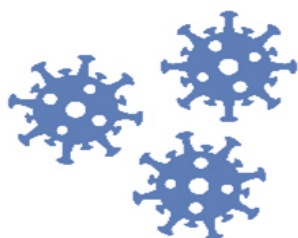


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# A look back at 2023 - in our city, our province, our country, our world



January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023

On 1 January 2023, local government of New Brunswick restructured the entities throughout the province. The previous 340 entities were replaced by 77 local governments and 12 rural districts.



February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Thousands killed in 7.8-magnitude earthquake in Turkey and Syria.



April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Finland becomes the 31<sup>st</sup> member nation of NATO.



May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023

India's population is thought to surpass China's for the first time, making India the new most populous country.



May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023

King Charles III is crowned in the United Kingdom. His coronation is the first in seven decades, following the death of Queen Elizabeth II.



September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023

NASA declares the summer of 2023 to be the warmest on record since record-keeping began in 1880.



December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023

The City passes 2024 budget with highest amount to date and with lowest property tax rate over two decades.

# WELCOME TO SAINT JOHN

The City of Saint John has the second largest population base in New Brunswick at 69,895 residents (2021 Census). It is, however, New Brunswick's largest city, covering an area of 316 square kilometers. In fact, both Fredericton (133 km<sup>2</sup>) and Moncton (142 km<sup>2</sup>) would fit within the boundaries of the City. Saint John CMA's population stands at 130,613 (2021 Census). According to Statistics Canada, the greater Saint John area posted positive population growth of 3.5% (+4.41 per thousand) which the City of Saint John accounted for more than 50% of this new regional growth (Annual Demographic Estimates: Sub provincial Areas, July 1, 2021).

Located in southern New Brunswick, along the Bay of Fundy, Saint John is Canada's oldest City as it was incorporated in 1785. Throughout the years, the City has grown into a historically rich and culturally diverse city. Citizens enjoy a thriving arts and cultural community and easy access to a variety of exceptional recreational facilities and green spaces.



# Small City, Big Opportunities.



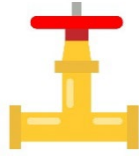
SAINT JOHN

# 2023 GENERAL FUND RESULTS

The City of Saint John is required by the Local Governance Act of New Brunswick to balance its budget. That means that every year, the City must operate in a way where its expected expenses equal its expected revenues. The following is a snapshot of the General Fund results for 2023:



	<u>2023 Actual</u>	<u>2023 Budget</u>
<i>Revenues</i>		
Property Taxes	\$ 142,169,733	\$ 142,169,733
Equalization & Unconditional Grant	\$ 15,868,062	\$ 15,868,062
Surplus 2nd Previous Year	\$ 1,753,145	\$ 1,753,135
Own Source Revenue	\$ 23,510,470	\$ 17,496,570
	<u>\$ 183,301,410</u>	<u>\$ 177,287,500</u>
<i>Expenses</i>		
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 90,819,122	\$ 93,262,979
Goods & Services	\$ 45,572,732	\$ 44,608,967
Agencies, Boards & Commissions	\$ 14,860,246	\$ 13,873,152
Fiscal Charges	\$ 15,669,642	\$ 15,685,605
Capital from Operating	\$ 5,650,000	\$ 5,650,000
Other Miscellaneous	\$ 2,448,361	\$ 300,000
Transfers to Reserves	\$ 8,008,449	\$ 3,906,797
	<u>\$ 183,028,552</u>	<u>\$ 177,287,500</u>
<i>General Fund Surplus</i>	<u>\$ 272,858</u>	<u>\$ -</u>



## 2023 UTILITY FUND RESULTS

The following is a snapshot of the results of the Utility Fund for 2023:

	<u>2023 Actual</u>	<u>2023 Budget</u>
<i>Revenues</i>		
Charges to customers	\$ 47,778,377	\$ 45,898,657
Charges to General Operating Fund		
Water supply for fire protection	\$ 2,588,571	\$ 2,500,000
Storm sewerage	\$ 1,056,155	\$ 925,000
2nd Previous Year's Surplus	<u>\$ 680,796</u>	<u>\$ 680,796</u>
	<u>\$ 52,103,899</u>	<u>\$ 50,004,453</u>
<i>Expenses</i>		
Water supply		
Purification and treatment	\$ 8,659,767	\$ 8,768,620
Transmission and distribution	\$ 5,590,864	\$ 5,117,184
Pumping	\$ 1,318,078	\$ 1,230,957
East watershed management	\$ 115,395	\$ 190,643
West wellfield management	\$ 316,409	\$ 604,310
Industrial Water	\$ 2,740,486	\$ 3,001,964
Sewerage collection, treatment and disposal	\$ 12,149,475	\$ 12,225,896
Billing & collections	\$ 875,001	\$ 1,020,100
Engineering	<u>\$ 738,948</u>	<u>\$ 709,667</u>
	<u>\$ 32,504,423</u>	<u>\$ 32,869,341</u>
<i>Fiscal Charges</i>		
Interest on debenture debt	\$ 2,230,617	\$ 2,808,983
Principal installments on debenture debt	\$ 6,368,000	\$ 5,801,492
Discount on debentures issued	\$ -	\$ 8,750
Capital projects financed by the General Operating Fund	\$ 5,635,008	\$ 5,635,508
Other miscellaneous	-\$ 43,267	\$ -
Funding pension fund	\$ 1,178,206	\$ 1,148,186
Transfer to reserve	<u>\$ 3,923,097</u>	<u>\$ 1,732,193</u>
	<u>\$ 19,291,661</u>	<u>\$ 17,135,112</u>
<i>Utility Fund Surplus</i>	<u>\$ 307,815</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

# YOUR MAYOR AND COUNCIL

The City of Saint John has a council of 10 members and a mayor. Two of the councillors represent the city-at-large and two each represent the City's 4 wards. Council term is normally four years. Municipal elections are held on the second Monday in May to which the newly elected Council assumes office the fourth Monday in May.



Council Members for 2023 and their responsibilities as follows:

*Mayor* • Donna Noade Reardon – Cities of New Brunswick, City Manager Performance Review Committee, Finance Committee, Growth Committee, Nominating Committee, Saint John Board of Police Commissioners, Public Safety Committee

*Deputy Mayor (Ward 2 Councillor)* • John MacKenzie – Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Growth Committee, Nominating Committee

*Ward 1 Councillor* • Joanna Killen – Cities of New Brunswick, Code of Conduct Complaints Committee, Growth Committee, Community Arts Board, Nominating Committee

*Ward 1 Councillor* • Greg Norton – Finance Committee, Code of Conduct Complaints Committee, Aquatic Centre Commission, Saint John Board of Police Commissioners

*Ward 2 Councillor* • Barry Ogden – Civic Commemoration Committee, Community Grants Evaluation Committee, Nominating Committee, Public Safety Committee

*Ward 3 Councillor* ● David Hickey – Civic Commemoration Committee, Code of Conduct Complaints Committee, Finance Committee, Public Safety Committee, Uptown Saint John

*Ward 3 Councillor* ● Gerry Lowe – Growth Committee, Planning Advisory Committee, Saint John Transit Commission

*Ward 4 Councillor* ● Paula Radwan – Code of Conduct Complaints Committee, Finance Committee, Heritage Development Board, Community Arts Board

*Ward 4 Councillor* ● Greg Stewart – City Manager Performance Review Committee, Community Grants Evaluation Committee, TD Station Commission, PRO Kids, Public Safety Committee, Saint John Transit Commission

*Councillor at Large* ● Brent Harris – Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Growth Committee, Saint John Transit Commission

*Councillor at Large* ● Gary Sullivan – City Manager Performance Review Committee, Code of Conduct Complaints Committee, Finance Committee, Planning Advisory Committee, Public Safety Committee, Saint John Energy

## RENUMERATION OF COUNCIL

In 2023 the Mayor and Councillors received salaries totaling \$446,683 as detailed below by position.

Member of Council	Salary in 2023
Mayor Donna Noade Reardon	\$92,708
Deputy Mayor John MacKenzie	\$44,879
Councillor Joanna Killen	\$34,344
Councillor Greg Norton	\$34,344
Councillor Barry Ogden	\$34,344
Councillor David Hickey	\$34,344
Councillor Gerry Lowe	\$34,344
Councillor Paula Radwan	\$34,344
Councillor Greg Stewart	\$34,344
Councillor Brent Harris	\$34,344
Councillor Gary Sullivan	\$34,344



# COUNCIL MEETINGS

All council meetings and committees of council meetings are held in Council Chamber in the Lobby Level of City Hall, 15 Market Square. However, due to the pandemic, first six meetings were held virtually. The regular meetings are open to the public and held every two weeks on Monday evenings beginning at 6:00 pm. Special meetings are held when there are matters that Council determines cannot wait until a regular meeting or that will require very lengthy discussions.

## 2023 COUNCIL MEETING DATES AND ATTENDANCE

Meeting Date	Meeting Type	Members in Attendance
January 9	Regular Open Session	Reardon, MacKenzie, Harris, Sullivan, Killen, Norton, Ogden, Lowe, Hickey, Radwan, Stewart
January 9	Committee of the Whole Closed	Reardon, MacKenzie, Harris, Sullivan, Killen, Norton, Ogden, Lowe, Hickey, Radwan, Stewart
January 23	Regular Open Session	Reardon, MacKenzie, Harris, Sullivan, Killen, Norton, Ogden, Lowe, Hickey, Radwan, Stewart
January 23	Committee of the Whole Closed	Reardon, MacKenzie, Harris, Sullivan, Killen, Norton, Ogden, Lowe, Hickey, Radwan, Stewart
February 6	Regular Open Session	Reardon, MacKenzie, Harris, Sullivan, Killen, Norton, Ogden, Lowe, Hickey, Radwan, Stewart
February 6	Committee of the Whole Closed	Reardon, MacKenzie, Harris, Sullivan, Killen, Norton, Ogden, Lowe, Hickey, Radwan, Stewart
February 21	Regular Open Session	Reardon, MacKenzie, Harris, Sullivan, Killen, Norton, Ogden, Lowe, Hickey, Radwan, Stewart
February 21	Committee of the Whole Closed	Reardon, MacKenzie, Harris, Sullivan, Killen, Norton, Ogden, Lowe, Hickey, Radwan, Stewart
February 27	Regular Open Session	Reardon, MacKenzie, Harris, Sullivan, Killen, Norton, Ogden, Lowe, Hickey, Radwan, Stewart
February 27	Committee of the Whole Closed	Reardon, MacKenzie, Harris, Sullivan, Killen, Norton, Ogden, Lowe, Hickey, Radwan, Stewart
March 6	Regular Open Session	Reardon, MacKenzie, Harris, Killen, Norton, Ogden, Lowe, Hickey, Radwan, Stewart
March 6	Committee of the Whole Closed	Reardon, MacKenzie, Harris, Killen, Norton, Ogden, Lowe, Hickey, Radwan, Stewart
March 20	Regular Open Session	Reardon, MacKenzie, Harris, Sullivan, Killen, Norton, Ogden, Lowe, Hickey, Radwan, Stewart
March 20	Committee of the Whole Closed	Reardon, MacKenzie, Harris, Sullivan, Killen, Norton, Ogden, Lowe, Hickey, Radwan, Stewart
March 27	Regular Open Session	Reardon, MacKenzie, Harris, Sullivan, Killen, Norton, Ogden, Lowe, Hickey, Radwan, Stewart
March 27	Committee of the Whole Closed	Reardon, MacKenzie, Harris, Sullivan, Killen, Norton, Ogden, Lowe, Hickey, Radwan, Stewart
April 3	Regular Open Session	MacKenzie, Harris, Sullivan, Killen, Norton, Ogden, Lowe, Hickey, Radwan, Stewart
April 3	Committee of the Whole Closed	MacKenzie, Harris, Sullivan, Killen, Norton, Ogden, Lowe, Hickey, Radwan, Stewart
April 17	Regular Open Session	Reardon, MacKenzie, Harris, Sullivan, Killen, Norton, Ogden, Lowe, Hickey, Radwan, Stewart
April 17	Committee of the Whole Closed	Reardon, MacKenzie, Harris, Sullivan, Killen, Norton, Ogden, Lowe, Hickey, Radwan, Stewart
May 1	Regular Open Session	Reardon, MacKenzie, Harris, Sullivan, Killen, Norton, Ogden, Lowe, Hickey, Radwan, Stewart

## 2023 COUNCIL MEETING DATES AND ATTENDANCE (CONTINUED)

Meeting Date	Meeting Type	Members in Attendance
May 1	Committee of the Whole Closed	Reardon, MacKenzie, Harris, Sullivan, Killen, Norton, Ogden, Lowe, Hickey, Radwan, Stewart
May 3	Committee of the Whole Closed	Reardon, MacKenzie, Harris, Sullivan, Killen, Norton, Ogden, Lowe, Hickey, Radwan, Stewart
May 15	Regular Open Session	Reardon, MacKenzie, Harris, Sullivan, Killen, Ogden, Lowe, Hickey, Radwan, Stewart
May 15	Committee of the Whole Closed	Reardon, MacKenzie, Harris, Sullivan, Killen, Ogden, Lowe, Hickey, Radwan, Stewart
May 23	Regular Open Session	Reardon, MacKenzie, Harris, Sullivan, Norton, Ogden, Lowe, Hickey, Radwan, Stewart
May 23	Committee of the Whole Closed	Reardon, MacKenzie, Harris, Sullivan, Norton, Ogden, Lowe, Hickey, Radwan, Stewart
June 12	Regular Open Session	Reardon, MacKenzie, Harris, Sullivan, Killen, Norton, Ogden, Lowe, Hickey, Radwan, Stewart
June 12	Committee of the Whole Closed	Reardon, MacKenzie, Harris, Sullivan, Killen, Norton, Ogden, Lowe, Hickey, Radwan, Stewart
June 19	Regular Open Session	Reardon, MacKenzie, Harris, Sullivan, Killen, Norton, Ogden, Lowe, Hickey, Radwan, Stewart
June 19	Committee of the Whole Closed	Reardon, MacKenzie, Harris, Sullivan, Killen, Norton, Ogden, Lowe, Hickey, Radwan, Stewart
June 26	Regular Open Session	Reardon, MacKenzie, Harris, Sullivan, Killen, Norton, Ogden, Lowe, Hickey, Radwan, Stewart
June 26	Committee of the Whole Closed	Reardon, MacKenzie, Harris, Sullivan, Killen, Norton, Ogden, Lowe, Hickey, Radwan, Stewart
July 10	Regular Open Session	Reardon, MacKenzie, Sullivan, Killen, Norton, Ogden, Lowe, Radwan, Stewart
July 10	Committee of the Whole Closed	Reardon, MacKenzie, Sullivan, Killen, Norton, Ogden, Lowe, Radwan, Stewart
July 24	Regular Open Session	Reardon, MacKenzie, Harris, Sullivan, Killen, Norton, Ogden, Lowe, Hickey, Radwan, Stewart
July 24	Committee of the Whole Closed	Reardon, MacKenzie, Harris, Sullivan, Killen, Norton, Ogden, Lowe, Hickey, Radwan, Stewart
August 14	Regular Open Session	Reardon, MacKenzie, Harris, Sullivan, Killen, Norton, Ogden, Lowe, Hickey, Radwan, Stewart
August 14	Committee of the Whole Closed	Reardon, MacKenzie, Harris, Sullivan, Killen, Norton, Ogden, Lowe, Hickey, Radwan, Stewart
August 21	Regular Open Session	Reardon, MacKenzie, Harris, Sullivan, Killen, Norton, Ogden, Lowe, Hickey, Radwan
August 21	Committee of the Whole Closed	Reardon, MacKenzie, Harris, Sullivan, Killen, Norton, Ogden, Lowe, Hickey, Radwan
September 5	Regular Open Session	Reardon, MacKenzie, Sullivan, Norton, Ogden, Lowe, Hickey, Radwan, Stewart
September 5	Committee of the Whole Closed	Reardon, MacKenzie, Sullivan, Norton, Ogden, Lowe, Hickey, Radwan, Stewart
September 18	Regular Open Session	Reardon, MacKenzie, Harris, Sullivan, Killen, Norton, Ogden, Lowe, Hickey, Radwan, Stewart
September 18	Committee of the Whole Closed	Reardon, MacKenzie, Harris, Sullivan, Killen, Norton, Ogden, Lowe, Hickey, Radwan, Stewart
October 3	Regular Open Session	Reardon, MacKenzie, Harris, Sullivan, Killen, Norton, Ogden, Lowe, Hickey, Radwan, Stewart

## 2023 COUNCIL MEETING DATES AND ATTENDANCE (CONTINUED)

Meeting Date	Meeting Type	Members in Attendance
October 3	Committee of the Whole Closed	Reardon, MacKenzie, Harris, Sullivan, Killen, Norton, Ogden, Lowe, Hickey, Radwan, Stewart
October 10	Regular Open Session	MacKenzie, Harris, Sullivan, Killen, Norton, Ogden, Lowe, Hickey, Radwan, Stewart
October 10	Committee of the Whole Closed	MacKenzie, Harris, Sullivan, Killen, Norton, Ogden, Lowe, Hickey, Radwan, Stewart
October 16	Regular Open Session	MacKenzie, Harris, Sullivan, Killen, Norton, Ogden, Lowe, Hickey, Radwan, Stewart
October 16	Committee of the Whole Closed	MacKenzie, Harris, Sullivan, Killen, Norton, Ogden, Lowe, Hickey, Radwan, Stewart
October 30	Regular Open Session	Reardon, MacKenzie, Harris, Sullivan, Ogden, Lowe, Hickey, Radwan, Stewart
October 30	Committee of the Whole Closed	Reardon, MacKenzie, Harris, Sullivan, Ogden, Lowe, Hickey, Radwan, Stewart
November 14	Regular Open Session	Reardon, MacKenzie, Harris, Sullivan, Killen, Norton, Ogden, Lowe, Hickey, Radwan, Stewart
November 14	Committee of the Whole Closed	Reardon, MacKenzie, Harris, Sullivan, Killen, Norton, Ogden, Lowe, Hickey, Radwan, Stewart
November 27	Regular Open Session	Reardon, MacKenzie, Harris, Sullivan, Killen, Ogden, Lowe, Hickey, Radwan, Stewart
November 27	Committee of the Whole Closed	Reardon, MacKenzie, Harris, Sullivan, Killen, Ogden, Lowe, Hickey, Radwan, Stewart
December 11	Regular Open Session	Reardon, MacKenzie, Harris, Sullivan, Ogden, Lowe, Hickey, Radwan, Stewart
December 11	Committee of the Whole Closed	Reardon, MacKenzie, Harris, Sullivan, Ogden, Lowe, Hickey, Radwan, Stewart
December 18	Regular Open Session	Reardon, MacKenzie, Harris, Sullivan, Killen, Norton, Ogden, Lowe, Hickey, Radwan, Stewart
December 18	Committee of the Whole Closed	Reardon, MacKenzie, Harris, Sullivan, Killen, Norton, Ogden, Lowe, Hickey, Radwan, Stewart
December 19	Committee of the Whole Closed	Reardon, MacKenzie, Harris, Killen, Norton, Ogden, Lowe, Hickey, Radwan, Stewart

## PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

In 2023 the Public Safety Committee consists of Mayor Donna Reardon, Councillor Gary Sullivan, Councillor Barry Ogden, Councillor David Hickey and Councillor Greg Stewart.

Meeting Date	Meeting Type	Members in Attendance
May 4	Open	Reardon, Sullivan, Ogden, Hickey, Stewart
May 4	Closed	Reardon, Sullivan, Ogden, Hickey, Stewart
October 25	Open	Reardon, Sullivan, Ogden, Hickey, Stewart
October 25	Closed	Reardon, Sullivan, Ogden, Hickey, Stewart
December 6	Open	Reardon, Sullivan, Ogden, Hickey, Stewart
December 6	Closed	Reardon, Sullivan, Ogden, Hickey, Stewart

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

In 2023, the Finance Committee consisted of Mayor Donna Reardon, Councillor Gary Sullivan, Councillor Greg Norton, Councillor Paula Radwan and Councillor David Hickey.

Meeting Date	Meeting Type	Members in Attendance
March 22	Open	Reardon, Sullivan, Norton, Radwan, Hickey
March 22	Closed	Reardon, Sullivan, Norton, Radwan, Hickey
April 26	Open	Reardon, Sullivan, Norton, Radwan, Hickey
April 26	Closed	Reardon, Sullivan, Norton, Radwan, Hickey
May 31	Open	Reardon, Sullivan, Radwan, Hickey
May 31	Closed	Reardon, Sullivan, Radwan, Hickey
June 28	Open	Reardon, Sullivan, Norton, Radwan, Hickey
June 28	Closed	Reardon, Sullivan, Norton, Radwan, Hickey
August 24	Open	Reardon, Sullivan, Norton, Hickey
August 24	Closed	Reardon, Sullivan, Norton, Hickey
October 26	Open	Reardon, Sullivan, Norton, Radwan, Hickey
October 26	Closed	Reardon, Sullivan, Norton, Radwan, Hickey
November 8	Open	Reardon, Sullivan, Norton, Radwan, Hickey
November 8	Closed	Reardon, Sullivan, Norton, Radwan, Hickey
November 22	Open	Reardon, Sullivan, Norton, Radwan, Hickey
November 22	Closed	Reardon, Sullivan, Norton, Radwan, Hickey
November 29	Open	Reardon, Sullivan, Norton, Radwan, Hickey
November 29	Closed	Reardon, Sullivan, Norton, Radwan, Hickey

## GROWTH COMMITTEE

In 2023 the Growth Committee consists of Mayor Donna Reardon, Deputy Mayor John MacKenzie, Councillor Joanna Killen, Councillor Gerry Lowe and Councillor Brent Harris.

Meeting Date	Meeting Type	Members in Attendance
January 17	Open	Reardon, MacKenzie, Harris, Killen, Lowe
January 17	Closed	Reardon, MacKenzie, Harris, Killen, Lowe
February 22	Open	Reardon, MacKenzie, Harris, Killen, Lowe
February 22	Closed	Reardon, MacKenzie, Harris, Killen, Lowe
April 11	Open	Reardon, MacKenzie, Harris, Killen, Lowe
April 11	Closed	Reardon, MacKenzie, Harris, Killen, Lowe
June 6	Open	Reardon, MacKenzie, Harris, Killen, Lowe
June 6	Closed	Reardon, MacKenzie, Harris, Killen, Lowe
June 22	Open	Reardon, Harris, Killen, Lowe
June 22	Closed	Reardon, Harris, Killen, Lowe
July 4	Open	Reardon, MacKenzie, Harris, Killen, Lowe
July 4	Closed	Reardon, MacKenzie, Harris, Killen, Lowe
October 31	Open	Reardon, MacKenzie, Lowe
October 31	Closed	Reardon, MacKenzie, Lowe
November 21	Open	Reardon, MacKenzie, Lowe
November 21	Closed	Reardon, MacKenzie, Lowe
December 15	Open	Reardon, MacKenzie, Lowe
December 15	Closed	Reardon, MacKenzie, Lowe

# MUNICIPAL GRANTS

The Municipal Grants Program supports the City of Saint John's ongoing pursuit to be a community of choice and promote economic health to residents and visitors. This program recognizes Council's Priorities and the City's current and future fiscal capacity. In 2023, the City of Saint John provided the following grants:

Recipient	Amount
Arab Association of Saint John	\$2,500
Association of Ubuntu Inc.	\$2,500
Bee Me Kidz	\$12,500
Big Brothers – Big Sisters	\$10,000
Carleton Community Centre Inc.	\$10,000
Chroma: Pride, Inclusion	\$10,000
Dennis Morris Community Centre	\$6,000
Fillipino Association of New Brunswick	\$2,500
First Steps Housing Project Inc.	\$7,500
Jewish Historical Museum	\$3,650
K B M Outing Association	\$6,000
Kennebecasis Valley Minor Hockey	\$3,485
L'Arche Saint John	\$7,500
Lewallen Thomas	\$4,000
Martinon Community Rec Center	\$6,000
Outflow Ministries Inc.	\$12,500
Portland United Church	\$1,000
Prude Inc.	\$15,000
Read Saint John	\$3,000
Red Latin Southwest NB Inc.	\$2,350
Roy Gisele	\$450
Saint John Human Dev. Council	\$15,000
Saint John Malayali Association	\$2,500
Saint John Multicultural & New	\$20,000
Saint John Sea Dogs	\$17,500
Saint John Taekwondo	\$500
Seniors' Resource Centre	\$6,000
Shining Horizons Therapeutic R	\$12,000
Sphere Adventure Programs	\$3,000
Spirito Strings Studio	\$210
Stonehammer Geopark	\$4,000
Tucker Park Recreation Association	\$8,000
We Believe – Saint John Inc.	\$3,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$220,145</b>

## MUNICIPAL GRANTS (CONTINUED)

The City of Saint John believes that one of the most effective means of facilitating the development of arts and culture in Saint John is to provide funding support to non-profit arts and/or cultural organizations serving our community. In this way, arts and culture organizations are encouraged to establish themselves, enhance their services, and provide their programming to the community. Accordingly, the City through the Saint John Community Arts Board has implemented the Community Arts Funding Program. This Program is designed to provide project support for non-profit organizations or groups wishing to offer quality arts activities in any discipline of the creative arts within the City of Saint John. In 2023, the City of Saint John issued grants totaling \$500 or more to the following:

Recipient	Description	Amount
Ampersand Collaborations Perluete	The Gloaming-la penombre-piluamugmiaq	\$1,550
Atlantic Canada Palestinian Society of Saint John	Tatreez Art Learning Café	\$2,210
Commission de la Bibliotheque Le Cormoran	Salon du livre de Saint-Jean	\$2,050
Connection Dance Works	Saint John Contemporary Dance Festival	\$3,500
Indo-Canadian Society of Saint John	Diwali Utsav-Festival of Lights	\$3,550
Industrial Parks	Emerging Artists Festival	\$3,500
InterAction School of Performing Arts	Open Stage for the Underage	\$1,250
Saint John Jewish Historical Museum	Artist in Residence	\$3,050
Saint John Music Communities Inc.	Saint John Rock Camp Alumni Residency Program	\$1,590
Stone Church/Waterloo Village Neighborhood Association	Drop-in Art Program	\$3,050
Symphony New Brunswick	Community Library Support	\$1,500
Symphony New Brunswick	SJSQ On the Move	\$3,550
Third Space	Grass/Roots	\$1,300
Third Space Gallery	Third Shi: RECLAMATIO N	\$3,500
Uptown Saint John	Uptown Sparkles	\$2,050
Writers' Federation of New Brunswick	WordSpring 2023	\$2,800
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$40,000</b>

# A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

2023, we achieved significant milestones that will positively shape Saint John's future and set a solid foundation for the years ahead. Our efforts to capture economic growth, develop infrastructure, and enhance the quality of life for our residents have led to historic achievements.

One of our most notable achievements in 2023 was our population growth. After years of planning and strategic initiatives, we have surpassed 75,000 residents. In 2023, we welcomed 2,353 new residents, exceeding our annual growth target of 2%. This success reflects initiatives like the "Succeed and Stay" Immigration Strategy, which has made Saint John an increasingly attractive place to live, work, and invest.

Our construction sector experienced a strong year. We reached \$148.1 million in building permits, exceeding the five-year average by more than \$48 million. Notably, 479 new housing units were created, far surpassing the five-year average of 284 units.

With growth came the need to address a pressing issue in our community—affordable housing. The City launched its first-ever grant program to support the creation of new affordable housing. We allocated \$200,000 to four projects that will deliver over 200 affordable housing units. We will continue to support the creation of affordable housing.

Through careful fiscal management and strategic investments, we reduced the tax rate by four cents, bringing it down to \$1.58 per \$100 of assessed value. This marks the third consecutive year of tax rate reduction for rate payers down from 1.785. We must ensure our city has the tax base to support services while remaining competitive within the Maritimes.

The City also made important investments in upgrading and expanding Harbour Passage. A new trail leading to Tin Can Beach was built, and we received federal funding for a new addition called "The Cove." This will connect the Lower West Side to the East Side. These investments will enhance our public spaces improve accessibility for everyone.



Another major highlight of 2023 was the expansion of Port Saint John. With the addition of two new post-Panamax cranes, the port processed 155,000 TEUs—its highest volume on record. The port's access to three Class 1 railways, positions Saint John as a key player in international trade. These upgrades will create good paying jobs and increase demand for industrial development. Recognizing the impact of port growth on our rail crossings, we entered into an historic funding agreement with the Government of New Brunswick and New Brunswick Southern Railway to upgrade crossings at Sherbrooke Street and Sand Cove Road. These improvements, including new gates, upgraded warning lights, and signage, will enhance safety as train traffic increases and ensure quality of life is maintained for citizens.

Looking ahead, we will continue building on the momentum generated in 2023. Our focus remains on creating a city that is growing, thriving with neighbourhoods that are connected to inclusive and social incentives—a place where every resident can take pride in calling Saint John home. I am proud to continue to serve residents of Saint John, and I am excited for the future of the City of Saint John.

*Mayor Donna Noade Reardon*

# A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

## ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER



I am incredibly proud of the City for its financial accomplishments and its disciplined approach that is helping transform our fiscal realities.

The time and effort put into the development of sound financial policies, viable plan and a strategic plan were extraordinary. Finance Committee, Council and staff have worked as one to remain committed and focused on bringing value to the taxpayers and rate payers through the review, updating and expansion of plans and policies as well as the renewal and creation of long-term financial plans. These policies and plans set the course for an even more efficient City of Saint John operation that focuses on bringing value to those who choose to make Saint John home, a place to do business or a place to visit.

I am personally convinced that the positive and ongoing transformation of Saint John will continue for many years to come now that a strong foundation has been established. Our community is growing in population, in the number of businesses, jobs, housing, tourism, and innovation, it is an exciting time.

To continue to build on our momentum and realize the significant opportunities before us we must remain committed in our focus of wise fiscal management and of growing our City. Only by remaining disciplined in each of our decisions will we achieve our long-term goals and those within our strategic plan. With that will come the continued growth of our community and vibrancy that we are experiencing.

In closing, a sincere thank you to all involved, your contributions are making a significant positive impact. Let's continue moving Saint John forward together.

*J. Brent McGovern*



## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

As we look back on 2023 the City can be proud of its many fiscal achievements including meeting debt reduction, tax rate reduction, and reserve fund increase targets set forth in the City's long term financial plan. The Annual Report includes the audit report from Deloitte, the Consolidated Financial Statements and supplementary information for the fiscal year ended December 31st, 2023. The Consolidated Financial Statements consist of:

- Consolidated Statement of Financial Position which provides a summary of the City's financial assets and liabilities, non-financial assets, and accumulated surplus at the end of the year,
- Consolidated Statement of Operations and accumulated surplus (summary of the annual surplus for the year, consisting of revenues (funds raised) and expenses (funds used), including amortization,
- Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows which summarizes the City's cash position highlighting sources and uses of cash,
- Consolidated Statement of Changes in Net Debt which summarizes how much cash is required to pay all debts and obligations, calculated by subtracting financial assets from financial liabilities.

Despite economic challenges impacted by inflation, interest rates and supply chain, the financial statements demonstrate continuous financial improvement including significant financial capital expenditures to address infrastructure needs in the community. Overall, the City's 2023 financial health was strengthened with a strong assessment base growth, strong budgetary practices that manage inflation within service delivery and continued investment in community.

We continue to ensure future generations do not inherit liability as the City's Net Debt Position declines from \$331 million in 2018 to \$59 million in 2023, with our sights now securely focused on achieving a Net Surplus position in coming years.



We continue to increase the City's financial flexibility and reduce the City's financial vulnerability with measures such as increasing investment in reserve funds, for which increased from \$37 million in 2022 to almost \$49 million in 2023. And the City continues to be fiscally responsible with an annual operating surplus despite a myriad of economic challenges. The City also continues to possess ample liquidity and resilient growth while maintaining diligence in cost management.

I hope you take some time to review the 2023 Annual Report which includes important segmented disclosures of several City controlled entities including Saint John Water, the Police Commission, TD Station Commission, Canada Games Aquatic Centre Commission, Saint John Transit Commission, and the City's investment in Saint John Energy. The City is a leader in fiscal management. Current and future residents, investors, employees, businesses, and government partners can be confident in knowing that Saint John is moving forward.

*Kevin Fudge*

# 2023 FINANCIAL STATEMENT DISCUSSION & ANALYSIS

The Audited Consolidated Financial Statements for the City of Saint John are prepared in accordance with Public Sector Accounting Standards of Canada. These standards require that require consolidation of the following 12 entities:

- The City of Saint John General Operating Fund
- The City of Saint John Capital Fund
- The City of Saint John Utility Operating Fund
- The City of Saint John Utility Capital Fund
- Saint John Transit Commission
- Harbour Station Commission
- Saint John Aquatic Centre Commission
- Saint John Trade and Convention Centre
- Saint John Energy
- Lord Beaverbrook Rink
- Saint John Police Commission
- Saint John Free Public Library

The City of Saint John is deemed to have control over those 12 entities and that is why they are included as part of the consolidated financial statements. The financial concept of “control” is complex but there are certain indicators as to why some of the entities connected to the City are consolidated, while others are not. For example, “control” is present when the City has unilateral power to appoint or remove a majority of the members of the organization or appoint or remove the CEO of the organization or another other key personnel. These are only two examples of control of many that exist.



## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Looking at the Consolidated Statement of Financial Position, Net Debt now stands at \$58.8M for 2023 (\$97.3M 2022). Net Debt is a key performance indicator of a Municipality’s overall financial health. The higher the level

of Net Debt, the more future revenues will be needed to fund past transactions and events.

The City of Saint John has continued to follow its long-term financial plan. Debt of the General Funds has decreased by 30.07% since 2014 and the balance for end of 2023 is \$83.30M. Saint John Water has reduced its long-term debt by 36.37% since 2017 with a balance of \$69.24M for 2023.

The City’s financial health continues to improve with overall reserve balance of \$48.72M, increase of \$11.17M over 2022. (See Note 21. Statement of Reserves)



## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

Overall revenue has increased by \$4.04M (1.69%) on the Consolidated Statement of Operations and Accumulated Surplus. The actuarial adjustments on post employment benefits were less that previous year. Government transfers for Capital was up significantly over previous year. The \$26.92M received in 2023 was due to various funding secured for projects that were undertaken in 2023.

Overall expenditures increased by \$8.61M (4.20%) over previous year. The cause of the increase is mainly a result of a new public sector accounting standard Asset Retirement Obligation adopted by the City, resulting in a non cash expense of \$5.13M for the year 2023.

Overall, the City finished with a total surplus of \$56.56M which is mainly attributed to higher than expected property tax revenue due to higher assessment base growth, increased revenue from own sources and non cash actuarial adjustment from Saint John Energy.