

To the Candidates of the Federal Election of 2021 offering in the riding of New Brunswick Southwest.

The Town of Grand Bay-Westfield is the largest town in the riding of New Brunswick Southwest with a population of 4, 964. After years of decline, linked to the economic activity of the City of Saint John, the Town has been experiencing growth and is moving forward. The Town wants to be a part of the solution that turns New Brunswick into a 'have' province.

To achieve its potential, the Council of the Town of Grand Bay-Westfield has been intentional in mapping its future with the development of the Strategic Plan 2021-2025 and a new Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan expected in September.

The strategic pillars Council has identified include:

1. Population Growth to Achieve Financial Sustainability,
2. Organizational Capacity,
3. Infrastructure Sustainability and Climate Adaptation, and
4. Community Vitality.

The Council of the Town of Grand Bay-Westfield wants to partner with you, and your party should you be a part of the government, to facilitate the growth, wellness and prosperity of our community.

As the MP for New Brunswick Southwest are you prepared to collaborate with the Council of the Town of Grand Bay-Westfield and its Administration to:

### **Population Growth to Achieve Financial Sustainability,**

- Increase immigration to the Town through the development of resources within the Town to facilitate settlement of immigrants?
  - Streamline the integration of professional immigrants, such as in health care and engineering, into their respective associations while preserving the integrity of Canada's professional designations?
- Increase affordable housing in the Town through the effective utilization of crown agencies such as Canadian Housing and Mortgage Corporation?
  - Support the development of a long-term care facility and other residential facilities to support increased immigration?
  - Develop a rental housing program offering affordable and convenient choices enabling Grand Bay-Westfield to retain workers, protect our local economy and prevent homelessness?
- Introduce a dedicated Indigenous housing strategy that will enable indigenous housing in Grand Bay-Westfield?
- Support direct funding to municipalities rather than insisting on provincial participation?
- Relocate relevant federal agencies to the Saint John metropolitan region to enhance the local economy and grow the regional population?
- Increase the amount of the Canada Community Building Fund (CCBF) to municipalities?

- Partner with Grand Bay-Westfield to establish a small transit system to ensure timely, effective and convenient transportation to and from Saint John?

### **Organizational Capacity**

- Encourage your government to partner with The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and the Union of New Brunswick Municipalities (UMNB) to ensure:
  - Community infrastructure is in good condition,
  - Public transit and transportation,
  - Climate resilience and disaster mitigation,
  - Support for net zero emissions,
  - Protect and expand affordable housing options, and
  - Funding to offset increased policing costs.

### **Infrastructure Sustainability and Climate Adaptation**

There is no agreement regarding the size of the municipal infrastructure deficit. The Canadian Chamber of Commerce estimates the infrastructure deficit at \$570 billion whereas FCM's estimate is \$123 billion. Municipalities account for 80% of the population, 66% of all infrastructure, and collect only 8% of all taxes levied in Canada.

As the MP for New Brunswick Southwest, are you prepared to collaborate with the Council of the Town of Grand Bay-Westfield and its Administration to:

- Support increased funding to CCBF, a permanent doubling, to address infrastructure deficit for all municipal assets including the integration of smart technology into asset management?
- Ensure funding for climate adaptation including the reduction of greenhouse gases and net zero emissions?
- Grand Bay-Westfield is working to understand the sustainability of its water source for residents: are you prepared to support Council if it is determined that the security of the Town's water source needs to be increased?
- Partner with the Town to strengthen its natural infrastructure through the purchase of land to protect its future water source, increase low-carbon resiliency and ensure access to nature?

### **Community Vitality**

Underreported is Canada's Parks and Recreation infrastructure deficit. As an example: Winnipeg's Park and Recreation infrastructure deficit, the repair and replacement of existing facilities, in 2018 was \$1 billion. The Town of Grand Bay-Westfield has outgrown its facilities including its Community Centrum, Works Garage and Fire Hall #1. Further, the Town doesn't have a library and the community centre, which hosts the arena and small public spaces, is too small.

As the MP for New Brunswick Southwest, are you prepared to collaborate with the Council of the Town of Grand Bay-Westfield and its Administration to:

- Collaborate with the Town to develop new facilities such as a library, large multipurpose space?
- Work with the Town of Grand Bay-Westfield to repair or replace, as necessary, aging and insufficient parks and recreation facilities and Town assets?
- Partner with the Town to access funding to develop public transportation that accesses other municipalities?

- Allow for changes to funding to allow municipalities to partner with key partners, such as the River Valley Community Centre Foundation, to access funding for public facilities that include an arena and public programming space.

### **Summary**

The Council of the Town of Grand Bay-Westfield is committed to working with its partners at all levels of government to transition the province of New Brunswick to a 'have' province. This is work that can not be done individually. It requires all levels of government, stakeholders and residents to work together and to set aside partisan politics.

Without the Government of Canada's partnership to address population growth to achieve financial sustainability, increase the capacity of municipalities, ensuring infrastructure sustainability and climate adaptation, and enhance community vitality, the road to becoming a 'have' province becomes that much more challenging.

Thank you for meeting with Council and we look forward to hearing from you. Your responses will be shared during Council's meeting of September 13<sup>th</sup>.