

Submission to the Hebron Public Review Commission



ST. JOHN'S

The Hebron Project



The City of St. John's supports this project and welcomes the many opportunities and benefits it brings.

It has the potential to positively impact the community socially and economically.

However, it is essential to be informed to realize the opportunities and address the challenges.

Purpose of Presentation



The City of St. John's strives to offer quality infrastructure and associated services for residents.

By being informed of future developments we can better plan for a community that is attractive to residents and newcomers.

A welcoming and vibrant community is essential in retaining and attracting people and investments.

This is crucial in leading this region into the future, and important for community and industry.

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Context



A thriving economy facing a further escalation in growth as a result of a number of major projects and local developments.

We will be hiring a consultant to prepare a report about impacts on community from a number of major planned projects.

There may be some pressures on the community, but a better understanding of the issues is necessary to address any challenges.

Community and industry need to work together.

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Community- Based Programming



Reports suggest that the effect of the Hebron project in several areas is minimal. However, combining with other economic activity and quickly changing data, some targets may be moving more quickly than anticipated.

For example, there may be challenges in the area of recreation. The number of recreation facilities in the region has increased, however, some programs such as aquatics and day camps face a higher demand than supply can currently accommodate.

Housing



Housing is another area where current activity has exceeded forecasts.

Housing starts for this year have already exceeded the forecasted values. Vacancy rates for housing and office space remain low.

Engagement and information exchange with the community may assist in alleviating some challenges in this area.

Labour Force

Economic prosperity has created more job opportunities and we have seen declining unemployment. However, the changing labour market is expected to bring challenges.

The increasingly competitive labour market, both locally and beyond, will have impacts on local employers. Information dissemination on the supply and demand of critical positions among major employers may prove helpful. Precise and timely data may also be beneficial in providing information on opportunities.

Increasing Costs

As the labour market tightens, and availability of staff and contractors become more limited, this may potentially impact the costs of projects undertaken by the City and others in the local area.

Business

The growth and establishment of small business should be encouraged by offering opportunities, such as procurement packages, that are the right size for the local private sector. This strengthens the local business community into the future.

Research & Development



It is important to invest in Research & Development. This will be our legacy and build our capacity and diversification.

Opportunities to further build upon the growing Ocean Technology industry and position the region as a Centre of Excellence in Arctic and harsh environments should be leveraged.

Conclusion



Mechanisms for ongoing exchange of current, relevant information, as well as forecasts, would be advantageous.

Benefits from previous projects have been considerable and extensive.

It is important to work together and engage groups as we move forward to realize the many benefits that can be incurred and ensure a legacy for the future.

Thank you



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