

April 29, 2009

Mr. Bruce Templeton
President
St. John's Board of Trade
34 Harvey Road, 5th Floor
P.O. Box 5127
St. John's, NL A1C 5V5

Dear Mr. Templeton:

Thank you for your letter of April 24th, 2009 and your great interest in the recent forum on urban sprawl and municipal visioning hosted by the city. I certainly agree with your request to support a visioning exercise that looks at the future of St. John's. I intend to work with the Planning Department and endeavour to develop a plan that will make that happen.

Please feel free to contact me if you need further information

Yours truly



for Ron Ellsworth
Deputy Mayor

Cc Director Planning

ST. JOHN'S

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P. O. Box 5127
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Dear Mr. Templeton:

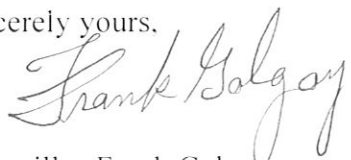
I wish to acknowledge your correspondence dated April 24, 2009, and also to take the opportunity to congratulate you on your election as President of the St. John's Board of Trade.

I am very much aware, as you undoubtedly are, of the unique historic value of the downtown of St. John's which makes us attractive and distinctive to the rest of the world. However, the advent of oil and gas industry with its related demands makes it imperative that we have a visionary process to include all stakeholders in our society. Hopefully, at the end of the process we can accommodate a balance.

I spoke in detail with Councillor Duff, who has much experience and expertise in this area, and she will be getting back to you in due course to discuss the issue and to avail of your advice and suggestions as the process unfolds.

Again, I thank you for your interest and concern, and I look forward to your organization's involvement.

Sincerely yours,



Councillor Frank Galgay
Ward 2

FG/kab

pc: Councillor Shannie Duff

ST. JOHN'S

May 4, 2009

Mr. Bruce Templeton
President of the St. John's Board of Trade,
34 Harvey Road, 5th Floor
P.O. Box 5127
St. John's, NL A1C 5V5

Dear Mr. Templeton:

I was very pleased to receive your letter and your commitment of support for a comprehensive and meaningful visioning exercise which will focus on developing a collective vision for the kind of city we want St. John's to become in the future.

As you know from our recent conversation on this subject, I am a very strong proponent of the need to establish a process for engaging our citizens in some creative thinking about the future city we can collectively create. You are so right in saying that the actions we take today will have a great impact on our quality of life long into the future. I have been thinking about the need for this type of planning process for a long time and have already discussed the concept of a visioning exercise with a number of people including business leaders, architects, planners, artists and residents over the past few months. I have even developed a tentative title for the process **VISION 2020**.

Many if not most Canadian cities of any size have undertaken this kind of community engagement process as part of the development of a long range vision for their communities. The template for such a process is available. Working toward a common vision has been a successful way of building bridges between stakeholder groups who do not always have the opportunity for meaningful and comprehensive dialogue around key community issues and values.

You have referenced the need for "a meaningful public multi-stakeholder consultation that looks at many issues of importance". I am in total support of this concept and will do what I can to bring it about. I do have a concern, however, about being able to accomplish that goal in the lead up to the municipal election.

This kind of visioning exercise, which I think we would both like to see, if it is to be truly "meaningful and comprehensive", will take time and thought to prepare and to implement. It will also require resources.

I am sure that many specific issues and points of view will be raised in the lead up to the coming election but in that circumstance, the issues tend to be more in the nature of short term demands and opinions brought forward by specific interest groups. I believe the best time frame to start the process of a visioning exercise about the future of St. John's, would be immediately following the September election, removed from the time constraints and political pressures of an election.

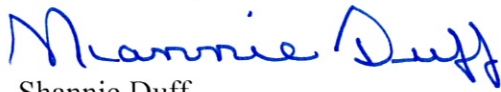
ST. JOHN'S

On receipt of your letter. I had a brief discussion with Mr. Ron Penney and Mr. Art Cheeseman around the possibility of undertaking a visioning exercise about the future of St. John's and how we might approach it. The next step would be to initiate some preliminary discussion at the council level and this I hope to do in the near future.

I want to thank you for your interest and support for this important concept of engaging key stakeholders in the development of a collective long term vision for the future of our beautiful city.

I would be more than happy to meet with you to discuss some ideas about key issues, potential stakeholders and how to move this concept forward.

Your sincerely



Shannie Duff
Councillor-at-Large

cc: Members of Council
Ron Penney, Chief Commissioner/City Solicitor
Art Cheeseman, Associate Commissioner/Director of Engineering
Cliff Johnston, Director of Planning