



SOUTH SHORE FAMILY RESOURCE ASSOCIATION

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Correspondence from:

- Better Together Family Resource, Lunenburg County Site
- Queens Family Resource Centre, Queens County Site
- King Street Family Resource Centre, Shelburne County Site
- Digby Drop In Centre, Digby County Site

April 13, 2018

Privy Council Office
Attn: Impact and Innovation Unit
Room 1000
85 Sparks Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A3

Re: Support for Town of Bridgewater Smart Cities Challenge Grant Application

To the Smart Cities Challenge jury panel:

This is a letter confirming the full support and confidence of the South Shore Family Resource Association in the Town of Bridgewater to address energy poverty by pursuing the Smart Cities Challenge grant.

The South Shore Family Resource Association provides free family resource programming in the counties of Lunenburg, Queens, Digby and Shelburne counties along the South Shore of Nova Scotia. Our centre in Lunenburg County is located in the Town of Bridgewater. We see families who struggle with energy poverty daily. They have to make hard choices for their families on whether they pay certain bills such as power/heating bills, groceries or rent. We offer access to supports such as cooking programs, drop in programs and keep abreast of any government support programs to help them in making these decisions, such as the provincial home heating rebate system.

Our organization has 100% confidence in the Town of Bridgewater in effectively coordinating and working openly with multiple partner organizations to implement their programs and solutions that can be funded through the Smart Cities Challenge grant. The Energize Bridgewater initiative which is one outcome from the Bridgewater Community Energy Investment Plan was so successful that the co-op student working on that initiative won the Top Co-op Student of the Year Award from Dalhousie University. Our organization can support the work of the Town of Bridgewater with their Community Energy Investment Plan by providing space for focus groups, the target population who live with energy poverty and really give them the frontline knowledge of what and how people are dealing with this issue.

If we had community-wide energy poverty initiative, people who live in poverty, would have less stress on them given the type of support and education they could access from this initiative. By learning from those living in poverty, it empowers them. This fits well with our mandate of a strengths based approach to supporting marginalized people and families.

The South Shore Family Resource Association is honored to help and be part of this initiative and we feel that winning the Smart Cities Challenge grant would be a major contribution towards reducing energy poverty in Bridgewater as well as supporting the families we work with every day.

Sincerely,

Heather Fraser, Executive Director
South Shore Family Resource Association