



August 13, 2009

Common Council
City of Saint John
15 Market Square
P.O. Box 1971
Saint John, NB E2L 4L1

Your Worship and Councillors,

On behalf of the Saint John Board of Trade, we would like to take this opportunity to voice our support for the rezoning application for Irving Oil's proposed development on Long Wharf.

This piece of property has been underutilized for many years and now, through private investment, the City has a unique opportunity to revitalize it, and see it become a significant landmark on our waterfront.

Last year, we presented Council with a package containing letters of support for this development from our members during the August 11, 2008 Council meeting. We would like to take this opportunity to respectfully remind Council of the overwhelming support given for the project last August. Support not only from our members but from the residents and businesses of Saint John.

Irving Oil has a solid track record of gathering feedback through public consultation processes. Irving Oil held a public information and consultation session at the Hilton on January 15, 2009 and has constructed a web page, www.longwharf.ca, which provides information on the proposed project. Irving Oil has a history of using the information gathered from the public to form the design and construction of some of the region's most significant architecture – including the Loyalist Burial Grounds, the Irving Nature Park, and most recently K.C. Irving Environmental Science Centre at Acadia University.

In addition to being a focal point on our waterfront and skyline, this development will create numerous beneficial spin-offs for our community and its businesses, while adding significantly to the City's tax base. The potential spin-offs fit nicely with the Inner Harbour Land Use Plan, through increasing public access; new economic development opportunities; better utilization of the community's existing waterfront; tourist visitations; and by creating new integrated development opportunities and long-term revenue generating opportunities for Port Authority properties on the east side of the Inner Harbour. This project will give developers and entrepreneurs the confidence to invest in our city and revitalize other underdeveloped areas.

We feel strongly that this development will benefit the entire community of Saint John and we encourage you to vote in favour of the rezoning application.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Craig
Chair

Imelda Gilman
President

