

April 24, 2018

Honourable Minister Amarjeet Sohi  
Infrastructure and Communities  
Government of Canada  
180 Kent Street, Suite 1100  
Ottawa, ON K1P 0B6

Dear Minister Sohi:

***Re: Smart Cities Challenge***

We enthusiastically offer our support to the Halifax Regional Municipality's submission to the Smart Cities Challenge and the opportunity it presents to build a better future for all Halifax residents.

The Smart Cities Challenge has enabled a powerful community engagement about how we address one of the most pressing social challenges facing our city – food insecurity and the related issues of poverty, physical, mental, and social health.

Halifax is a vibrant growing city. Our Economic Growth Plan has set us on a path to grow our GDP from \$18 billion to \$30 billion and increase our population to 550,000 by 2031. But while early indicators suggest we are achieving good results, we know not everyone in our city is benefiting from economic growth. We must do more to ensure opportunities are available for the nearly 59,000 people in our community who struggle daily to access and afford their essential food needs.

Fundamentally, we believe we all want to live in caring, inclusive, healthy and prosperous communities where everyone can succeed. The Smart Cities Challenge provides us with an opportunity to focus efforts to create innovative and transformative change in our community. We look forward to working with the Halifax Regional Municipality and other partners to address both the immediate food security needs of our community and create the upstream solutions that address root cause and can create long-term sustainable change. Thank you for the chance to write this letter of support.

Sincerely,



Sara Napier  
President & CEO  
United Way Halifax



Ron Hanlon  
President & CEO  
Halifax Partnership