



12 July 2018

Matt DeCoursey, MP, Fredericton
494 Queen Street (Main Office); Suite 300
Fredericton, New Brunswick E3B 1B6
VIA Email: matt.decoursey@parl.gc.ca

RE: Cyber Security in Fredericton - Need for Federal Funding

Dear MP DeCoursey:

The Fredericton Chamber of Commerce would like to express its strong support for a proposed cyber security centre of excellence based in Fredericton focused on critical infrastructure protection as well as cyber-related training for Canadian businesses and Department of National Defence training requirements through their cyber operator development plans. As you are aware, this project would require some financial support from the federal government that would enjoy a significant matching ratio from the private sector in the order of approximately 3:1. As has been discussed at the federal and provincial levels and very well demonstrated through significant private sector investment, Fredericton is the only location in Canada that is ready - today - to assume this lead role in critical infrastructure protection and cyber training. Given the expected exponential growth of the cyber security sector, developing this centre of excellence in Fredericton now will have a generational impact on our economy and draw in the human capital our region desperately needs.

Our cyber security ecosystem has been maturing over the past decade and now includes global companies such as IBM, Siemens and Q1 Labs who have distinguished themselves internationally and are already contributing to cyber security work in our community and across Canada. It is critical that we leverage this momentum through strategic investment that will attract and retain the human capital needed in our region. We also note that this project has broad community support and we endorse the letter sent to you by Ignite Fredericton in June 2018.

In our opinion, this proposal is the top priority for the Fredericton Area and should be a priority for federal funding for several reasons:

1. **Fredericton is an ideal fit** for such a centre of excellence for three overarching pillars:
 - a. Department of Defense - Located a short drive from the largest military base in Eastern Canada (Base Gagetown) amongst other critical assets. We are aware that the Department of Defense has been exploring training options for cyber operators at Base Gagetown.
 - b. Expertise and existing relationships - the combination of private and public expertise



does not exist elsewhere in Canada - with the large international companies mentioned above, Base Gagetown and the University of New Brunswick located in the area, Fredericton can supply the current need for expertise and talent as well as build a talent pipeline through our post-secondary institutions and experiential learning opportunities in the private and public sector. Fredericton is already home to several relevant organizations such as [CyberNB](#) (Opportunities New Brunswick), [Canada Research Chair in Cybersecurity](#) (University of New Brunswick), the [Canadian Institute for Cybersecurity](#) (University of New Brunswick), and several private educational institutions.

- c. Cyber NB is ideally positioned through their Cyber Essentials program to provide a Canada cyber security business curriculum in very short order to the benefit of the Canadian economy that currently experiences millions of dollars of loss due to a lack of cyber protection via SMEs. As a result of the latter, Cyber NB could be the national hub for training the private sector. In fact, the Fredericton Chamber of Commerce was one of the first organizations to receive its Cyber Essentials certification - and the very first chamber of commerce in the country. Federal funding investments to date have been significant and well targeted within New Brunswick and reinforcing the current Cyber ecosystem is the next logical step to turn New Brunswick cutting edge knowledge into practical cyber security solutions that will provide significant ROI to Fredericton and Canada.
2. The **provincial government** has made cyber security a priority sector. In fact, in its most recent economic growth plan (2017), the Province of New Brunswick identified cyber security as one of its 12 enumerated opportunities identified. This was preceded by a comprehensive cyber security plan in 2016 - Premier Gallant himself spoke to our organization's members about the topic later in 2016.

New Brunswick Economic Development Minister Francine Landry summarized the situation well in 2017: "New Brunswick has developed a comprehensive cybersecurity strategy. Our province has a burgeoning technology sector and is home to innovative post-secondary institutions, as well as one of Canada's largest military bases."

3. The project will have a **major economic impact** on the region. Acting as the anchor of Fredericton's cyber security infrastructure, the proposed building will be catalyst for 1,000 - 1,500 jobs in the short term. Cyber security has been identified by many as the #1 threat to business - already resulting in billions of dollars lost each year. As more users and transactions come online, annual losses are expected to reach \$2 trillion by 2021. In this vein, it should also be noted that the City of Fredericton is an award-winning "Smart City" and a leader in digital technology solutions across Canada.



4. This is an **urgent matter** on two fronts. First, while Fredericton currently has a competitive advantage based on the work done in the community over the past 5-10 years, this will be lost very quickly if we are not able to firmly stake our claim to the critical infrastructure protection niche. Other communities are moving on this as well, but we are ready to put shovels in the ground. Second, the next federal election is only a little over a year away, which will be a months-long disruption of investment decisions, regardless of which party forms the next government.

We were encouraged by provincial Transportation and Infrastructure Minister Bill Fraser's Remarks in April 2018, which indicated that communities in New Brunswick would not necessarily have to choose only one infrastructure project they support. Fredericton has a number of needed and worthy infrastructure projects pending government funding, but we see Cyber Park as the biggest priority at this time because of its significant impact as an economic development driver and job creator.

We ask that you make clear to your federal colleagues that this project is of critical importance to the region, as well as the country and that Fredericton is the only logical place to host such a centre of excellence. We emphasize the urgency to secure funding before the opportunity is lost and feel that it is a good fit for government funding due to the need for higher security standards in constructing the building.

Please let us know if we can be of any assistance in moving this file forward - it is a priority for our nearly 1,000 member businesses and organizations as well as the more than 33,000 people they employ.

Sincerely,

Ryan Boyer
Cain Boyer Benefits Group
President, Fredericton Chamber of Commerce

Krista Ross, CEO
Fredericton Chamber of Commerce

cc: Hon. Brian Gallant, Premier, Province of New Brunswick
cc: Hon. Stephen Horsman, Deputy Premier, Province of New Brunswick
cc: David Coon, MLA, Fredericton South; Leader, Green Party of New Brunswick
cc: Mike O'Brien, Mayor, City of Fredericton
cc: Francis McGuire, CEO, Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency
cc: Stephen Lund, CEO, Opportunities NB
cc: Dr Eddy Campbell, President and Vice Chancellor, University of New Brunswick
cc: Tyson Johnson, COO, CyberNB