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## September continues upward trend in employment in Saint John region

The latest Monthly Labour Force Survey from Statistics Canada, released October 9<sup>th</sup>, indicate the following:

1. Employment in September increased by 200 jobs over August
2. In the last six months we have seen five months of employment increases, with the sixth month stable.
3. Last month, data from Statistics Canada confirmed that Canada was in a statutory recession for the first half of the year. Saint John is not immune to national trends, and combined with the record-breaking winter, we saw job losses and high profile retail closures in the first three months of the year as a result. Saint John traditionally has weathered recessions well, which we are seeing in the increased job numbers, but the recession is having some impact.

Economic activity over the past couple of months include:

- **Irving Oil** started the largest turnaround in their history. This \$200m project involves almost 3000 tradespeople over a two month period from mid-September. We are seeing some of the impact of this project in our increased employment numbers this month, with Irving Oil expecting almost 90% of those employed to be from New Brunswick. However those living outside of our region and travelling to the refinery, or staying in Saint John hotels, are not counted in Saint John's employment numbers with the method of data collection. The expected \$27m in consumer spending will be felt in the region's hotels, restaurants and retail sector.
- **The cruise ship season** saw 16 visiting vessels in September, with 30 expected in October. The cruise ship numbers for 2015 are up over 2014, and have an impact on not only port activity, but also retail, restaurant and other tourism in the city
- **Nordia** announced the addition 130 jobs at its contact centre in Saint John. These positions are paid above the average for the sector and included competitive benefits and perks such as an on-site gym.
- **Air Canada** announced the addition of 80 new jobs at their contact centre in Milledgeville. These were on top of the 50 new jobs announced in 2014.
- **Dealermine** is taking office space in Centerbeam in the uptown core for their professional staff. Additionally they are relocating their support services to Place 400 on Main Street North to enable their continued expansion.
- In September, five Enterprise Saint John clients were approved for ACOA SEED loans administered by Enterprise Saint John. These five clients accessed a total of \$100,000 in SEED loans, leveraging a further \$137,649 in equity and bank financing. In the last two months there have been ten new business loans through this program.

One of the goals of True Growth 2.0 is net new job growth. Enterprise Saint John measures job growth according to the monthly Labour Force Survey, with a focus on long-term, sustainable increases in employment. Our target for 2015 is a net increase of 750 jobs over a twelve month average, compared to 2014. We follow the survey results closely along with our day-to-day work in the business community. Together, we are creating long-term sustainable employment and stimulating investments in our region.

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