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News Release

Eastern Charlotte Denied Federal Housing Funding

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ST. GEORGE – The Municipality of Eastern Charlotte has been denied federal funding under the Housing Accelerator Fund.

Announced by the Federal government in 2021, the multibillion-dollar Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF) is self-described as a funding program "removing barriers to encourage local initiatives to build more homes, faster" and that "the program is helping increase housing supply – and supporting the development of communities that are more affordable, diverse and climate-resilient".

Eastern Charlotte, with the assistance of the Southwest Regional Service Commission, made an application worth one million dollars that would assist in new housing initiatives. Eastern Charlotte, along with all other municipalities in southwest New Brunswick, received the application denial late last week.

"This is certainly disappointing," said Mayor John Craig. "We have several housing developments waiting to move ahead and this funding would have brought a couple of them over the finish line. This news only compacts the reality that our municipality received 40% less in its Community Funding and Equalization Grant from the Province when compared to 2022. With less and less financial support, it makes it difficult to support growth initiatives and address the housing demand that we have here in Eastern Charlotte".

For the 2024 budget, Eastern Charlotte introduced over \$200,000 towards a new Development Fund to assist with incentive grants for multi-unit developments. This municipal fund has been exclusively funded from industrial and non-residential tax revenue.

Added Mayor Craig: "Without an injection of new funding for new development from the upper levels, our only option is local tax revenue. We can not expect our taxpayers to take another hit as we are still moving through with municipal reform and the sharing of cost associated with the larger municipality."

For southern New Brunswick, HAF funding has been announced for Saint John and Sussex.

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