



January 17, 2020

### **Building permits value surpass quarter billion mark for first time in 2019**

**MONCTON** – The City of Moncton has broken new ground when it comes to annual building activity with 2019 ending in \$257.4 million dollars' worth of building permits issued, an increase from \$220.7 million in 2018. The trailing 10-year average rose by nearly four million dollars to an average \$189.9 million, ranging from a low of \$123 million in 2014, to this year's record high.

Commercial and industrial projects were strong throughout the year, coming in at \$140.8 million or 55% of the total. The largest drivers of these results include an ongoing expansion at Organigram on English Drive (\$49.6 million), a new YMCA in the North End (\$11.2 million), and a new Day & Ross Distribution Centre on Frenette Avenue (\$7.2 million).

Downtown development continues with positive momentum. Building permits in the Downtown totaled \$37.7 million in 2019 with projects such as the Junction (\$10.1 million), the new Hilton Garden Inn Hotel (\$10 million), and apartment buildings on St. George Street and Victoria Streets (approximately \$4 million each).

We are seeing unprecedented levels of private sector investment in our City, and that investment continues to spur even more growth," said Mayor Dawn Arnold. "As well, we are very pleased that our Downtown continues to densify and reach new heights."

Institutional permits came in at \$14.3 million or 5.5% of the total, down from \$39.2 million in 2018. The largest project driving this value was an addition to a special care home on John Street (\$8.9 million).

Residential development represented 37.7% of the year's total value at \$97.1 million, an increase of \$42.5 million compared to 2018. This includes 16 new apartment buildings containing 727 units (\$55.5 million), 68 new single-unit homes (\$12.7 million), and 114 duplex units (\$15.7 million).

"The residential numbers are of particular interest to us at this time" said Kevin Silliker, Director of Economic Development. "We are seeing good residential growth, but want to ensure that people migrating to the region have appropriate options for their housing needs."

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