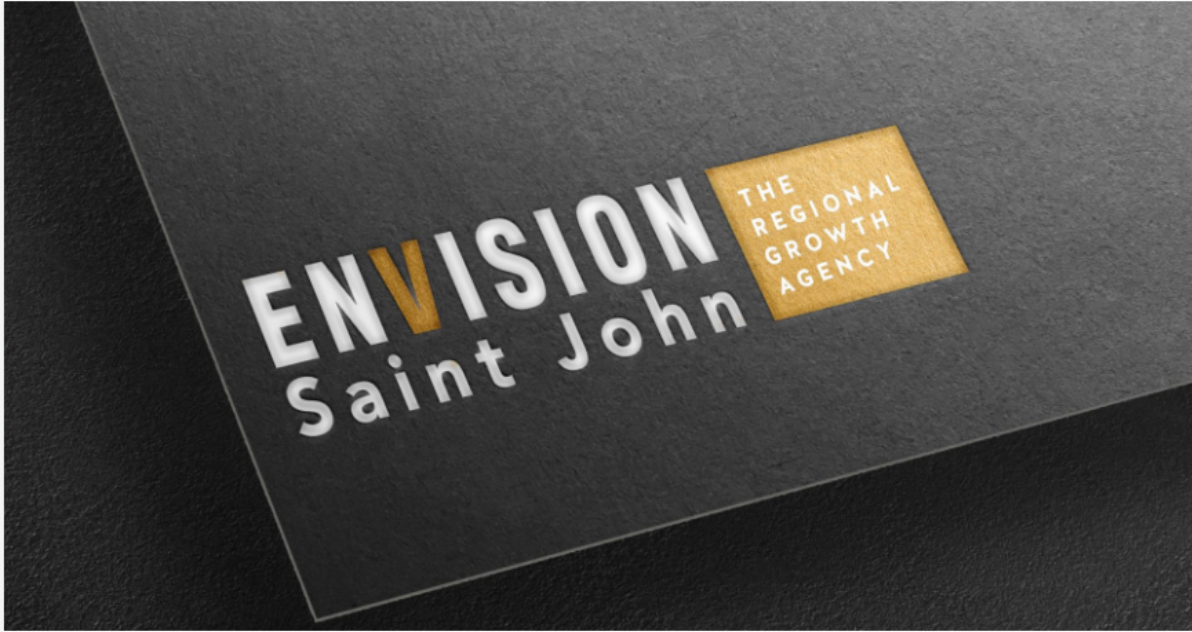


Seek results, efficiency at agency



Envision Saint John: The Regional Growth Agency provides a good example of successful regional co-operation, writes our editorial board.

Photo: Submitted

🕒 Published 10 hours ago

Editorial Board

Envision Saint John is tasked with growth for the region, and that's where it should be held accountable by its stakeholders. The fact that the city is apparently bound by a contract until 2025 to keep funding levels consistent does not mean the agency has failed to generate efficiency for the city, or that amalgamating the previous agencies into one entity is a failed experiment.

Saint John's former mayor Don Darling is complaining that the deal the city got is unfair – that the province backed out of other needed reforms and only economic development agency regionalization went ahead.

This does not seem to give credit to the wider municipal reforms that are putting a regional lens on recreation funding and other areas where Saint John, as the hub, has long cried for more support from its suburbs.

The city has received results on many of the regionalization requests it has made to even the balance: to ensure wealthier residents of bedroom communities in KV are contributing to the welfare of the city where many of them work. Continued sour grapes and crying poor from council members past or present does not contribute to a vibrant region.

The agency should for the moment be held accountable primarily for the results it brings.

Is the agency, which absorbed several previous entities, more efficient now with one leadership structure rather than several? If so, then taxpayers are getting better value for their dollars. Has the region been growing?

The focus should be on results.