



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **NBSA responds to Announcement of Strategic Housing Plan**

**Fredericton, NB-** On Thursday June 29th, 2023 a Strategic Housing Plan for New Brunswick was announced and released by the Minister of Housing and Social Development, Jill Green. This plan was announced a few months after the New Brunswick Student Alliance brought forward a policy request for a strategic plan and specific funding towards affordable student housing in New Brunswick. Over the past year, we have noticed that post-secondary students have become increasingly susceptible to changes made to the existing housing market. Students have found it particularly difficult to find safe and secure housing within the province. International students in particular are even more vulnerable as they have limited options, resources, time frame, and almost no room for flexibility in terms of housing choice. We are grateful to see a fund that will incentivise four universities in the province to increase access to student housing on campus. This support will include grants to cover pre-construction investments and provide annual grants to cover interest costs for up to 25 years. According to GNB we will see a one-time investment of \$12.8 million that will help spur over \$200 million in total development commitment.

The New Brunswick Student Alliance would like to officially thank Minister Green for hearing the voice of post-secondary students and adding a lens to the strategic plan that will help to provide housing options for many students planning to live on-campus. “This housing plan is a stepping stone in the path towards a more affordable future for students. Both domestic and international students have faced increased challenges with affordable housing options, and the NBSA commends the development of the N.B Public Universities Student Housing On-Campus Fund,” says Emily Boucher, Chair of the New Brunswick Student Alliance. There is still much work left to be done to ensure accessibility of housing to all students. We will continue to work diligently and collaboratively with the government to further affordable housing options for students.

“In order for us to continue to attract students to study and live in NB it is essential that we have shelter provided for them, a safe space to live that is affordable to our students will ultimately transform their studying experience.” says Sydona Chandon, Executive Director of the New Brunswick Students Alliance. While we applaud the government for initiating this plan, we would also like to see investments in off-campus housing to truly obtain the vision of “Housing for All.”