

## 2026 CHALLENGE STATEMENT

### Problem Definition:

Artificial intelligence (AI) has infinite possibilities for learning, experimentation, and application with real challenges in a local context.

**How can artificial intelligence (AI) be used to improve the standard of living for residents in Fredericton? What tools could be created with AI to help residents achieve a high-quality and affordable lifestyle in Fredericton?**

We invite teams to develop concepts for AI-powered solutions focused on improving the lives of Fredericton residents, for example, by introducing tools to modernize current processes, or by facilitating the access to programs, services, and opportunities that support affordability and a high quality of life. Teams are encouraged to design solutions with the potential to become economically viable business opportunities—ideas that could be developed into sustainable products or services benefiting both residents and the broader community.

### Example Problem Areas Residents May Encounter:

#### *1. Affordable Housing*

- Residents may struggle to locate and secure affordable housing options, especially with changing vacancy rates and rental costs.

#### *2. Accessing Healthcare*

- Residents may have difficulty finding clinics or healthcare providers with available appointments, or understanding wait times and eligibility for services.

#### *3. Food Security & Affordability*

- Residents may face challenges identifying affordable food options, accessing food banks, participating in nutrition programs, or discovering community initiatives such as food forests that offer opportunities for harvesting fresh produce and engaging in cooking classes.

#### *4. Discovering Recreation & Leisure*

- Residents may not be aware of free or low-cost recreational activities, events, or facilities (parks, trails, skating, etc.) that suit their interests and needs.

### *5. Navigating Services & Benefits*

- Residents—including newcomers—may find it hard to navigate the wide range of services, programs, and benefits available from the City and other organizations, especially in their preferred language.

### *6. Maintaining Community Safety & Wellbeing*

- Residents may need better access to information and resources that contribute to safer neighborhoods and improved wellbeing.

### *7. Energy Efficiency and Utility Savings*

- Residents may struggle to manage energy consumption and utility costs, and may be unaware of programs or technologies that could help them save.

### *8. Transportation and Mobility*

- Residents may face challenges accessing affordable, reliable transportation—whether public transit, ride-sharing, or active transportation options.

### *9. Employment and Skills Development*

- Residents may have difficulty finding local job opportunities or accessing training programs that match their skills and interests.

### *10. Financial Literacy and Assistance*

- Many residents lack access to financial advice or struggle to navigate assistance programs, grants, or subsidies.

### *11. Digital Inclusion and Accessibility*

- Some residents, especially seniors or newcomers, may find it difficult to access digital services or information due to language barriers, disabilities, or lack of digital literacy.

### *12. Community Engagement and Social Connection*

- Residents may feel isolated or unaware of community events, programs, or volunteer opportunities that could enrich their lives.

### *13. Health and Wellness*

- Residents may not know about affordable health and wellness resources, preventive care programs, or mental health support.

### *14. Home Maintenance and Safety*

- Homeowners and renters may struggle with maintenance costs, safety concerns, or finding reliable service providers.

### *15. Public pride, trust and engagement*

- Residents may have doubts about the impact of community investments and decisions.

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### **Guidance for Teams:**

- Solutions should leverage AI as the core technology.
- The proposed solution does not have to be connected with the areas above, these are just examples.
- Address the needs of all residents, not just one demographic group.
- We encourage teams to think critically and creatively, leveraging available data to support the understanding of the program.
- Consider the role of infrastructure, public and private services, and public awareness in your problem statement and solution.

### **DATA & RESOURCES**

[Fredericton Open Data Portal](#)

[Affordable Housing Strategy](#)

[Housing Needs Assessment \(2025\)](#)

[New Brunswick Health Council](#)

[Community Prosperity Hub](#)

[DataNB](#)

[Human Development Council](#)

[GeoNB Data Catalogue](#)