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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Northern Border Regional Commission Unveils Strategic Plan to Drive Economic Growth and Community Development

The Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) is proud to release a new strategic plan that will guide the Commission's work for the next five years. As a unique federal agency focused on the economic well-being of communities in Northern New England and New York, the Commission works to provide resources and knowledge that assist in bringing economic opportunity to residents of this region. The updated mission and vision that guide the plan came together through extensive research, stakeholder engagement, and collaboration with state leadership.

"Through its strategic grant making the Commission has become a key partner for communities throughout the region. Our vision for the region is one where our heritage industries thrive, our local communities are vibrant and economic opportunity is readily accessible to all. This plan demonstrates our commitment to improving and increasing the ways that NBRC can support locally driven economic development in support of that vision," said **NBRC Federal Co-Chair Chris Saunders**.

The strategic planning process identified the following five key focus areas and strategies to guide the NBRC's mission:

- **Communication and Collaboration:** The NBRC will reach more communities, increase awareness and access to funding programs, and foster collaboration across the region through strong, strategic relationship-building and a comprehensive communications and stakeholder outreach strategy.
- **Funding and Programs:** Providing funding that makes a positive impact remains a priority, with additional efforts invested in helping stakeholders leverage and diversify funding sources. It is the NBRC's goal to further increase standards as a responsive, flexible, and nimble source of government funding in the region.

- **Systems and Processes:** Cutting edge technology, innovative systems, and refined processes will be incorporated to unlock the full potential of the Commission as well as those it serves. Significant steps have already been taken with the March 2024 rollout of the NBRC's new Grants Management System, adding an approachable and user-friendly program application process.
- **Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility:** The NBRC is dedicated to cultivating a more diverse workforce within the commission while also forging stronger, more meaningful relationships with representatives of underserved communities across the region.
- **Capacity Building:** The Commission will help local and regional partners meet their goals by ensuring they have the capacity, tools, knowledge, and skills to receive NBRC funding and effectively utilize it for economic and community development projects.

Each member of the NBRC team is dedicated to supporting the implementation of this comprehensive plan, and is extremely grateful for the time, energy, and enthusiasm that stakeholders from across the region invested in the development of this plan.

The 2024-2029 Strategic Plan is available to read in full on the NBRC's website. For more information about the plan and the Commission's initiatives, please visit [nbrc.gov](http://nbrc.gov).

A virtual release party will be held on Tuesday, June 11 at 9 a.m. EST through Microsoft Teams. All are welcome to join the NBRC team online for conversation and celebration as we chart our course over the next 5 years. A meeting link to join can be found on [nbrc.gov/content/events](http://nbrc.gov/content/events).

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**About the Northern Border Regional Commission ([www.nbrc.gov](http://www.nbrc.gov))**

*Created in 2008, the Northern Border Regional Commission is a federal-state partnership whose mission is to catalyze community vitality and economic prosperity in Maine, New Hampshire, New York, and Vermont through flexible funding and strategic support.*