## MARKET SURVEY (JUNE 2006) GREATER SAINT JOHN WAREHOUSES

## Scope

This survey included every warehouse building with a total rentable area of 20,000 ft<sup>2</sup> or greater, available for rent in the Greater Saint John Area. Rental, operating expense and vacancy data was collected on 14 buildings with an aggregate rentable area of 486,183 ft<sup>2</sup>, using a team of trained researchers. The survey successfully collected information on 86% of the rental stock polled. Data analysis prior to June 2006 is based on information gathered by a similar but smaller survey conducted by Cushman & Wakefield LePage for PWGSC.

## Vacancy Rates

The vacancy rate *excludes* any space available for sub-lease: it is the total amount of space which is vacant and not currently leased. Vacancy rates prior to June 2006 are based on data collected by the Cushman & Wakefield LePage surveys, and employ heuristic algorithms which compensate for missing data. Though the vacancy rate was declining steadily prior to 2006, at this point there was a sharp increase. It is impossible to assess whether this is real or due to the change in methodology for collecting the data. The current overall vacancy is 18.10%.

Our survey also measured vacancy by geographic node. The graph indicates the current vacancy rate for Central Saint John, Grandview and all remaining areas.

The *overall* vacancy rate is a useful predictor of changes in the net absolute rental rate/ft<sup>2</sup>. A rising vacancy rate portends decreasing rents and vice versa. Empirical data indicates that net absolute rent/ft<sup>2</sup> movements follow the following pattern in a *falling* vacancy rate market: Fairly Stable ( $\geq 12\% < 16\%$ ); Very Slight Increase, Reduced Rental Incentives ( $\geq 10\% < 12\%$ ); Slight Increase, Rental Incentives Removed ( $\geq 8\% < 10\%$ ); Modest Increase ( $\geq 6\% < 8\%$ ); Strong Increase ( $\geq 4\% < 6\%$ ); Major Increase (< 4%).

## Forecast (Next 12 months)

We anticipate that the overall vacancy rate will decrease to 15% from the current 18.10%. There will be a 10% decrease in the net absolute rent/ft<sup>2</sup>.



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