



NEWS RELEASE

Abbotsford Listed As One Of Canada's Top Family-Friendly Cities

A new report card grades Abbotsford among Canada's top family-friendly cities

Abbotsford June 18, 2010 – The Institute of Marriage and Family Canada (IMFA) released a report that lists Abbotsford among Canada's top family-friendly cities, announced Mayor George W. Peary.

IMFC graded Canada's 33 largest cities according to five "family friendly" criteria. The first is community feel, measured by bike paths, parks and community centres, the proportion of longtime residents, how many give to charity, daily commute times and livability.

"Those of us who live here know that Abbotsford is a great place to live," remarked Peary. "The IMFA report gives Abbotsford a grade of "B" overall, reflecting high marks in the areas of community, children & family, income levels and schooling."

The report gave Abbotsford generally "A"s and "B"s, with the exception of the categories of percentage of residents who live (in the city) five years or more and homicide rate per 100 000 population.

"The report reminds us of the most significant issues our community faces – public safety," said Peary. "This is an area of intense focus for our police department and for our City."

Last year Peary announced the formation of the Mayor's Crime Reduction Task Force. The Task Force is made up of a cross section of community members from across the city. Peary is chairing the committee personally.

"It is vital that citizens have a proactive role in our public safety and crime reduction strategies," said Peary. "We have covered a lot of ground in the past year and I am happy to announce that the Task Force will report out to the community on its recommendation in a few short weeks."

The Task Force was mandated to address community safety from all angles and generate a report with recommendations on existing and new opportunities.

"We have a very unique opportunity in Abbotsford today to cultivate excellence in community safety from the ground up," said Peary. "By working together, I am confident that we can continue to make Abbotsford an even greater place to live."

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