



NEWS RELEASE

City of Abbotsford Recognized as One of the World's 21 Most Intelligent Communities

ABBOTSFORD – October 26, 2018 – The City of Abbotsford has been recognized by the Intelligent Communities Forum (ICF) as one of the world's Smart21 Communities of 2019, announced Mayor Henry Braun today.

As one of the Smart21 communities, the City of Abbotsford represents excellence in economic, social and cultural development models in the digital age.

The Smart21 cities are selected annually by ICF and a team of independent analysts led by former Cisco executive and Westchester County (New York) CIO, Dr. Norman Jacknis, based on qualitative and quantitative data submitted to the Forum. The 2019 Awards program focuses on the theme of Infinite Learning.

This recognition builds on the ongoing work by the City of Abbotsford in establishing Smart City initiatives for the community. In August 2018 the City established partnership with ICF Canada to develop a Smart Infrastructure and Foreign Direct Investment Readiness Strategy called Smart City Abbotsford. The goal of the Smart City Abbotsford project is to address some of the most significant challenges faced by cities around the world including global competition, shifts in employment and the changing nature of work, disruptions caused by digital technologies, and climate change.

Quotes:

"I am extremely pleased that our community has been recognized as one of the Smart21 cities by the Intelligent Community Forum. The City of Abbotsford has made significant strides in applying innovative economic development and community collaboration strategies to welcome foreign direct investment to the Fraser Valley. I would like to express my gratitude to our academic, industry and community partners whose hard work has led to this global recognition."

Henry Braun
Mayor, City of Abbotsford

"The Intelligent Community Forum and ICF Canada are pleased to include Abbotsford as one of the new Smart21 communities in the ICF family. Abbotsford has the ingredients to be a very successful smart city and I am sure will leverage this huge win for the community to aid in its investment readiness strategy."

John Jung
Chairman and Co-founder, Intelligent Communities Forum

About the Intelligent Community Forum

The Intelligent Community Forum, headquartered in New York, is a global movement of 180 cities, metro regions and counties with a think tank at its heart and a mission to make everyone's "hometown" at great place. ICF studies and promotes the best practices of the world's Intelligent Communities as they adapt to the new demands and seize the opportunities presented by information and communications technology (ICT).

Associated Links:

Announcement Video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E50UJI5r_wA

Smart City Abbotsford: <https://caed.abbotsford.ca/locate-here/smart-city-abbotsford/>

List of the 2019 Smart21:

https://www.intelligentcommunity.org/cities_and_counties_from_10_nations_on_6_continents_named_as_the_smart21_communities_of_2019

-30-

For more information contact:

Alexandria Mitchell

Public Affairs Officer

E: amitchell@abbotsford.ca

T: 604-751-3092