



NEWS RELEASE

City of Abbotsford recognized internationally as one of the top 7 most intelligent communities in the world

ABBOTSFORD – February 11, 2019 – The City of Abbotsford has been recognized by the Intelligent Communities Forum (ICF) as one of the world's Top 7 Intelligent Communities of 2019, announced Mayor Henry Braun today.

As one of the Top 7 communities, the City of Abbotsford represents excellence in economic, social and cultural development models in the digital age.

Before being selected as a Top7 Intelligent Community, Abbotsford was named to ICF's list of the Smart21 Communities of the Year which were declared in October 2018.

The City was evaluated based on seven criteria that make up the 'ICF Method' which provides a framework for understanding all of the factors that determine a community's competitiveness and point to its success in the digital economy.

In alphabetical order, the Top7 Intelligent Communities of 2019 are:

- Abbotsford, British Columbia, Canada
- Chicago, Illinois, USA
- Hudson, Ohio, USA
- Sarnia-Lambton County, Ontario, Canada
- Sunshine Coast, Queensland, Australia
- Taoyuan, Taiwan
- Westerville, Ohio, USA

The ICF Top7 Intelligent Communities of 2019 will be featured throughout the ICF Global Summit in New York City on June 11-13. Representatives from the Top7 will take part in the program's features – including Economic Development Matchmaking sessions and special Top7 Conversations.

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 a 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.

Background Information:

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).

Quotes:

"This year's group comes from countries that have been applying the ICF Method and investing in their own technology, business growth and educational expansion systematically for a long time. They may not be as familiar to the world as some of our previous recipients, but in this century, it is becoming obvious that any place can become great once the playing field is leveled. Thanks to digital technology, the size and location of a community matter far less than ever before. People can stay home and thrive. That's the good news that these seven will carry to New York and around the world,"

Lou Zacharilla
Co-Founder, Intelligent Communities Forum

"I am extremely proud that Abbotsford has been recognized globally by the Intelligent Community Forum. One key cornerstone of our Council's strategic vision is our ongoing work building a vibrant economy in our community. The City of Abbotsford continues to make significant strides in applying innovative strategies to welcome foreign direct investment to our region."

Henry Braun
Mayor, City of Abbotsford

Links:

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

ICF Announcement: https://www.intelligentcommunity.org/tags/press_releases

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