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# NEWS RELEASE

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## Smart City Abbotsford Initiative Launch with ICF Canada

**ABBOTSFORD, August 15, 2018** - The Smart City Abbotsford initiative was launched today as the City of Abbotsford and the Intelligent Community Forum (ICF) Canada announced their partnership for the development of a Smart Infrastructure and Foreign Direct Investment Readiness Strategy.

Smart City Abbotsford will seek to address some of the most significant challenges faced by cities around the world: global competition, shifts in employment and the changing nature of work, disruptions caused by digital technologies, and climate change. Abbotsford aims to become what is known as an “Intelligent Community” and able to attract and retain investment, jobs and talent through ICF’s Community Accelerator Program.

Innovation leaders from across Abbotsford gathered at the University of the Fraser Valley for today’s announcement. This was followed by a day-long masterclass led by ICF on smart infrastructure and foreign direct investment.

The initial project for Smart City Abbotsford will include the creation of a “how to book” modelled on Abbotsford. This book will establish best practices that will be utilized to help other communities understand which smart infrastructure, related digital technologies and other Intelligent Community indicators are necessary for them to compete in the global market and secure and develop smart infrastructure in their own communities.

### Quotes:

“Through innovative economic development and community collaboration, the Smart City Abbotsford Initiative ensures our community is fully equipped and ready to welcome foreign direct investment as we build the Hub of the Fraser Valley. Abbotsford’s journey towards becoming an ‘intelligent community’ will provide leadership and tools to benefit other cities across Canada.”

*Henry Braun*  
Mayor, City of Abbotsford

“ICF Canada is looking forward to working with Abbotsford on its exciting path to work through ICF’s Community Accelerator program, ICF’s unique methodology to help communities on their journey to become recognized as SMART21 communities. Through this process, which includes civic engagement, benchmarking and strategic leadership, communities benefit from understanding what it takes to become investment-ready Intelligent Communities, with the ultimate goal to attract and retain jobs, investment and talent.”

*John Jung*  
Chairman and Co-founder, Intelligent Communities Forum

“TELUS is pleased to be able to support the Intelligent Communities Forum and work with the City of Abbotsford on their journey to become recognized as a SMART21 community. TELUS is enhancing the connectivity in Abbotsford homes, businesses, schools and healthcare centres, future proofing the community for generations to come. This new technology will provide youth and students with better access to online education tools, while businesses large and small can have new tools helping them to thrive in the growing digital economy.”

*Ravi Sidhu*  
*Senior Regional Market Manager, TELUS*

“UFV is pleased to host the launch of this exciting initiative which builds on a thriving partnership between the University and the City of Abbotsford to foster the development, retention, and attraction of tech-ready, innovative, and creative talent for the Fraser Valley and provide strategic leadership for the region’s economic development.”

*Dr. Eric Davis*  
*Provost and Vice President, Academic, University of the Fraser Valley*

**Associated Links:**

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

[https://www.intelligentcommunity.org/community\\_accelerator](https://www.intelligentcommunity.org/community_accelerator)

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