NEWS RELEASE

City of Abbotsford vies for Global Intelligent Community Designation

ABBOTSFORD – June 10, 2019: The City of Abbotsford is being recognized as one of the Top 7 global intelligent communities at the 2019 Intelligent Communities Forum Annual Conference being held in New York City on June 14th announced Mayor Henry Braun today.

As a global Top 7 community, the City of Abbotsford represents excellence in economic, social and cultural development in the digital age. Abbotsford will have an opportunity to showcase its leadership in community and city-lead innovation on the global stage at the 2019 Intelligent Communities Forum Global Summit. It also provides an opportunity for Abbotsford to connect with a network of leading edge cities to share knowledge and learnings.

Mayor Braun will speak to ICF's global audience on June 12th to highlight the City of Abbotsford as a destination for foreign direct investment.

Joining Mayor Henry Braun at the ICF forum will be a delegation of Abbotsford innovators from the University of the Fraser Valley and the private sector. The delegation will connect with various companies, potential investors, and other cities around new investment opportunities.

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

Background:

Before being selected as a Top7 Intelligent Community, Abbotsford was named to ICF's list of the Intelligent 21 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.

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.

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).

Quote:

"Abbotsford's strategic location, economic development focus, and community capacity for innovation have set the stage for us to be recognized as a global Top7 Intelligent Community. A key cornerstone of City Council's strategic vision is our ongoing work to support the existence of a vibrant economy for our community. The City of Abbotsford continues to make significant strides in applying innovative strategies to welcome foreign direct investment to our region, and this recognition from the Intelligent Communities Forum will allow us to further build upon that work."

Henry Braun
Mayor, City of Abbotsford

Links:

Follow along at ICF: https://www.instagram.com/abbotsfordecdev/?hl=en

Promotional Video – https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WZUeG3zzO9I&feature=youtu.be

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

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

-30-

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