



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Sarnia-Lambton Celebrates Top7 Title

Thursday, June 13, 2019

Lambton County, ON - Sarnia-Lambton's formal participation in the Intelligent Community Forum's (ICF) *Smart Communities* challenge has concluded for 2019. Delegates celebrated Sarnia-Lambton earning the *Top7* title at the ICF Global Summit in New York City this week.

A strong submission underscoring many of the innovative projects underway locally landed Sarnia-Lambton among the world's *Smart21 Communities* and *Top7 Intelligent Communities* groupings in 2019.

ICF's *Intelligent Community of the Year* was announced from New York City today. The 2019 *Intelligent Community of the Year* title was awarded to Taoyuan, Taiwan.

"It is an honour to be included in the *Top7* category," said Lambton County Warden Bill Weber. "Being included in a group with such outstanding company is a testament to how forward-thinking, innovative and involved our community is."

The Sarnia-Lambton Intelligent Community Taskforce remains committed to undertaking and advancing projects that use communications technology to build prosperity, equity, and an enhanced quality of life for all residents.

"This achievement reflects the remarkable strides our community has taken over the last several years," added Chris Gould, Chair of the Intelligent Sarnia-Lambton Taskforce. "Sarnia-Lambton being acknowledged as a global leader will positively impact everyone in the community. The designation, paired with our newly adopted *Intelligent Sarnia-Lambton Strategic Plan*, will help us attract, nurture, grow and diversify businesses and industries and enrich the quality of life of our residents."

Lambton County Council adopted the *Intelligent Sarnia-Lambton Strategic Plan* at their meeting on June 5, 2019. This plan was produced by the Intelligent Sarnia-Lambton Taskforce and was developed with broad community input which was gathered through several stakeholder input workshops held across the County. The plan provides guiding principles to enhance the continued transformation of Sarnia-Lambton into a leading intelligent community, well-positioned to prosper in the rapidly changing new global economy.

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Delegates representing Sarnia-Lambton at the ICF Global Summit met with more than 13 corporations from around the world to discuss potential business opportunities in the area. Sarnia-Lambton's *Top7* status led to these discussions, and will continue to advance local economic development efforts in the future.

"Being included in the *Top7* category is an outstanding accomplishment that will help attract businesses and investments to Sarnia-Lambton," added Stephen Thompson, Chief Executive Officer of Sarnia-Lambton Economic Partnership. "This recognition will help many local institutions on the journey to achieving their goals by providing opportunities for growth and the development of new partnerships with connections made through the ICF global network."

Sarnia-Lambton's entry into ICF's *Top7* program was submitted by the Intelligent Sarnia-Lambton Taskforce, comprised of members from Bluewater Power, Bluewater Regional Networks, Brooke Telecom, City of Sarnia, County of Lambton, Lambton College, Sarnia-Lambton Economic Partnership, and Western Sarnia-Lambton Research Park.

Sarnia-Lambton had previously been named among ICF's *Smart 21* communities worldwide in 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019, and was named among ICF's *Top7* communities in 2019.

To learn more about the Sarnia-Lambton community, visit DiscoveriesThatMatter.ca. For more information on what makes Sarnia-Lambton an Intelligent Community, visit www.IntelligentSL.ca.

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