



The Community Solutions Network

A Future Cities Canada Program





About Future Cities Canada

Future Cities Canada is a collaborative platform that harnesses the momentum for change already in progress in cities.

It brings together people, ideas, platforms and innovations from across sectors to address two of the most pressing issues of our time: inequality and climate change and their consequential challenges facing cities.

Drawing on the expertise of its founding organizations - *The McConnell Foundation, TD Bank Group, Evergreen, Maison de l'innovation sociale and Community Foundations of Canada* - and together with a diverse and growing network of partners, Future Cities Canada's unique collaborative infrastructure will accelerate innovation to build regenerative, inclusive cities of the future.



Acknowledgement

First Nations, Métis and Inuit play a pivotal role in the ongoing development of our country. Future Cities Canada respectfully acknowledges the respective traditional territories and treaties of the Indigenous peoples of Canada, and their stewardship of the lands upon which our cities and country have been built. In order for our cities to thrive, Indigenous communities must also thrive.

"Reconciliation must inspire Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples to transform Canadian society so that our children and grandchildren can live together in dignity, peace, and prosperity on these lands we now share."

TRC Action # 92 on Business and Reconciliation

Smart City Context in Canada

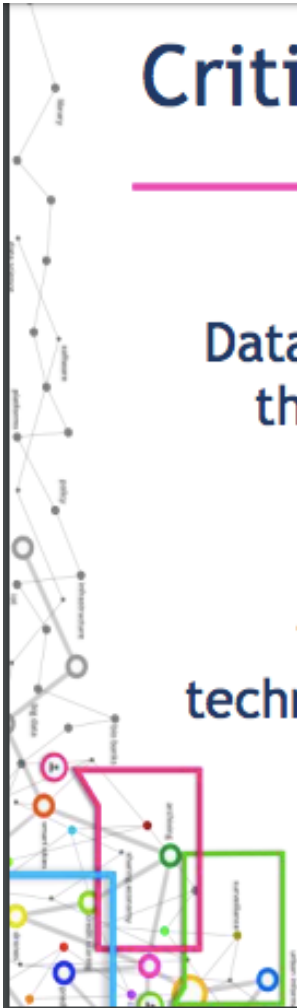
Critical approach

Data, technology, and infrastructures are considered as more than the unique arrangement of objective and politically neutral facts & things

&

they do not exist independently of ideas, techniques, technologies, systems, people and contexts regardless of them being presented in that way.

T. P. Lauriault, 2012



Smart City Context in Canada

A city is

- a complex and dynamic socio-biological system
- territorially bound
- a human settlement
- governed by public city officials who manage
 - **the grey, blue and green** environment
 - within their jurisdictional responsibility

What is a Smart City?

- technologically instrumented & networked w/ systems that are interlinked & integrated, where vast troves of big urban data are being generated by sensors & administrative processes used to manage & control urban life in real-time (*Kitchin, 2018*).
- where administrators and elected officials invest in smart city technologies & data analytical systems to inform how to innovatively, economically, efficiently & objectively run & manage the city.
- The focus is most often to quantify & manage infrastructure, mobility, business & online government services.
- a form of technological solutionism.



Smart City Context in Canada

Internet of Things (IoT)

- Security & privacy vulnerabilities (hacking)
- E-waste - cost, short shelf life
- Mission creep - potential
- Surveillance / dataveillance potential
- Ownership / procurement
- Repair - DRM
- Device lock in
- Archiving - the lack thereof
- Reuse - unintended purposes
- Sustainability & maintenance & management
- Interoperability - the lack thereof
- Standards - emerging

intelli**streets**

The wireless digital infrastructure that controls energy management, security, and outdoor media



Smart City Context in Canada

Smart City Challenge



What is a smart cities approach?

A smart cities approach aims to achieve meaningful outcomes for residents by leveraging the fundamental benefits that data and connected technology have to offer:

- **Openness**

When communities make their data truly accessible, usable and barrier-free, their decision-making processes become transparent, empowering citizens and strengthening the relationship between residents and public organizations.

- Launched November 2017, Submission submitted April 24, 2018
- Municipalities, regional governments, & Indigenous communities
- Community not-for-profit, private sector company, or expert
- \$300 million Smart Cities Challenge in 2017 Budget



Image 1: Timeline of Smart Cities Challenge Process



T. P. Lauriault, R. Bloom & J.-N. Landry, Open Smart Cities in Canada Project

Community Solutions Network: Background

In October 2018, the Government of Canada selected Evergreen to receive up to \$4.6 million in Smart Cities Community Support Program funding over two years.

Community Solutions Network is a community-centric platform, created to provide communities of all sizes with the knowledge, expertise, experience and guidance they need to build internal capacity and navigate the smart cities landscape through advisory services and event-based programs.

Community Solutions Network also supports current finalists and future applicants for the Smart Cities Challenge, an Infrastructure Canada initiative to engage communities across the country in positively impacting change with new, creative, open smart cities solutions.

Canada 



Infrastructure
Canada

Community Solutions Network: Lead Partners

Evergreen — Project Leader



OpenNorth — Lead Technical Partner



Community Solutions Network is a program of Future Cities Canada.



Community Solutions Network: What we do

- Serve big, mid-sized, Indigenous, small and northern communities across Canada — in and outside the Smart Cities Challenge.
- Provide information, learning opportunities and advisory services in key areas of data and technology.
- Help municipal and community leaders improve the lives of residents.
- Amplify and sustain Smart Cities Challenge impact and objectives.



Realize
outcomes for
residents



Empower
communities to
innovate



Forge new
partnerships and
networks



Spread the
benefit to all
Canadians

How we do it

1. Make information about smart cities issues and approaches available and accessible to everyone.

- Provide advice
- Share knowledge, lessons learned and best practices from Canada and around the world

2. Help communities talk to the right people and find the right partners.

- Engage communities and stakeholders from all sectors through new and existing networks.
- Facilitate connections and partnerships between and among communities and stakeholders.



What we offer

Guidance and support for navigating the open smart cities landscape, through a wide range of advisory services and events focusing on areas that include:

- Data and open standards
- Open procurement
- Governance
- Civic engagement

MAIN ACTIVITY STREAMS



Advisory Services



Matching and
Connecting the
Ecosystem



Building and Sharing Smart Community
Knowledge

Additional activities

- Create accessible pan-Canadian networks
- Facilitate access to established networks
- Build awareness of emerging smart city issues

Overview: Planned Activities

Advisory services

Advise over 100 communities on capacity building on a one-to-one basis



Event-based capacity building activities



Canada's Smart Cities Portal

Collision days w/accelerators (6)

Community Roundtables (6)

Summit and Exhibit

Research Program

Regional Idea Camps (6)

Building and Sharing Smart Community Knowledge

Matching and Connecting the Ecosystem

Program delivery: Key considerations

Program reach

National, across 6 regions

- British Columbia, Atlantic, Quebec, Ontario, Prairies, The North

Who we serve

- Big cities
- Medium-sized municipalities
- Indigenous, small, rural, remote, northern and isolated communities
- Includes Smart Cities Challenge finalists and applicants

Focus of programming (key areas of interest identified by the Smart Cities Challenge)

- Economic opportunity
- Empowerment & inclusion
- Environmental quality
- Healthy living & recreation
- Mobility
- Safety & security

Program Duration

November 2018 - March 2020

What we evaluate: Outcome areas

1. Increased innovation capacity in communities
2. Creation of multi-stakeholder partnership and networks
3. Measurable and measured positive outcomes for participating communities
4. Broader dissemination and replication of solutions that have been shown to work within other communities

National Advisory Council Members (to date)



Stéphanie Bohdanow (temporary)

Knowledge Services Advisor, Green Municipal Fund
Federation of Canadian Municipalities



Jonathan Dewar

Executive Director
First Nations Information Governance Centre



Jayne Engle

Director, Cities for People
McConnell Foundation



Drew Fagan

Professor
Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy
Public policy consultant



Angelique Leblanc

Chief Executive Officer
Western Regional Enterprise Network



Cindy Lindsay

Director of Learning
Community Foundations of Canada



Debbie Stewart

Vice President of Affordable Housing, Client Solutions
Management
Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation



Colleen McCormick

Director, Connected Communities BC
Ministry of Citizens' Services, BC Provincial Government



Olimpia Pantelimon

Senior Planning Advisor
Alberta Municipal Affairs



Andrew Salkin

Senior Vice President, City Solutions
100 Resilient Cities



About Evergreen

Evergreen works to make cities and communities flourish.

We want communities that are low carbon, inclusive to all and sustainable at their core. Communities to live, move, work, play, learn and thrive in.

Since 1991, we've been facilitating change. Working with other community builders to convene, collaborate and catalyze ideas into action.





OpenNorth

About Open North

Founded in 2011, OpenNorth is Canada's leading not-for-profit organization specialized in open data, open government, community engagement, open smart cities and civic technology.

We work with Canada's largest, most innovative, and connected cities. Our network extends across Canada and globally through communities of practice and open government partners.

Contacts Us

To participate or for more information on Future Cities Canada's Community Solutions Network, please reach out.

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