

WINNIPEG RECOGNIZED AS ONE OF THE TOP 21 “SMART COMMUNITIES” IN THE WORLD – An Enhancement to our Community Profiling

During the fall of 2010, Economic Development Winnipeg Inc. (EDW) was honoured as a globally recognized Intelligent Community. This distinction was awarded by the Intelligent Community Forum (ICF) who selected a group of 21 international communities from out of 400 applications, based on their achievements and competitive advantage in the broadband economy.

Each year ICF defines a theme that guides the nominations. The theme for 2011 is "Health and the Intelligent Community". Winnipeg's organic approach to its intelligent community strategy has reinforced and grown its life science and health sector significance, adding value to the community and beyond.

Winnipeg is a recognized centre for Health and Life Science and there has been significant development and growth in research capacity, business development, technology commercialization and partnership building.

The application submitted on behalf of the city by EDW, highlighted a number of leading Winnipeg firms including Intelligent Hospital Systems, Monteris Medical Inc., and Innovative Magnetic Resonance Imaging Systems Inc. (IMRIS) – all examples of Winnipeg based companies committed to improving the delivery of healthcare using information and communications technology, while achieving great success in the private sector.

The Smart21 announcement was the first stage in ICF's annual Intelligent Community Awards cycle. Based on nominations submitted by communities large and small from around the world, ICF selected 21 semi-finalists, based on criteria including broadband connectivity, knowledge workforce, digital inclusion, innovation, marketing and advocacy.

As a follow up to this, a second application was submitted by EDW in early 2011 to compete for a coveted position in being one of the Top Seven Intelligent Communities. The result of this effort put forward by EDW unfortunately came a bit short in cracking the line-up. The awards cycle concluded in New York City on June 3, 2011 where the Intelligent Community Forum (ICF) named the Eindhoven Region of the Netherlands as the world's Intelligent Community of the Year.

Overall, being recognized as a global smart community was a great honour for Winnipeg. A greater recognition as an Intelligent Community helped position Winnipeg to prosper in the global digital economy.