



## **BACKGROUND**

### **WATERFRONT TORONTO'S APPROACH TO BUILDING INTELLIGENT COMMUNITIES**

In 2014, the City of Toronto was recognized as the Intelligent Community of the Year by the Intelligent Community Forum (ICF) in New York. Toronto was honoured for employing best practices and strategies that support high-speed broadband Internet access, policies that encourage digital inclusion and that support the development of the city's knowledge workforce by fostering innovation in the business, technology and education sectors. Waterfront Toronto's catalytic intelligent community efforts were a key factor in this recognition.

Waterfront Toronto is leading the way in developing new Intelligent Communities. Together with technology partners – such as Cisco, IBM, Element Blue and others – the agency is helping to develop communities where people can live, learn, work, and play in a seamless, technology-enabled environment.

Toronto's new waterfront communities will use technology to enhance quality of life and create economic opportunity for the citizens of Toronto, helping to keep the city competitive with major urban centres around the world for business, jobs and talent.

#### **What are the components of Waterfront Toronto's Intelligent Community initiative?**

Waterfront Toronto and its partners are developing a destination community for homeowners and businesses, including economic and social innovators, where the latest technology applications and advancements are intuitively designed and understood to be part of a modern lifestyle.

The Intelligent Community initiative consists of:

- ***Ultra-high-speed broadband community network***  
By partnering with Toronto-based Beanfield Metroconnect, Waterfront Toronto is building one of Canada's first ultra-high-speed broadband networks. The network is guaranteed to be maintained among the best in the world for at least 10 years and will use advanced fiber-optic technology to deliver Internet connection speeds exponentially faster than the North American average. Network access is provided for a capped fee that delivers unlimited access starting at 100Mbps symmetrical Internet service (scalable to 1GB for residential and 10GB for commercial users). The network also provides IPTV, VoIP and advanced safety and energy management systems that will make the community more affordable, safer and more environmentally friendly.
- ***New Blue Edge Portal***  
In collaboration with IBM Canada and Element Blue, Waterfront Toronto has launched a powerful community portal and platform using cloud computing services and technologies from IBM's Intelligent Operations Center (IOC) for Smarter Cities. The features currently available – including traffic congestion reports, public transit information, weather and news – are intended to demonstrate the wide-ranging capabilities of the system. Waterfront Toronto will be working with IBM, Element Blue and others to launch new tools on a regular basis. Ultimately, [thenewblueedge.ca](http://thenewblueedge.ca) will serve as the platform for a suite of tools that will enable users to make



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smarter decisions about everything from their daily commute to health and wellness, energy and water use, and much more.

- ***Neighbourhood-wide Wi-Fi Internet access***

Beanfield Metroconnect is also ensuring new waterfront communities will have neighbourhood-wide Wi-Fi Internet access. This ubiquitous outdoor Wi-Fi network provides community access to the Internet, bridging the digital divide to make essential data and services available to all residents.

- ***Information Communications Technology Cluster With A Focus on Advanced Visualization***

Waterfront Toronto and its partners are creating a mixed-use waterfront community where smart infrastructure allows people to thrive and gives businesses a competitive advantage. We are working with global and local technology leaders to design and build advanced telecommunications infrastructure that will create a leading edge, technology-enabled work and residential destination. Toronto's waterfront will be synonymous with driving innovation and global competitiveness – a future-ready community on the cutting-edge of technology, communications, media and design.

- ***Waterfront Toronto Innovation Centre***

Waterfront Toronto intends to create an innovation centre in East Bayfront. The centre will act as an anchor for the ICT companies and institutions that are putting Toronto and Canada at the forefront of tomorrow's technology and design today. To help refine the vision for the innovation centre, Waterfront Toronto has conducted extensive case study research and engaged in discussions with potential tenant groups. In October 2013, Waterfront Toronto released a Request for Qualifications to find a visionary partner to develop the Waterfront Toronto Innovation Centre. The project has now proceeded to the RFP stage.

For more information on why Toronto was recognized, please go to ICF's newsroom at:

<http://www.intelligentcommunity.org/index.php?src=news&srctype=detail&category=Summit&refno=1300>