



## MEMORANDUM

TO: Broadband Strategy Advisory Task Force

FROM: Doug Lindeblom

DATE: February 9, 2016

RE: ICF “Intelligent Community” Master Class Update and Next Steps

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On January 18, 2017, York Region hosted an Intelligent Community Master Class, which was facilitated by Robert Bell – Co-founder of the Intelligent Community Forum (ICF).

An “Intelligent Community” is defined as a jurisdiction which has– whether through crisis or foresight – come to understand the enormous challenges of the Broadband Economy, and have taken conscious steps to create an economy capable of prospering in it.

The ICF Master Class is a focused workshop for governmental, institutional and business leaders to establish a common understanding of the Intelligent Community movement; the benefits a community can gain by becoming more “Intelligent”; and to identify near-term opportunities for action to spur the start of collaborative work.

The Master Class in January was attended by nearly 50 people representing a variety of municipal, university, school and hospital (MUSH) sector and private sector stakeholders from across York Region. Attendance was approximately 50% public sector and 50% private sector.

This Master Class session marks the completion of the second of four modules of the ICF Community Accelerator Program, which is designed to guide communities in becoming more “Intelligent”. This is achieved through a series of presentations, workshops, questionnaires and assigned mentoring exchanges with other jurisdictions around the globe whose efforts have led to an ICF Intelligent Community designation.

The first module was completed when Robert Bell delivered the Keynote Address during the 2016 York Region Broadband & Innovation Summit, which took place on October 28<sup>th</sup>.

The next module involves the completion of a Metrics Data Questionnaire which will evaluate York Region’s “Intelligence” via six indicators:

- Broadband Access
- Knowledge Workforce
- Innovation
- Digital Equality
- Sustainability
- Advocacy

To complete the Metrics module, in the coming months York Region staff will engage MUSH and private sector leaders in each municipality to conduct a thorough collection of data for evaluation by the ICF.

This will be followed by the Mentoring module, which includes being linked to community leaders from ICF’s international network of Intelligent Communities. The communities that will be selected as mentors will be matched based on their experience with the specific challenges facing York Region, as identified during the Metrics portion of the Community Accelerator program. This will allow the Region to benefit from insights and guidance from these mentor communities on how to overcome its challenges.

These efforts will help guide York Region in the continued execution of its Broadband Strategy and will also be valuable in preparations to nominate the Region for an “Intelligent Community” designation by the ICF in the fall of 2017.