

CITY OF MAPLE RIDGE NEWS RELEASE

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Maple Ridge to Co-Host Intelligent Community Forum Conference

Maple Ridge, BC: The City of Maple Ridge and the Township of Langley are teaming up to host the Intelligent Community Forum (ICF) Smart21 Conference. The virtual event, themed "From Surviving to Thriving", will take place from February 22 to 24, 2021. It will bring together delegates from the business, government and non-profit sectors who have implemented smart technologies in communities around the world.

Headlining the conference will be the ICF's announcement of the Smart 21 of 2021, a collection of cities vying for the title of Intelligent Community of the Year. The winner of the <u>City of Maple</u> <u>Ridge's online hackathon</u>, which has received more than 560 entries, will also be revealed.

The event will feature a lineup of global speakers from countries including the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Finland, Spain, Estonia, Australia and Taiwan.

The ICF is a global network of 180 cities, metro regions and counties with a mission to help communities find new paths to economic development and community growth in the digital age.

"Understanding how to leverage technology to improve quality of life is an important part of the toolkit for a successful organization and community," said Mayor Mike Morden. "The City of Maple Ridge is proud to be part of this partnership to ensure businesses and local governments can work together, adapt and grow as we deal with the impacts of COVID-19 and new opportunities emerge in the regional and global economy."

Registration for the event is now open: <u>https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/2021-icf-smart21-</u> conference-tickets-118675879751