

For Immediate Release
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CITY OF WELLAND AMONG CANADA'S TOP 20 MOST OPEN CITIES

Welland, ON - The City of Welland has moved up four spots to rank 16 out of 55 participating municipalities in the recently published Public Sector Digest 2019 *Open Cities Index* survey results. Welland now sits at the 71 percentile for the 2019 survey, up from the 67 percentile in 2017.

The *Open Cities Index* (OCI) is Canada's first benchmarking study for municipal open data initiatives and serves as a tool for public sector organizations to measure the maturity of its open data programs. Open data is most commonly associated with the publication of government data sets to be accessed freely by the public and is a strong indication of an organization's open government initiatives to uphold the values of transparency and accountability. The OCI examines open data initiatives in three competency categories: Readiness, Implementation, and Impact.

"Council appreciates the work of city staff in distinguishing Welland as one of the leading Canadian cities for open data initiatives," said Welland Mayor Frank Campion. "Data is a key resource that provides important context for all the planning and decision-making we do. Our positive results in this index illustrate the important steps we are taking to ensure accountability and transparency."

"This result is a testament to the continued commitment of city staff to developing and supporting smart city initiatives," said Gary Long, Chief Administrative Officer. "We can be proud of this achievement and use it to increase our efforts, knowing that open data is a cornerstone of our open government initiatives which are having a positive impact on our community and stakeholders."

For more information on City of Welland smart city initiatives, visit <https://www.welland.ca/hottopics/WellandSmartCity.asp>, or for more information on Canada's Top 20 Most Open Cities, visit <https://psdracs.com/psd-announces-canadas-top-20-most-open-cities/>.

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Contact:

Mayor Frank Campion
905-735-1700 x.2101

Jamie Leitch, GIS Coordinator
905-735-1700 x.2302

Gary Long, CAO
905-735-1700 x.2122