



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
ASSOCIATION OF CANADA



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ITAC Industry Insider Newsletter

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Finalists of Smart Cities Challenge announced

On June 1st, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities Sohi, announced the 20 finalists of the **Smart Cities Challenge**. Each finalist will receive a grant of \$250,000 to further develop their innovative ideas into final proposals that outline all design, planning, privacy, data protection and project management components of their plans. The four winners will be announced in spring 2019.

Information on the announcement including the list of finalists, can be found [here](#).

ITAC's *Smart Cities Readiness Guide* will be released shortly. Why a Guide?

In 2017 the Federal Government announced the *Smart city Challenge*, an exciting initiative aimed at encouraging Canadian municipalities of all sizes and regions to consider opportunities to deploy technology in ways that improve their communities.

During discussions among panel of Smart city experts within ITAC's membership, one theme that came out was that in while technology challenges may be complex – it's the people, processes and organizational factors within the municipality that create challenges. For smart cities to succeed, the trick is creating the right organizational environment that supports innovation and is willing and able to leverage the data collected to improve outcomes. It is about creating the right purchasing structure that allows for meaningful partnerships to be formed with stakeholders and technology vendors. It's about the city viewing itself not as separate but as a central contributor to its regional innovation ecosystem. And while the *Federal Smart City Challenge* has been an important catalyst for action, new initiatives will continue and we want ITAC to help cities capitalize on these opportunities.

More details to follow shortly!