



Naheed K. Nenshi, Mayor

April 24, 2018

To the Honourable *Amarjeet.* Amarjeet Sohi, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities (& Jury Members):

On behalf of Calgary City Council and the citizens we represent, I want to share my support for Calgary's submission to Canada's first-ever Smart Cities Challenge.

This challenge comes at a pivotal time in our history. Infrastructure Canada's leadership to bring the smart cities agenda to the forefront helps communities across the country leverage data and technology to achieve meaningful outcomes for the citizens we serve. This challenge also helps us draw from our collective inventiveness while we connect with each other to accelerate smart solutions. This has the potential to move us towards a vision of shared prosperity faster than we could if we were tackling these challenges on our own. Bottom line: The future is here and we're ready for it.

As mayor, I've had the privilege of representing Calgary and promoting our city across the country and around the world to businesses and investors. I'm excited to see the amazing community support, leadership, and innovative thinking at our community table during this preliminary proposal phase.

This process has been about the power of people to make change in our communities. Citizens, academics, business leaders, entrepreneurs, and many of my colleagues at The City of Calgary have really collaborated to create an admirable submission that is focused on empowerment, inclusion, and economic opportunities for Calgarians in a truly transformative way.

Calgary is in the midst of a fragile economic recovery. We are working incredibly hard to create a better and more resilient economy for all. As we do this, we are also creating deeper relationships with community partners to foster entrepreneurship and create the right environment to commercialize research.

Supporting growth, diversification, and innovation are priorities in our community, and I think Calgary's Smart Cities Challenge proposal hits right at the heart of what our community needs now. It also identifies some impressive, pioneering projects that we can get behind to achieve real, significant outcomes for Calgarians, and that can be modelled by communities across Canada.

The case for Calgary is strong. We have the talent and desire to make great things happen. Calgary is a place where creativity can thrive. My colleagues on Council and I have supported the leadership and progress The City has achieved so far to advance the smart cities approach in our community, and we will continue to champion the use of data and technology to improve the lives of Calgarians every day.

Sincerely,

Naheed K. Nenshi
MAYOR