



A LETTER FROM **the Mayor**



The City of Pickering has been named one of the world's Smart21 Communities of 2017 by the ICF or Intelligent Community Forum.

The ICF is a think tank based out of New York City that is comprised of a global network of cities and regions - its Smart21 program recognizes the global elite municipalities that are successfully leveraging the power of technology to create a more connected, engaged, vibrant, and sustainable community.

To say I'm proud is an understatement. The Smart21 international recognition boldly states that Pickering is making the necessary investments to its technology infrastructure in order to attract the best and brightest residents and businesses to our city.

The ICF received approximately 400 submissions from around the world for the Smart21 Communities of 2017 awards program; and has identified six indicators critical towards building an Intelligent Community: Broadband; Knowledge Workforce; Innovation; Digital Equality; Sustainability; and Advocacy.

I was always confident that we were doing leading work on a project-by-project basis. However, when the ICF aggregated all that we are doing, it recognized Pickering as truly world class.

We are living in an increasingly digital and technologically advanced world. Having access to robust and reliable broadband is critical for people to stay connected to their community and personal networks, and for businesses to remain competitive.

As such, one of my highest priorities is to get broadband infrastructure up into the Seaton employment lands. If we are to attract knowledge-based industries to Pickering such as digital media, research & development, aeronautics, information communication technology, and pharmaceutical, then we need to get fiber optic cable in the ground.

This is a primary reason why Pickering adopted a "Dig-Once" policy. From here on in, anytime a road is constructed or rehabilitated, we will ensure that fiber optic cable is installed. Over time, we will be able to build and connect a robust and resilient fiber optic loop around our municipality, which will eventually become part of a larger broadband network spanning Durham Region.

Being recognized as one of the world's Smart21 communities is just a prelude to bigger and better things. We are working hard to transform Pickering into a city where residents, businesses, government, and services are seamlessly connected. It is truly an exciting time and I thank you for joining us on this journey.

Pickering Mayor Dave Ryan