



CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE
MEDIA RELEASE

**CITY RECEIVES WCCD PLATINUM CERTIFICATION
UNDER DATA FOR CANADIAN CITIES PROJECT**

YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES | August 24, 2020

During today's Council meeting, the City of Yellowknife will receive its Platinum certification under the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 37120 standard: Sustainable Cities and Communities – Indicators for city services and quality of life. The certification will be presented by the World Council on City Data (WCCD) as part of the "[Data for Canadian Cities Project](#)", supported by the Federal Ministry of Infrastructure and Communities. The City is being awarded the highest, Platinum-level Certification for reporting over 90 of the 104 Indicators, in accordance with ISO 37120. With this achievement, Yellowknife now joins WCCD's Canadian network of thirty cities and a global network of one hundred cities in over thirty countries.

"Participating in the Data for Canadian Cities Project, and receiving WCCD ISO 37120 Platinum Certification from the WCCD, will drive better service delivery and quality of life for our citizens, across a number of priority areas, including the environment, economy, and health," said Mayor Rebecca Alty. "Annual reporting and analysis will enhance Council's evidence-based decision-making and further our data-driven progress monitoring. In the context of COVID-19, this data will help us to understand the scope and impacts of this pandemic and inform our social, cultural and economic recovery strategies."

Since 2014, the WCCD – a Toronto based not-for-profit organization – has been working with cities globally to embrace standardized city data to inform better decision-making and to drive public and private investment in cities of all sizes. As part of a funded agreement with the Government of Canada, the WCCD is working with fifteen municipalities across Canada to help them become certified under ISO 37120, the first international standard for city data. This three-year project assists the participating cities in obtaining WCCD's ISO 37120 Certification. As the Project continues into Year 2 and 3, a significant focus is being placed on assisting the participating municipalities in using the data to improve city services and quality of life for citizens.

"The WCCD is a Made in Canada initiative, and through the support of the Government of Canada, we are so pleased to welcome the City of Yellowknife into our Canadian and Global Network," stated WCCD President and CEO, Dr. Patricia McCarney. "As a next step, I look forward to working with Yellowknife in harnessing this data, and putting it to use. With applications from economic development, to targeted infrastructure investment, to internal and external benchmarking, the City's Platinum certification is a testament to the leadership of Mayor Alty and her entire team in committing to high calibre, local level data to drive a more prosperous, sustainable, resilient and inclusive future for the City."

The Honourable Catherine McKenna, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities, also expressed her enthusiasm for Yellowknife's WCCD Certification and participation in the Data for Canadian Cities Project. "All communities, large and small, need good data to plan and build modern public infrastructure. Meeting global data standards is critical. Through this initiative, in partnership with the World Council on City Data, we've been helping municipal leaders in a number of communities across Canada do just that. I am delighted that Yellowknife has obtained the ISO standard for municipal data. This will help the city plan projects with quality data and will help guide evidence-



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based decision-making. Canada's infrastructure plan invests in thousands of projects, creates jobs across the country and builds stronger communities."

The WCCD administered ISO 37120 is a globally standardized data set that measures quality of life and delivery of municipal services, and its creation was primarily spearheaded by Canadian urban leaders. The data within ISO 37120 enables Canadian municipalities to compare their progress with their counterparts across the country and around the world, according to nineteen city service and quality of life thematic areas. These themes include the environment, economy, education, governance, finance, transportation, recreation and health, amongst others. Data compiled through this project supports municipalities to better plan and implement infrastructure investments and measure the impacts of those investments on economic prosperity and the quality of life of their residents.

For more information, visit www.dataforcities.org.

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