

Are Canadian cities getting smarter?

Connected devices and big data are helping organizations make more intelligent decisions. The private sector has already embraced IoT as companies are connecting everything to it and using data analytics to drive major decisions that cut costs and improve productivity.

Are governments embracing the IoT revolution? Yes. The public sector in Canada is starting to leverage the new digital age to improve ongoing operational issues from water management, smart parking, connected learning and healthcare – to name a few. Canada's cities are becoming smarter through the latest IoT innovations. In fact, Canada is among the world leaders in tele-health, which connects remote communities with medical experts at big city hospitals such as Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children. The IoT is the catalyst for intelligent "super-smart" cities projected to come online by 2020 and the next wave of city disruption.

Life in Canada is rapidly changing – for the better.

What are examples of some of the latest IoT innovations that are providing solutions to Canadians? In Mississauga, Ontario, over 40% of their energy costs were being spent on street lighting. To reduce these costs, smart LED street lighting was installed that uses a sensor in each street lamp to dim and brighten based on conditions. If it is raining, the lights now automatically go brighter. The city not only increased safety for its residents, but it has realized savings of over \$1million/year*.

In Montreal, Quebec, it currently takes on average four days to clear a 20m snowfall in the city and requires an annual budget of \$150 million. In order to improve the efficiencies in snow removal, Montreal snow plows are now equipped with fleet tracking sensors. The data generated from these sensors is available in an app enabling Montreal residents to see when a snow plow is coming to their neighborhood and enabling them to move their car in advance. Not only is snow removal far more efficient, but disruption to residents' lives is minimized.

IoT efficiencies are providing large financial returns and cost-savings as well as social and environmental returns as Canadian government departments and agencies meet specific targets, outcomes and policy goals.

How can IoTA CAN assist in making Canadian cities smarter?

IoT CAN is committed to leading the way for Canadian government agencies and representatives through its alliance member solutions. The critical combination of hardware, software and industry expertise that leverages IoT innovation is what is required to transform the Canadian cities into super-smart cities.

It's time to realize the IoT potential for Canadians. Join IoTA CAN - Big ideas. Big data. Big possibilities. Big country.

*Stats obtained from "What Makes a City Smart?" <http://wavefrontonwireless.com/what-makes-a-city-smart/>