

Dan Mathieson, Mayor
City of Stratford
City Hall, PO Box 818
Stratford, Ontario
N5A 6W1

December 13, 2010

Dear Mayor Mathieson:

I would like to take this opportunity to express our support for Stratford's bid to be named not only a top 7 Intelligent Community but also the most Intelligent Community for 2011.

The Canadian Digital Media Network (CDMN) works to connect clusters of digital media activity across the country for the purpose of creating connections and promoting collaborations that accelerate the pace of commercialization of digital media technologies. The CDMN is founded by two nodes, one of which is the University of Waterloo Stratford Campus. The Stratford Campus will be deploying undergraduate and graduate level programs in the fall of 2011 with a curriculum focusing on the needs of an exploding digital media sector.

Since 2009, the CDMN has partnered with the University of Waterloo Stratford to host Canada 3.0 – Canada's premier digital media forum - in Stratford. In 2010, Canada 3.0 drew close to 2000 participants, 170+ speakers and 70+ media. We will be holding Canada 3.0 in Stratford again in 2011 with a focus on improving Canada's productivity through the adoption of digital media technology and content. The City of Stratford has been a key partner for this event from the outset providing not only facilities but also the smart infrastructure required to host an event of this magnitude, including Wi-Fi and cellular connectivity.

As someone born and raised in Stratford, I have had the opportunity to witness Stratford's evolution firsthand. Stratford has a legacy of adaptation with the economic times – from railway to manufacturing to theatre. Most of these industries still exist in Stratford today. The extensive fibre network throughout the core, combined with the initiative to flood the city in wireless coverage, positions Stratford to be a world leader in connecting industry with social and community services to create a digitally inclusive society. At the core of this society is a strong and leading edge healthcare system that incorporates the benefits of digital media technologies, thereby providing it with the ability to serve its constituents now and into the future in an unprecedented fashion.

I would like to congratulate Stratford for being named a top 21 Intelligent Community; I look forward to a continued strong partnership with the City to help establish Canada as a digital nation.

Sincerely,



Kevin Tuer, PhD, PEng
Managing Director