



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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King Township lauded for GIS program

King Township's use of a geographic information system (GIS) has been recognized at the national level.

The Public Sector Digest (PSD) announced this week the Top 25 most mature GIS programs across Canada's public sector organizations, with King Township ranking 15th in the country. PSD launched Canada's first ever Geospatial Maturity Index (GMI), designed to benchmark the maturity of an organization's GIS (geographic information system) program.

GIS is a computer system for capturing, storing, checking, and displaying data related to positions on Earth's surface. By relating seemingly unrelated data, GIS can help individuals and organizations better understand spatial patterns and relationships.

"Overall, the level of geospatial maturity displayed by these organizations is astounding. Overcoming barriers that include limited budgets and decentralized teams, our survey respondents described their efforts to enhance government service delivery through cross-departmental collaboration, support decision-making through the provision of intuitive geospatial datasets, and improve corporate communications and engagement through the development of GIS-enhanced dashboards and visualizations," said Tyler Sutton, Editor-in-Chief, Public Sector Digest.

King Township has had a GIS co-ordinator since 2013. The data collected is used in many different ways, including by the water department for inspections and the planning department for displays and presentations.

The GMI uses 77 survey questions to capture the GIS maturity of survey respondents within three categories: Readiness, Implementation, and Impact. The results of the survey were analyzed and scored according to a predetermined scoring methodology. The survey participants were then ranked, with the Top 25 organizations now published. 146 organizations in total participated in the 2018 GMI survey, with municipalities, school boards, conservational authorities, and police departments among the types of public sector organizations included in the study.

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Lying in the heart of the Greater Toronto Area, King Township is located within York Region, one of the fastest growing and diverse economies in Canada. More than 60 per cent of the Holland Marsh, also known as Ontario's salad bowl, lies within King Township. Though predominantly rural, most of King Township's 26,000 residents live in the communities of King City, Nobleton and Schomberg. Residents and visitors are drawn to King because of its rural lifestyle, village atmosphere and quality of life.

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