



# REPORT TO COUNCIL

To: **Mayor and Councillors**

Subject: **Out of Province Conference Request, 2023  
Intelligent Community Forum (ICF) Global  
Summit**

File #: 0110.00

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From: Francis Cheung, P. Eng.  
Chief Administrative Officer

Date: September 28, 2023

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## RECOMMENDATION:

THAT City Council authorize Francis Cheung, Chief Administrative Officer to attend and speak at the 2023 Intelligent Community Forum (ICF) Global Summit in New York City from October 25 – 27, 2023.

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## PURPOSE:

The purpose of the report is to request approval to attend an out-of-province conference.

## POLICY:

The City's Travel and Expense Policy GE-10 requires City employees to receive Council approval to attend events outside of the Province of British Columbia.

## COMMENTS/ANALYSIS:

The Intelligent Communities Forum (ICF) Global Summit 2023 will be held in New York October 25-27. Full agenda can be reviewed here:

<https://www.intelligentcommunity.org/summit23>.

Each year, the leaders of Intelligent Communities gather with their partners in technology, education, business, economic development, healthcare and other sectors at the **ICF Global Summit**.

The ICF Summit is unlike any “smart city,” urban planning or economic development conference. It is an intimate setting, perfect for networking and has the following takeaways that people have been coming for since 2004 to learn how to go from “smart city” to Intelligent Community and true, sustainable growth:

- **A Proven Method for Growth.** Meet officials from cities, counties and metro areas who have faced similar challenges and tried the ICF Method as the centerpiece of their growth and sustainability policies. Today they are known around the world for their success and quality of life.
- **Inspiration.** Workshops, awards programs and inspiring examples teach, encourage and reinforce a community’s journey, and support the path forward.
- **International Opportunities.** McKinsey estimates that 80% of the world’s trade will cross international borders within 10 years. Nobel Prize-winning economist Robert Solow proved that 80% of economic growth comes from technology innovation. The ICF Summit brings together cities and towns from Canada, Taiwan, Scandinavia, Europe and South America and has been the direct route to international opportunities in the innovation economy for nearly 180 of them.

The event recognizes the Top7 intelligent communities for 2023. ICF assess communities against a social, cultural and economic methodology and ranks these communities against their database, issuing awards throughout the year which then culminates in the announcement of an Intelligent Community of the year at the Global Summit. The ICF Method is also attached for reference.

Attending ICF’s Global Summit strategically aligns with significant, impactful work currently underway such as the development of a Citizens Advisory Group, Innovation Boulevard; the Socio-Cultural Economic Framework that integrates the community social development priorities, Healthy and Resilient Community Dialogue series findings, and the Citizen’s Assembly development activities.

Metro Vancouver is home to many neighbouring communities that have received ICF Intelligent Community Awards.

#### **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:**

A complimentary pass worth \$1,000.00 was offered by the organizer of the ICF’s Global Summit to cover the registration fee to attend the summit. The estimated cost to attend the conference includes transportation and accommodation is approximately \$2,500.00.

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**ALTERNATIVES:**

Do not approve the out-of-province conference request.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Francis Cheung, P. Eng.  
Chief Administrative Officer