



# SMART CITIES CHALLENGE

## City of Saskatoon Smart Cities Challenge Update

### **Our Smart Cities Challenge statement:**

**To be the city that breaks the cycle of Indigenous youth incarceration by creating a new cycle focused on building purpose, belonging, security and identity.**

Our plan is to create a coordinated system of information and supports so that when youth are in a situation of crisis, they are able to access what they need in real time. This hub can also be used by organizations and decision makers to plug into, as it will provide city-wide information of what's happening and what's available as it relates to youth needs.

The City of Saskatoon's Smart Cities team has been working steadily on this goal since being announced as a finalist in June 2018.

### **Putting youth at the centre:**

Our first step in this second phase was to meet with an advisory group made up of youth from our institutional partners and community organizations. We have had two meetings with them, a design thinking workshop and a Talking Circle, allowing the youth to share their experience and ideas on new solutions as well as provide feedback on where extra support could have been used.

Two youth from the Advisory Group have become members of the Core Team and have been working with us to identify appropriate next steps for both the broader project as well as for engaging meaningful feedback from youth.

### **Our focus on partnership building:**

To include the knowledge and experience of many organizations who have been working on related programs, and to use people's expertise in the best way, we have developed a number of working groups that feed into specific pieces of the project. The following is a list of all groups involved in the project:

**Core Team** – this group includes members of the Operations Teams as well as 2 Indigenous Youth representatives, the Chief Executive Officer of the Saskatoon Tribal Council, and a community representative who has been facilitating the youth workshops.

**Youth Advisory Group** – this group includes Indigenous Youth between the ages of 15 to 29 to provide the team with lived experience feedback and suggestions on how to progress to a valuable solution.

**Community Allies Group** – this group includes members from over 25 organizations that have experience working on the frontline with in-crisis Indigenous Youth and experience in research and resources around youth programming. We held a Community Allies Feedback Forum to present the results of the youth engagement sessions and to allow community allies the opportunity to ask clarifying questions, create new ideas, talk about any other relevant work that is currently going on and identify additional gaps that we can help bridge.

**Institutional Partners** – this group is comprised of leaders from 10 key organizations in Saskatoon who also have representatives involved in the other working groups.

**Technology Advisory Group** – includes organizations with vast technical experience to help with the data and technology solutions. The need has been identified to develop a collaborative technology hub comprised of multiple software platforms that children, family members, service providers, and institutions will be able to use in a real-time, case-specific manner.

### **Developing technology solutions:**

We have heard from the youth advisors about being able to access the information they need, in the moment they need it. The youth identified this moment as critical, having the right information at their fingertips is the difference between making a good decision and a bad decision that can send them down the wrong path.

Many current programs and supports are already in place, but there is a lack of coordination, case management, shared data, and integrated processes that are necessary to ensure youth actually receive the supports they need, while also enabling them to be empowered in the decisions that affect their lives.

The collaborative technology hub will address the coordination of data, and we are starting work on this. We have also started on the next step, working with youth and service providers to identify what the best approach is for youth and community organizations to access this information, to know where to go and when, in the moment they need it.

### **Our timeline:**

We will continue to be piloting and testing our technology solutions with youth, service providers, and community organizations over the coming months, leading towards a final proposal submitted in March 2019.

For more information or background:

<https://www.saskatoon.ca/engage/smart-cities-challenge>