

## *Premier hopes N.B. city brings home title*

### Smart | Fredericton, Moncton in running for world IT title

Premier Shawn Graham is after intelligent community bragging rights in New York and Fredericton has a chance to win them for him.

Fredericton is one of two New Brunswick cities in the Intelligent Community Forum's competition this week in New York City.

"We want to win the top prize," said Graham on Wednesday. "When we win the bragging rights to be the smartest province and (for) having the smartest city in the world, definitely we will be using that as an opportunity to brand the province."

It's the second year in a row the capital has been invited to the competition.

"I am very proud of that fact that we have two communities in New Brunswick ... in the Top 7 intelligent community competition," said Graham.

"It has been well recognized across the globe as one of the most important competitions to enter."

Moncton is also in the running. The premier said he was rooting for both Fredericton and Moncton.

"At the end of this process, I would like to see one of these cities in our province be (named) the smartest place in the world," he said.

Other cities in the competition include: Tallinn, Estonia; Bristol, Va., Eindhoven, Netherlands, Issy-les-Moulineaux, France and Stockholm, Sweden.

The winner will be named at a gala luncheon Friday at 2 p.m.

The premier will speak Friday to the forum in a keynote discussion about his vision for rural competitiveness in New Brunswick using high-speed Internet.

Graham said New Brunswick will be the first jurisdiction to have 100 per cent broadband high-speed Internet coverage in rural areas.

"That, in itself, is a great stepping stone that many other jurisdictions are looking to follow," he said.

Barrett Xplore, which has the government contract to provide rural coverage, is one of eight companies travelling to New York with Graham and the New Brunswick delegation.

Fredericton Mayor Brad Woodside left for New York on Tuesday.

Deputy mayor Tony Whalen said Wednesday the capital is thrilled to be in the Top 7 competition for the second time.

"Hopefully this will be the time for us to be the No. 1 most intelligent community in the world," he said.

Whelan said Fredericton is going into the competition with more ammunition this year - including more Green Matters initiatives - while continuing with free wireless Internet.

He said he hopes Moncton is successful if Fredericton doesn't win.

"It (a Moncton win) is good for the whole province," said Whalen. "Anything that is good for the province is good for us."

The New Brunswick companies travelling to New York will be making business calls organized by Business New Brunswick and attending several Intelligent Community Forum workshops.

Companies participating include: PCS LabMentors Ltd.; Cube Automation; Red Ball Internet; PQA (Professional Quality Assurance Ltd.); Ambir; Lexi-Tech International Inc.; and Chalk Media Service Corp.

Graham will attend a reception tonight hosted by Canadian Consul General Dan Sullivan at his private residence.

After that, the New Brunswick delegation will attend a Top 7 reception hosted by the provincial government and the Canadian consul general.

The premier will address an information technology trade mission breakfast Friday prior to introducing a panel discussion highlighting the province's IT strengths and partnership opportunities with New York companies.

Jack Carr, Tory MLA for New Maryland-Sunbury West, said he's delighted Fredericton is in the Top 7 two years in a row and it will be an extra bonus to win.

"It bodes well for the work being done by the municipality and by the province ... to make Fredericton and the province one of the best places in the world to do business," he said. "I will be rooting for Fredericton."

"Of course, Moncton is in the Top 7 as well, but I have a soft spot for Fredericton."

If Fredericton or Moncton wins the province should promote it, said Carr.

"It is a great (marketing) tool already to be in the Top 7," he said. "If we get named No. 1, of course we would want to promote that even more." Updates on the New York trip can be watched at [www.youtube.ca/gnbca](http://www.youtube.ca/gnbca).

More information on the Intelligent Community Forum can be found at [www.intelligentcommunity.org](http://www.intelligentcommunity.org).

The awards luncheon will be shown on the website live Friday afternoon.