

Press Release

## Top GIS Programs in North America Announced – Calgary Ranks First Second Year in a Row

Today, PSD announced the Top 25 most mature GIS programs across North America’s public sector organizations, with the City of Calgary again earning the first-place ranking. Last year, PSD launched the inaugural Geospatial Maturity Index (GMI) and the Top 25 GIS Programs in Canada were announced. This year, the survey was open to all North American public sector organizations.

The GMI is designed to benchmark the maturity of an organization’s GIS (geographic information system) program and is made up of 85 questions organized within three competency categories: Readiness, Implementation, and Impact. GIS programs can help improve organizational decision-making, enhance service delivery, and increase government transparency. 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 in North America now published (see rankings below). 127 organizations in total participated in the 2019 GMI survey, with municipalities, school boards, conservation authorities, and police departments among the types of public sector organizations included in the study.

Rank	Organization	Size	Type	Province/State	Score
1	City of Calgary	1001+	Single-tier municipality	AB	96.3%
2	Toronto Police Service	1001+	Law Enforcement	ON	94.7%
3*	City of Leduc	501-1000	Single-tier municipality	AB	93.7%
3*	York Region	1001+	Upper-tier municipality	ON	93.7%
5	District of Kitimat	201-500	Single-tier municipality	BC	92.1%
6	District of North Vancouver	501-1000	Single-tier municipality	BC	90.5%
7	Strathcona County	1001+	Single-tier municipality	AB	89.4%
8	City of Winnipeg	1001+	Single-tier municipality	MB	85.7%
9	City of Burnaby	1001+	Single-tier municipality	BC	85.2%
10	City of Mississauga	1001+	Lower-tier municipality	ON	84.7%
11	County of Newell	51-200	Single-tier municipality	AB	84.1%
12*	City of Cambridge	501-1000	Lower-tier municipality	ON	82.5%
12*	Grey County	501-1000	Upper-tier municipality	ON	82.5%
12*	Region of Niagara	1001+	Upper-tier municipality	ON	82.5%
15	Halifax Regional Municipality	1001+	Single-tier municipality	NS	82.0%
16	King County	1001+	Upper-tier municipality	WA	81.0%
17	Ville de Montréal	1001+	Upper-tier municipality	QC	79.9%
18*	City of Guelph	1001+	Single-tier municipality	ON	77.8%
18*	San Juan County	501-1000	Upper-tier municipality	NM	77.8%
20	Durham Region	1001+	Upper-tier municipality	ON	76.7%

21	City of Burlington	1001+	Lower-tier municipality	ON	75.7%
22*	Municipality of Chester	51-200	Single-tier municipality	NS	74.1%
22*	Municipality of the County of Kings	51-200	Single-tier municipality	NS	74.1%
24*	Conservation Halton	501-1000	Conservation Authority	ON	73.5%
24*	Stark County IT	1001+	Upper-tier municipality	OH	73.5%

\*Tie in Ranking/Score

### **CALGARY: NORTH AMERICA'S MOST MATURE GIS PROGRAM**

For the second year in a row, the City of Calgary obtained the top ranking in the 2019 GMI survey. The success and maturity of the City's GIS program can be attributed largely to its impact across the organization; GIS is used cross-departmentally at the City of Calgary, including the departments related to Emergency Services, IT, Infrastructure, Planning, Public Works and Engineering. Additionally, the City of Calgary demonstrated its maturity in its utilization of dedicated software to facilitate GIS data flow management. In contrast, 79% of survey respondents reported GIS data flow management is done manually. Calgary is also one of only 7 respondents that indicated having a GIS Communications Plan aligned with corporate strategic goals, tailored to individual stakeholders, and a process is in place to evaluate the Plan.

### **SNAPSHOT OF RESULTS**

The average score across all 127 participants was **59.5 percent**, a slight increase from last year's average score of 56 percent. Grey County, Ontario earned the Most Improved title, jumping from 76<sup>th</sup> place in the 2018 GMI survey to ranking 12<sup>th</sup> in the 2019 survey. Since first participating in the survey in 2018, and using the GMI as a road map to GIS maturity, Grey County introduced a GIS data policy and committee, alongside implementing internal programming to address skill gaps in GIS staff. King County, Washington earned the first-place ranking for top Performing GIS Programs in the United States.

The top performing organizations by staff size and organization type are listed below.

#### ***Top Performing Organizations by Staff Size:***

1-50: Central Lake Ontario Conservation  
51-200: County of Newell, AB  
201-500: District of Kitimat, BC  
501-1000: City of Leduc, AB  
1000+: City of Calgary, AB

#### ***Top Performing Organizations by Type:***

Upper Tier: York Region, ON  
Lower Tier: City of Mississauga, ON  
Single Tier: City of Calgary, AB  
Conservation Authority: Conservation Halton  
Other\*: Toronto Police Service

*\*Other includes: Law enforcement, School Board/Educational Institutions, and Regional Service Commission*

## TOP PERFORMING CANADIAN AND US ORGANIZATIONS

PSD also released two separate rankings of the Top 20 GIS Programs in Canada and the US respectively.

### Top 20 GIS Programs in Canada

Rank	Organization	Size	Type	Province	Score
1	City of Calgary	1001+	Single-tier municipality	AB	96.3%
2	Toronto Police Service	1001+	Law Enforcement	ON	94.7%
3*	City of Leduc	501-1000	Single-tier municipality	AB	93.7%
3*	York Region	1001+	Upper-tier municipality	ON	93.7%
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19	City of Burlington	1001+	Lower-tier municipality	ON	75.7%
20*	Municipality of Chester	51-200	Single-tier municipality	NS	74.1%
20*	Municipality of the County of Kings	51-200	Single-tier municipality	NS	74.1%

### United States

Rank	Organization	Size	Type	State	Score
1	King County	1001+	Upper-tier municipality	WA	81.0%
2	San Juan County	501-1000	Upper-tier municipality	NM	77.8%
3	Stark County IT	1001+	Upper-tier municipality	OH	73.5%
4	City of Lewisville	501-1000	Single-tier municipality	TX	70.4%
5	City of Longview	501-1000	Single-tier municipality	TX	68.8%

The full list of GMI results can be found here: <https://psdracs.com/geospatial-maturity-index/>

#### **QUOTES:**

"I participated in the GMI to refine my insights into how King County GIS compares to its peers and to help identify areas that we should target for improvement in the future."

**- Greg Babinski, GIS Marketing and Business Development Manager at King County, WA**

"It is clear from the 2019 GMI results that GIS programs continue to evolve in the public sector. The City of Calgary, King County, and many of our other top ranking organizations have positioned their respective GIS teams to enable enhanced decision-making, communications, and data manipulation across all departments. GIS programs, when supported by effective teams and appropriate technologies and processes, can serve as a foundation for achieving any strategic objective of our government organizations, from a smart city plan to an asset management strategy."

**- Tyler Sutton, General Manager of Research and Marketing, PSD**

"We continue to be a proud leader in the use, management and evolution of geographic information systems which enable The City of Calgary's location analytics. Our success is not achieved independently – it would not be possible without our collaborative partnerships inside and outside our organization.

PSD's GMI Rankings continue to demonstrate that our decades of focus on this valuable technology has positioned us well for today's economic climate. Locational intelligence is the foundation for well-connected data and shareable data, enabling us to expand our Smart City infrastructure, utilize big data and continue to efficiently provide decision-support for citizen services. Not only does it provide a solid backbone for numerous City operations, but it also supports the growth of technology industries locally. The GMI Ranking gives us valuable insight and adds another benchmark to which we can gauge our effectiveness and efficiency. Last year's GMI results helped us focus on areas of improvement and we've spent a lot of time refining our strategic direction to ensure sustainment of our core, reliable geospatial technologies."

**- Liz Findlay, Manager, Geospatial Business Solutions, Corporate Analytics & Innovation, The City of Calgary**

For more information on the GMI and to request an interview contact:

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