



Quality Urban Energy  
Systems of Tomorrow

April 20, 2018

Privy Council Office  
Attn: Impact and Innovation Unit  
Room 1000  
85 Sparks Street  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A3

Re: Support for Town of Bridgewater Smart Cities Challenge Grant Application

Dear Smart Cities Challenge Jury Panel,

QUEST is pleased to extend its full support and confidence to the Town of Bridgewater to address energy poverty by pursuing the Smart Cities Challenge grant.

QUEST is the voice of the Smart Energy Communities marketplace in Canada. With a network of eight provincial and regional Caucuses, their related working groups, and a reach of thousands of stakeholders, QUEST is supporting governments, utilities & energy service providers, the real-estate sector (owners, operators and builders), and the product and professional service sector, among others to implement Smart Energy Communities. In Nova Scotia, we facilitate the Municipal Energy Learning Group (MELG) and act as the Regional Climate Advisor for the FCM-ICLEI Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) Program.

Two in five Bridgewater residents are living in energy poverty, meaning that they spend more than 10% of their income on energy expenses such as home heating.

Through the Energize Bridgewater initiative, the Town of Bridgewater demonstrated the ability to effectively coordinate and work openly and transparently with multiple partner organizations including industry, commercial entities, other governmental entities and non-profits organizations to focus on reducing energy policy. Funding by the Smart Cities Challenge grant will allow the Town of Bridgewater to continue the work that has earned them a reputation as a leading innovator on energy poverty.

Undertaking a community-wide energy poverty initiative will enable Bridgewater residents by improving housing conditions, along with energy affordability. It also stands to benefit the community as a whole through the inclusion and empowerment of marginalized and vulnerable

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Brent Gilmour,  
MCIP RPP

families, new economic opportunities, and increased environmental quality. On an even greater scale, Bridgewater could serve as a pilot for many other communities, large and small, that would like to tackle energy poverty.

QUEST is pleased to be part of this initiative both as the facilitator of the MELG, which offers a space for peer learning among municipal staff, and through the PCP program. QUEST is confident that winning the Smart Cities Challenge grant would be a major contribution toward reducing energy poverty in Bridgewater.

*Sincerely,*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brent Gilmour". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Brent" being more prominent than the last name "Gilmour".

*Brent Gilmour, MCIP RPP  
Executive Director, QUEST*