CDO Summary: Smart Cities Component

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Key Research Questions

1. To what extent are Canadian communities using digital infrastructure to become intelligent communities/ smart cities, employing e-health, e-work, e- commerce, e-education and e-government to create digital opportunities for all citizens?
2. How do key stakeholders define and envision an intelligent community/ smart city? Do ideals about these concepts differ based on the stakeholder group (i.e. residents, administrators, elected representatives)?
3. How can we define a smart city? What measures best assess community intelligence?

Overview of Major Findings

1. Hutchison-Cohn approach to understand resident assessments of smart city progress.
   - We find a divergence between the types of smart city services being put in place and the importance the public places on such services.
   - We argue local governments should consider public opinion to a greater extent.

2. Municipal report comparing survey data from residents and local officials
   - We find residents and municipal officials have different perspectives regarding where smart cities should be going and who the key beneficiaries are.
   - In addition, residents are largely unaware of what governments are doing.

Overview of Major Findings

3. Understand how rural and remote communities are adapting to smart city developments through interviews with Annapolis Valley and Iqaluit.
   - We find that collaboration is an essential component for the pursuit of smart city development in rural and remote communities.
   - Despite a number of challenges, the primary rationale for adoption of smart city technology remains the same in these communities: enhanced quality of life for residents and sustained community health.

4. We also examined the definitional components of the terms ‘smart city’ and ‘intelligent community’ using an evolutionary concept analysis of key literature and qualitative analysis.
   - We find that a top characteristic of a smart city is not technology, but transparent & accountable governance.
   - We identify six core dimensions of a smart city: governance and management, ICTs, environment, engagement, economic development, infrastructure, planning and development and suggest future studies should consider a re-operationalization of the concept.

Implications for Digital Opportunity & Policy

- Key developments since the CDO project:
  - Smart City Challenge
  - Quayside project, Sidewalk Labs
- Implications and considerations:

1. Bring the public to the forefront
2. Focus on access
3. Strengthen national standards governing privacy, data use and IP
4. Inclusivity and digital literacy
5. Improve procurement policies
6. Who is driving the process?

Questions?