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New Brunswick Security Initiative Recognized for Excellence

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When New Brunswick decided to upgrade and centralize its cyber-threat protection systems, it was a daunting task. Until 2012, every government department was responsible for controlling their own cyber security, inevitably leading to a duplication of effort, competing standards, incompatible equipment and vulnerability.

But with the co-operation of its partners, the Office of the OCIO moved the initiative forward, integrating more than 1,000 different sensors and security devices into of dozens of different agencies, departments and Crown Corporations.

The effort has paid off. The Security Event Management Centre has reduced alerts requiring “desk-side action” by 96% and generated HR savings expected to top of more than \$100,000 a year.

Those stellar results, combined with the ingenuity of its information and communications technology platform, also earned the Centre billing Wednesday (November 12) as one of the most innovative projects in Canada, as determined by the nation’s ICT industry association.

At an event in Toronto, CIO officials were presented the Information Technology Association of Canada’s Ingenious Award. It is the industry’s top prize to recognize excellence in the innovative and effective use of information technology. The office was the national winner in the Small to Medium Sized Public category.

Quick Facts

- The Security Events Management Centre was created to centralize cybersecurity and threat monitoring.
- The office now oversees cyber-infrastructure security through the delivery of a uniform, consistent security event management and oversight service. Centre staff monitor and report on suspected cyber incidents, recommend mitigating actions, respond to emergencies and develop strategies for the future.
- The Information Technology Association of Canada is the voice of the ITC sector in Canada. It has been operating the Ingenious Awards since 2011.

- The Ingenious Awards Program was designed to showcase the achievements of innovative Canadian organizations that use technology to build competitive enterprises and strengthen the Canadian economy.
- The Information and Communications Technology sector creates one million direct and indirect jobs and generates \$155 billion in annual revenue

Quotes

“With cyber security concerns keeping even the best CIO’s up at night, the innovative, yet practical approach taken by the New Brunswick Office of the CIO provides a “best in class example” that others will undoubtedly model. We hope that recognizing this innovation serves as a reminder that any Canadian public organization can use technology to improve efficiency and achieve better outcomes for its citizens.”

- *Karna Gupta, President and CEO, Information Technology Association of Canada*

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