

**PRESS RELEASE**  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Metro Moncton takes home national WinterLights Celebrations award**

MONCTON – For the 4<sup>th</sup> time in 6 years, the communities of Metro Moncton have been recognized nationally for their winter celebrations.

This past weekend in Saint John, Metro Moncton was honoured in the 50,000 plus category for enhancing the quality of life, beating out Halifax Nova Scotia, Kelowna and Prince George in British Columbia and Brampton, Oshawa and Vaughan in Ontario.

WinterLights Celebrations is the winter edition of the popular Communities in Bloom program. During the month of December, trained volunteer judges evaluated the participating communities on the program's five criteria: visual presentation, festive season celebrations, winter pleasures, goodwill programs and tourism and promotion. Moncton received a 5 star rating and a score of 92.7% for the 5 categories.

The WinterLights judges found that *“Metro Moncton is a community which consistently strives to serve the needs of people of all ages and economic circumstances. The outstanding facilities such as the 4-Ice Centre, Irishtown Nature Park, Centennial Park and the beautiful Capitol Theatre provide for diverse recreational, sporting and cultural events.”*

The judges also noted that *“The Francophone and Anglophone population, who retain their identity, work together to form a cohesive unit.”* They found especially noteworthy our incredible goodwill programs - the Sue Stultz Turkey Drive, Food Depot and Headstart stated as prime examples – that serve the needs of the less fortunate.

Bob Cameron, co-chairman of the Metro Moncton Communities in Bloom Committee, states that *“This victory is the result of the great efforts of the citizens of Moncton, Dieppe and Riverview and I am thrilled that the three municipalities succeed in maintaining their own identity while working as one.”*

Metro Moncton is anxiously awaiting this summer's Communities in Bloom and next season's Winter Celebrations with new programs and initiatives.

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