



# **Internet for Nova Scotia Initiative**

## **Annapolis Valley/Hants Presentation**

October 1, 2020

# High-Speed Internet – Our Approach

95%

Reach at least 95% NS homes and businesses



Focus on outcomes, not technology



Deliver minimum speeds (50Mbps/10Mbps wired/ 25Mbps/5Mbps wireless)



Hold ISPs accountable to deliver reliable service over time

# 15 Pre-Qualified Providers



# Summary: Connections & Investment



- **Potential Connections**

- Phase 1 – approximately 42,000 access to connections (\*18,000 complete)
- Phase 2 – approximately 32,000 access to connections
- Other initiatives – approximately 7,000 access to connections
- Percentage of NS reaching target – 97%



- **NS Internet Funding Trust Contribution**

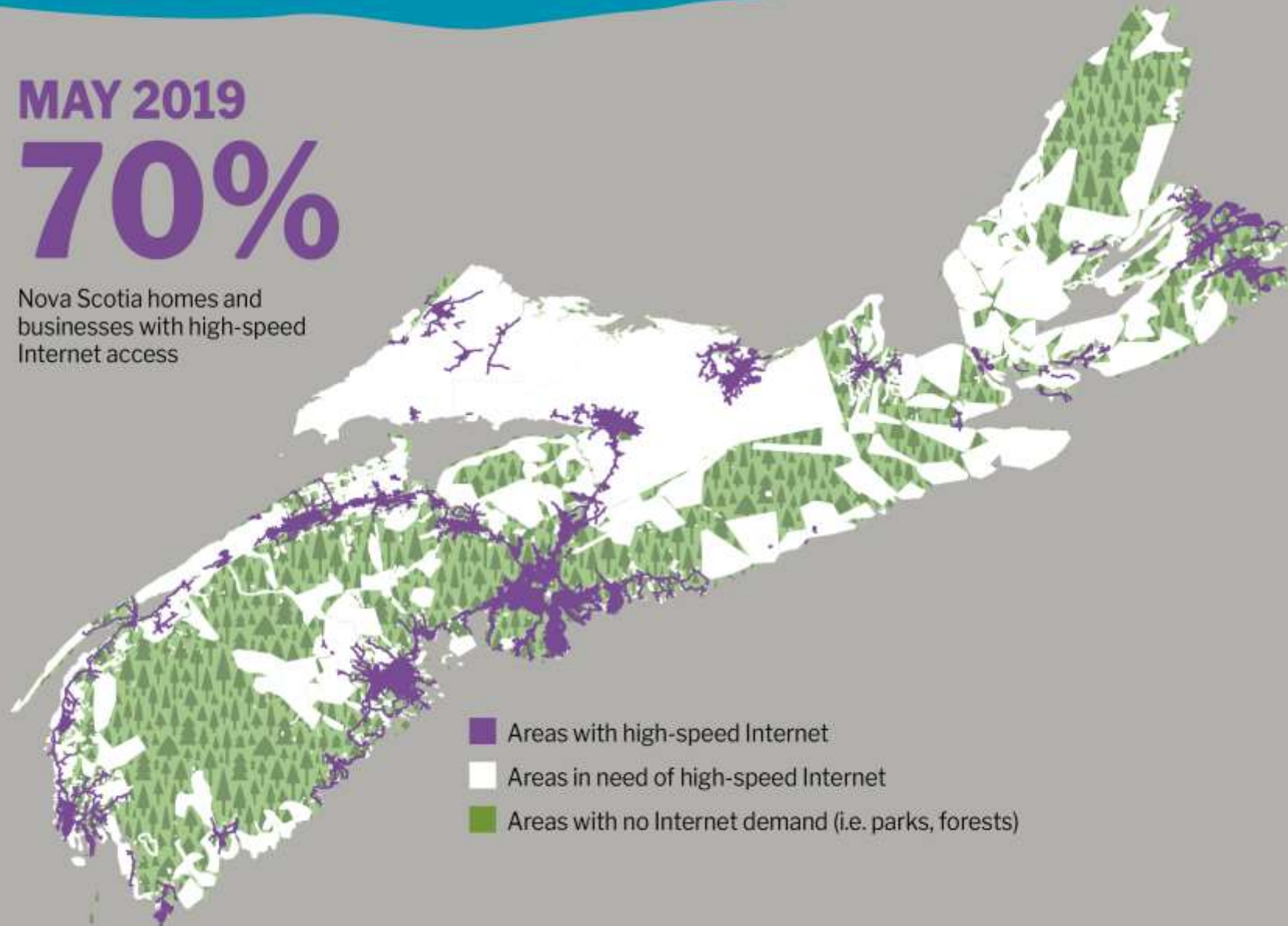
- Connect to Innovate (Fed) - \$500k from Trust
- Phase 1 -\$51M from Trust (inclusive of acceleration funds)
- Phase 2 -\$60M from Trust
- Remaining -\$82M in Trust

- **Leveraged \$102M private sector investment, \$18M other public investment**

MAY 2019

70%

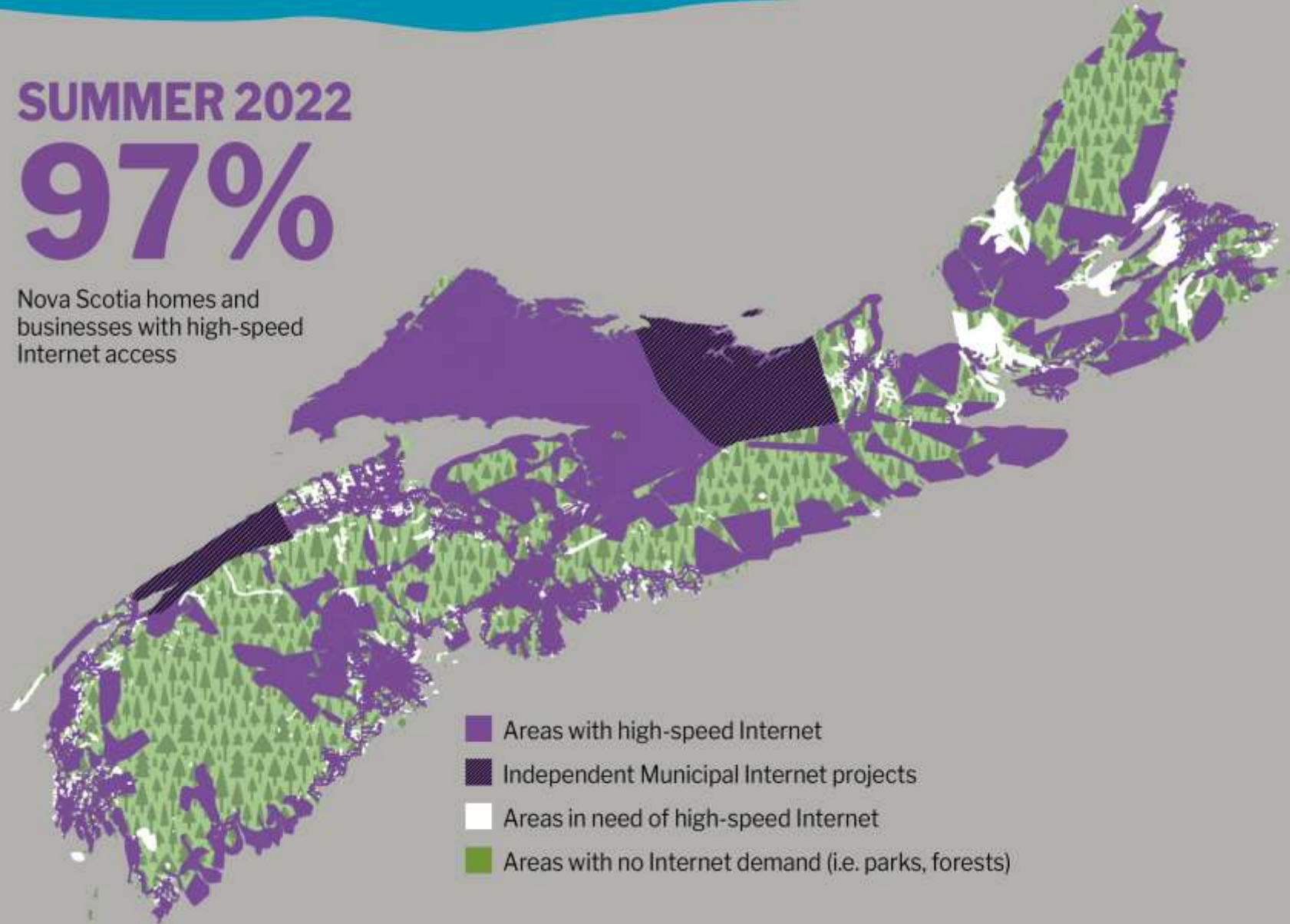
Nova Scotia homes and  
businesses with high-speed  
Internet access



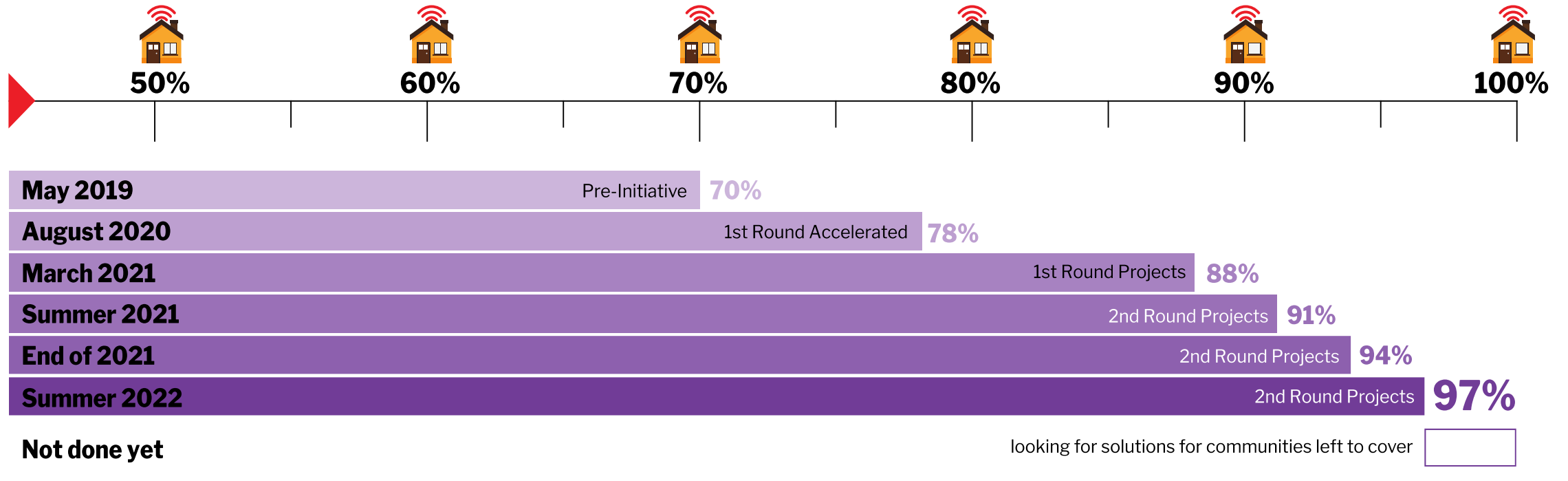
SUMMER 2022

97%

Nova Scotia homes and  
businesses with high-speed  
Internet access



# Internet for Nova Scotia Timeline (August 2020)



# Nova Scotia Project Comparisons

- Nova Scotia ranks 4<sup>th</sup> in Canada for access to coverage at 50Mbps/10Mbps by population in rural communities (CRTC Communications Report)
- At completion of build, it is anticipated Nova Scotia will lead the country
- Nova Scotia is moving 50% faster on most steps of project implementation (compared to industry norms)



# Where we are in Annapolis Valley/Hants

## After Round 2

- Bear River | Port Lorne | East Dalhousie | Scots Bay | Walton | Brooklyn | South Milford | Lawrencetown | Springfield | Wolfville South | Cheverie | Windsor-Vaughn
- Approximately 5500 homes and businesses; substantially complete June 30, 2022
- Bell Canada Project - Wired to home/business (Fibre) | Cross Country Project - Wired to home/business (Fibre and upgrade to existing Coax)
- Acceleration efforts in place to complete ahead of schedule

# Now What?

**Finish the job. We are not done.**

*~ 10,000 remaining homes & businesses across NS ~ 2,900 in Annapolis Valley Area*

The following efforts are already underway:

1. Expand coverage of current approved projects
2. Negotiate directly with Internet Service Providers
3. Invite proposals to cover unserved areas

# Common Public Questions

- **New projects – is my home / business included?**
  - Street/address level info not available yet
  - More engineering & design needed by ISP
  - Coverage maps & est. completion dates to be posted on site
- **No project for my area – what now?**
  - We're not done
  - Work underway to find solutions – confident we will for most
  - We know where remaining pockets are

# Common Public Questions

- **Price / Service Cost Affordability?**
  - Manage cost competitiveness thru Service Level Agreements
  - Comparable projects must be comparable prices, no matter the location
- **Will we receive inferior service in rural areas?**
  - All projects approved must meet or exceed minimum standards
  - Majority of projects approved deliver much higher speeds
  - Not technology-focused, priority on outcome – high-quality, reliable Internet for Nova Scotia

## Low Income Affordability

- Our work to increase access to reliable internet is one part
- Province is actively working on ways to bridge the “digital divide”
  - programming to increase access and digital skills:
    - Communities, Culture & Heritage
    - Education & Early Childhood Development
    - Labour & Advanced Education
- Affordability is an important part of a bigger digital initiative
  - but beyond scope of this project

## Updates & Community Outreach

- Learn more: [internet.developns.ca](http://internet.developns.ca) (searchable by community; will continue to add information)
- Coverage maps & estimated completion dates to be posted
- Virtual Town Hall Meetings like this one
- Outreach, updates through local media, partner platforms



# Thank You

[internet.developns.ca](http://internet.developns.ca)

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