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Internet for Nova Scotia Initiative – New Projects + June 2022 Update

We are pleased to provide another update on the progress of the Internet for Nova Scotia Initiative.

New Projects Announced

High-speed internet will reach another 273 Nova Scotia homes and businesses through a scope expansion project with Eastlink as part of the Internet for Nova Scotia Initiative.

The locations are located in small pockets across the province in 24 project areas. These are all wired-to-the-home/business solutions (coax or fibre - depending on what infrastructure exists currently near each location) and work is already underway in all areas. These access to connections are expected to be complete before the target completion of the end of 2023. The provider is currently looking at technical and make-ready requirements and will be able to provide finer detail on schedule once those factors are known. These timelines will be updated on the project pages as soon as that detail is provided.

The pockets of homes and businesses are located in the following communities across the province (click on your community for more details):

North Chegoggin	Middlewood
Greenville	Hacketts Cove
North Kingston	Lakelands
South Greenwood	North Beaver Bank
Berwick West	Naugle
Coldbrook	Chezzetcook
Benjamin Bridge	Dutch Settlement
Sweets Corner	Lower East Chezzetcook
Riverhead	Lesterdale
Whynotts Settlement	Louisdale
Borgies Point	Woodbine
The Lodge	Georges River

"We know that reliable, high-speed internet access for all Nova Scotians cannot come soon enough," said Susan Corkum-Greek, Minister of Economic Development. "It's a vital service in today's world and plays a key role in helping communities across our province, particularly in rural Nova Scotia, seize economic opportunities and reach their full potential."

The Nova Scotia Internet Funding Trust has approved $1.6 million for these projects. Another $393,000 is being invested by Eastlink.

With the additional high-speed internet coverage provided by Nova Scotia Internet Funding Trust projects announced to date, the municipal-led project in Pictou and Bell's Wireless Home Internet Service, it is expected that 99.5 per cent of Nova Scotia's homes and businesses will have high-speed access by the end of 2023.

Develop Nova Scotia is working with internet service providers to identify solutions for the remaining 3,700 underserved homes and businesses across the province, of which about 1,000 do not have commercial power. The goal is to achieve high-speed internet access for as close to 100 per cent of the remaining homes and businesses as possible. With the Trust funds remaining together with leveraged dollars, we remain very confident we will be able to support the goal of reaching very, very close to 100% of homes and businesses in Nova Scotia.

"New connections are happening daily and by the end of June 2022 about 90 per cent of Nova Scotians will have access to high-speed internet. Together with our internet service provider partners, we are working hard to ensure projects underway are delivered on time and to identify solutions for the remaining homes and businesses. The numbers will continue to be small from here forward, but no less important for those residents and business owners."
- Jennifer Angel, President and CEO, Develop Nova Scotia

"As a company rooted in delivering high-speed internet to smaller towns and communities, we are very pleased to be working with Develop Nova Scotia on expanding access to more Nova Scotians."
- Jeff Gillham, CEO, Eastlink

For more information on the Internet for Nova Scotia Initiative and to view projects in your community, visit: https://internet.developns.ca

Quick Facts

-- with Develop Nova Scotia projects announced to date, more than 60,200 of a total of 92,500 homes and businesses are now complete and have the network in place for new or improved high-speed internet
-- to date, the Nova Scotia Internet Funding Trust has approved a total of $166.2 million, leveraging an additional $137.9 million from other funders, including $118.8million from the private sector
-- all projects approved for funding to date by the internet trust meet or exceed the minimum target speeds required by the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) – 50 Mbps down/10 Mbps up for wired, 25 Mbps down/5 Mbps up for wireless; most are greatly exceeding these speeds
-- contracts are currently in place with Bell, Cross Country, Eastlink, Mainland Telecom, Seaside Communications and Xplornet
--there are 15 pre-qualified internet service providers for the Nova Scotia Internet Funding Trust

Tips & Tools

SEARCHING YOUR COMMUNITY: We've made some changes to our web site to make it easier to find your community. It is now searchable by both community name or by first 3 digits of your postal code. You can't miss the search window. ***NOTE: The new Eastlink projects are located in small pockets in 24 different communities across Nova Scotia.***

CIVIC ADDRESS LISTS: As parts of the project areas are complete, we are adding address lists that show the civic address of homes and businesses for which connections have been made available. So keep checking back with your community's project page.

COVERAGE MAPS: Coverage maps are also available on our site for many projects. Parcels with or without a civic address in a red zone, off a blue road and serviced by power lines are anticipated to be covered.

We will continue to update project pages as new information becomes available.

Internet for Nova Scotia Community Drop-In
Coming to Eastern Shore July 20

DATE
Wednesday, July 20, 2022

TIME
5:00 pm-7:00 pm

LOCATION
MLA Kent Smith's Constituency Office
5333 Highway 7
Head of Chezzetcook, NS

Drop-in to learn more about **Internet for Nova Scotia Initiative** projects in your area. The goal is to achieve high-speed access to as close to 100 % of homes and businesses, as possible.

Internet.developns.ca | info@developns.ca | 1-833-422-6591 develop

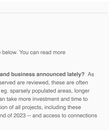
What's Next For Those Not Served

Through our work we identified additional underserved and have captured where possible bringing us to 102,000* underserved homes and businesses across the province.

With these most recent contracts, and a separate Bell Wireless project, there are now approximately 3,700 remaining underserved homes and businesses, of which about 1,000 do not have commercial power. We're still working working with qualified providers, with a variety of available technologies, including satellite, on potential solutions and hope to make more announcements soon. Work will continue in an effort to reach as close to 100% of homes and businesses as possible.

**This includes additional homes and businesses anticipated to be covered as part of municipal-led project in Pictou County.*

Thank You Baddeck & Surrounding Area
Community Drop-In on May 26



Frequently Asked Questions

Some of the common questions we hear are below. You can read more at https://internet.developns.ca/faqs

- **Why the smaller number of homes and business announced lately?** As smaller pockets of unserved or underserved are reviewed, these are often more challenging locations to serve – eg. sparsely populated areas, longer driveways, difficult terrain – so they can take more investment and time to reach. The overall goal is for completion of all projects, including these announcements today, is still by the end of 2023 – and access to connections are happening daily.
- **Am I getting fibre?** All solutions delivered through this initiative must meet or exceed minimum speed targets. The majority of projects are fibre or coax directly to the home, but not all. Speeds can be delivered through a variety of technologies, including fibre/coaxial, signal off a tower, or satellite – and all will continue to be considered as we look for solutions for those remaining.
- **Did you only go to Eastlink for these ones?** With adjacent infrastructure already in place and the ability to expand the scope of the existing contract scope, it made sense to start with Eastlink for these particular premises. We continue discussions with a mix of providers to explore additional possible options for those who remain unserved.
- **What is make-ready work and why does that impact some estimated completion dates?** When a project area is announced, the provider still needs to do some detailed site and engineering work. This helps refine the footprint so more detail around street and address level detail can be provided.

  Part of the project work is make-ready work. This can include tree trimming, pole inspections, pole replacements with new poles, and water and road/railway crossing permits. The level of work can vary and providers also work with other levels of government and private sector on these items. We continue to work with partners to speed up regulatory approvals and optimize coordination among all of the partners.

  Overall, the initiative remains on track for completion by the end of 2023 with connections happening daily. We are trouble-shooting every day to keep the initiative on schedule, and when delays happen, the work is shifted to a different area to ensure work continues while the barriers are removed.
- **What about cell coverage?** Cell coverage is not explicitly part of Develop Nova Scotia's Internet for Nova Scotia Initiative mandate. However, we recognize this is an issue in many rural areas of the province and the Province has conducted a cell coverage gap analysis.

  The extension of robust backbone networks (like fibre) further into communities does help to improve the business case for cellular providers. We will continue to look at opportunities to locate Internet infrastructure so that it may eventually help to address cellular issues wherever possible.

If you have questions, please contact us at info@developns.ca or by calling 1-833-422-6591.

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