



INTERNET UPDATE

As a part of our effort to keep stakeholders regularly informed as planning work advances, Develop Nova Scotia would like to take the opportunity to provide you with an update on the development of internet implementation for the province.

Like you, we appreciate the importance of a connected Nova Scotia. We are working tirelessly to build the team and implementation plan to reach our collective goals.

ENGAGEMENT

Our team continues to meet and engage with key stakeholders across Nova Scotia. In early August, we held eight sessions through which we met with 300+ stakeholders with representation from over 20 distinct Municipalities and several regional economic partners.

Throughout this fall, we will attend several events with key partners such as: the Atlantic Chambers of Commerce, the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities, the Association of Municipal Administrators, and the Tourism Industry Association of Nova Scotia.

We see collaboration as a key component of our success and appreciate the valuable input that partners like you bring to this process.

PLANNING

We are seeking a number of new positions in project management, systems engineering, communications, and regional development.

Our consulting team is in place and actively supporting our work to develop the strategic plan, the operational plan, and the competitive procurement process. We are still working to be in market with the competitive process by December 2018.

PROGRAMS

CONNECT TO INNOVATE

Our team is working closely with successful proponents of the Connect to Innovate program to identify required provincial support. We are also working with the Nova Scotia Internet Funding Trust to finalize the funding approval process and will be providing further details to proponents over the next couple of weeks.

CANADIAN RADIO-TELEVISION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION FUND

On September 27, 2018, the CRTC released further information relating to their \$750 million fund. Full details can be found at:

<https://crtc.gc.ca/eng/archive/2018/2018-377.htm>

This fall, CRTC will engage with all provinces and release maps indicating eligible communities. The application process will be released later in 2018 or early in 2019. The first call for applications will be in Spring of 2019 with funds beginning to be spent in 2020.

Develop Nova Scotia is engaged with the CRTC and will work to align the funding with the Provincial plan. If you have questions with regards to the fund, please direct them to our team.

COMMUNICATIONS

In addition to our ongoing participation in relevant meetings and other engagements, we will continue to provide monthly project updates to ensure you have relevant and up-to-date information. We are also currently working on our communications plan with an ambition to develop a robust online communication channel and dashboard within the next several months.

We have heard that it would be helpful, in the meantime, to have communication materials that are available for public distribution. We are currently considering the best plan for providing meaningful overviews and updates to the public as we develop our full communications plan.

Once we have finalized the competitive process, our plan is to review the proposed approach with stakeholders prior to going to market.