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Internet for Nova Scotia Update August, 2019

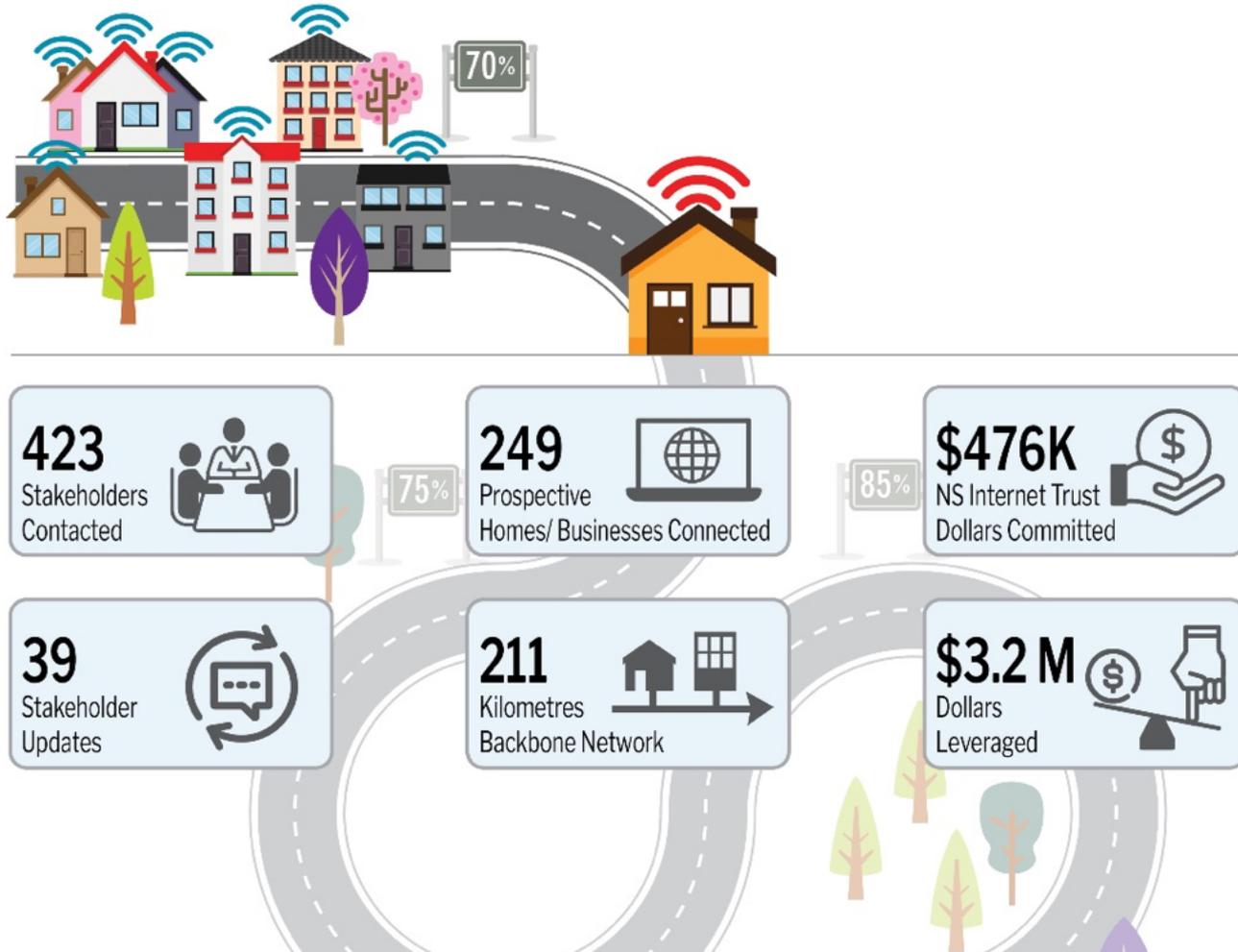
We're making progress and there's much more to come soon.

Develop Nova Scotia put out a call for high-speed Internet projects in May and it closed June 28. We were pleased to receive multiple proposals from both large and small organizations in all of the 11 zones across Nova Scotia. In this first call we were looking specifically for projects that could be implemented within 6-12 months –to get connections happening as quickly as possible.

Develop Nova Scotia has completed evaluation of all submissions and is now in negotiations with providers. Announcements are anticipated this fall once contracts are signed.

A second call for proposals will be issued in the fall looking to address those areas left uncovered. We are confident projects will begin in some communities in 2019.

As soon as we are able, Develop Nova Scotia will provide more information on our website, social media, in the provincial media, and at community events across the province. All projects must meet or exceed provincial speed targets of 50 mbps for wired connections and 25 mbps for wireless and must evolve with changing technology.



Check out our new Internet dashboard - it can be found on our website (just click on the picture). We plan to send to libraries, community centres, and other places where it can be posted. It will be updated regularly as we progress toward access to high-speed Internet for more than 95% of Nova Scotia.

Questions and Answers

Was my community included in the first round of projects?

Unfortunately, this isn't something we can speak to at the moment. The details of proposals may change during negotiations. In order to get the best deal for Nova Scotians, we need to wait until contracts are signed to make announcements.

We can say that if your community isn't a part of the first round of projects, we will be looking to address uncovered areas in the second round in the fall. Please check out our dashboard to see where we are today. This will continue to highlight progress and various projects progress and are added.

How will I know if and when my community will get service?

As soon as contracts are signed, Develop Nova Scotia and the Nova Scotia

Internet Funding Trust will communicate more detailed information through official announcements, email updates, website, local media and local elected officials, as well as by sending updates to local community centres, libraries and other central locations. As work begins, residents will be notified through service providers as to how to have their homes and businesses connected.

What's the overall timeline for Nova Scotia?

Connecting 95% of Nova Scotians is a big project and these projects can typically take 2–5 years. The timing of your access depends on what already exists in your community and how quickly providers can upgrade existing technology or install new technology. Develop Nova Scotia is working to make sure this happens as quickly as possible. The next round of projects should be announced this fall and another round announced in first half of 2020.

What events have been happening lately related to high-speed Internet?

Develop Nova Scotia is in the midst of a 7-stop community event schedule this summer and into the early fall. These events are not to announce new projects.

Nova Scotia received approximately \$17 million in funding related to the federal Connect to Innovate (CTI) program that closed in 2017. Nine of those projects identified provincial funding in their applications. When the Nova Scotia Internet Funding Trust was established in 2018, approved CTI projects that requested provincial funding were identified as one of the groups of organizations eligible for funding under the Trust. Develop Nova Scotia designed a condensed application process under the Internet for Nova Scotia initiative (INSI) for those CTI projects to formally request funding from the Trust. All have been approved for funding and contracts with suppliers are now confirmed.

The areas identified under these projects include:

- Lunenburg area: Hemford, Hemford Forest & Bakers Settlement communities (connections to homes)
- Pictou area: McPherson's Mills, Blue Mountain & Eden Lake communities (backbone only)
- Antigonish area: West Lochaber & North Lochaber communities (backbone only)
- Hants area: Ashdale, Minasville & East Walton communities (backbone only)
- Kings area: Scots Bay community (backbone only)
- Cumberland area: Chignecto & Halfway River, New Salem & Apple River, and Diligent River communities (backbone only)

- Queens & Clare-Digby areas: Greenfield, Middlefield, & Pleasant River communities (backbone only)

A series of community drop-in events are, or will be, underway to ensure communities are aware this is only the beginning of the work to connect more Nova Scotians and to update people on the process moving forward. We will share upcoming dates through our updates in case you are interested in attending any.



Mark Furey, Minister of Justice and MLA for Lunenburg West, and Monique Arsenault, Develop Nova Scotia, speak with residents about projects underway and next steps in getting more communities connected.

Bridgewater, August 12, 2019

I wasn't included in the CTI project in my area but my neighbor across the street is – why can't I be included? When will I get service?

If you're not included in the projects underway doesn't mean you won't be captured in the next. It's a process and we have a lot of work to do to reach more than 95% of homes and businesses. We know it's important, the Province made a very significant investment in the Trust to make it happen, and Develop Nova Scotia is working as quickly as possible.

As mentioned, Develop Nova Scotia has now completed evaluation of all submissions and is now in negotiations with providers. Announcements are anticipated this fall once contracts are signed. A second call for proposals will be issued in the fall looking to address those areas left uncovered. We are confident projects will begin in some communities in 2019.

Where can I sign up for future updates?

Please email or call us and we will add your email to our update list.

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

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