

## **Develop Nova Scotia and Rural Internet: Backgrounder**

**At Develop Nova Scotia, our job is to lead the sustainable development of high potential property and infrastructure across Nova Scotia to attract people and investment.**

- Develop Nova Scotia is a provincial Crown corporation with a mandate to drive economic growth across Nova Scotia through the development of strategic property and infrastructure.
- We work with municipalities, public and private organizations, industry, and the public to create authentic, sustainable places for people.
- We leverage our relationships, consultation experience, and expertise in development planning, program development, project management and complex financial assembly to meet our objectives.
- Great places are accessible and connected. Develop Nova Scotia has been tasked with developing and managing Rural High-Speed Internet implementation for the province. We understand the critically important role of reliable, high-speed, sustainable Internet service for quality of life and economic development.
- We will design and execute an implementation strategy for rural high-speed Internet that enables private sector ingenuity and creative problem solving, competitive bids, leverages investment and, ultimately, results in reliable, high-quality, sustainable service levels with maximum coverage for Nova Scotians that keeps pace with evolving technology.

### **What has changed?**

Formerly Waterfront Development Corporation, our mandate has expanded from managing the development of strategic waterfront properties to high potential property and infrastructure throughout the province.

Broadened representation on our Board of Directors will reflect our new province-wide focus, as will enhanced staff presence throughout the province in coordination with economic development partners across Nova Scotia.

### **What does Develop Nova Scotia do?**

Simply put, our goal is to create strong, vibrant communities that attract people and investment to Nova Scotia. Working with our partners and the public, we will develop a 5-year strategic plan and identify opportunities and projects that align with our goals.

Recent work includes: Queen's Marquee in Halifax; Dartmouth's Centre for Ocean Ventures and Entrepreneurship (COVE); Tall Ships Multi-Port events; consultation and planning for a new Provincial Arts District on Halifax waterfront; and a new Master Plan for Lunenburg's working waterfront. Develop Nova Scotia will also lead the Master Plan for Peggy's Cove.

### **Rural High-Speed Internet - Key Public Messages**

1. It's a provincial plan – no region will be left behind in the planning.
2. There is confidence that more than 95% of rural NS households will be covered –100% is not feasible.
3. The plan is focused on results, not technologies. Develop NS will manage proponents to ensure reliable, high-quality service is delivered.

4. Develop NS knows where the gaps are in existing infrastructure – their plan is to cover as close to 100% of those gaps as possible.
5. If you are starting/planning an Internet-related project, please contact Develop Nova Scotia - a coordinated plan is key to achieving our goals.

#### *Coverage:*

We expect high-speed Internet to reach more than 95% of rural households. We anticipate that we can connect a minimum of 95% of rural households to fibre, cable or fixed wireless service. Most, but not all, of the remaining rural households will be connected via satellite service. All of these services will be provided at minimum speeds of 50 mbps for wired and 25 mbps for wireless and satellite.

#### *Timelines:*

We understand the critical importance of reliable, high-speed internet –and quick action to address the gaps in the system. We expect to be in market with a competitive process by the end of 2018.

#### *How it works:*

Successful proponents to this competitive process will be recommended for funding by Develop Nova Scotia to the Nova Scotia Internet Funding Trust, which is an arms-length entity managing the \$193M provincial funding that was put aside for the rural Internet program. We will need to leverage additional funding support, including investment from the private sector, to meet our goals for system build.

For more information on the rural internet project: [www.developns.ca](http://www.developns.ca)

#### **How can we work together?**

This is a partnership and we want to hear from you. We have conducted an initial round of stakeholder engagement sessions to communicate our mandate and discuss rural internet opportunities in communities across the province. It's important to us that we stay connected so that we understand what's important to your communities in terms of economic success, strategic infrastructure projects, and rural Internet connections. We're interested in improving our communications with stakeholders in general, so we also appreciate feedback in this regard.

#### *Contact us:*

For Constituents: [info@developns.ca](mailto:info@developns.ca) / 902.422.6591

For Office Staff: Deborah Page, Dir. Communications & Marketing,  
[deborah.page@developns.ca](mailto:deborah.page@developns.ca) / 902.499.0275