



## Internet for Nova Scotia Update May, 2020

As outlined in our April update, the Province committed \$15M in additional funding as an incentive to speed up delivery of high-speed Internet, where possible, with the ongoing COVID-19 situation. We know now more than ever the importance of high speed Internet is clear. We invited our Internet Service Provider (ISP) partners to help solve this critical challenge with ingenuity and urgency. We are getting traction.

### Where Are We Now?

To date, this means that close to 18,000 homes and businesses will have new access to high-speed Internet service -- what would have taken up to 12 months will now be completed within 100 days.

\$2.2 M has been approved from the Nova Scotia Internet Trust Fund to bring service at least 6 months faster than previously committed for projects in Caledonia, Elmsdale, Cumberland/Colchester and the Shelburne area. We know months matter.

Cumberland/Colchester will see 19 towers installed in 100 days, we understand it's an unprecedented achievement in Canada. It was originally a 12-month build.

A lot has to happen behind the scenes before connections are realized and this is the phase of the project we are in now. **More than 260 kilometres of pole lines in rural Nova**

**Scotia have been prepared – including inspecting existing poles for safety, replacing poles when needed, as well as dealing with water crossings.**

We're working with our Internet Service Provider partners, and together, looking at every project from every angle with an urgent aim to go faster - eliminating red tape to speed up regulatory approvals and ensuring better coordination among all of the people working to bring service to your door.

Internet Service Providers have been assembling expertise and crews from around the region and beyond to deliver projects faster.

Some significant projects have been completed, with early access to high speed Internet now available in Shelburne and areas surrounding Canning in Kings County in recent weeks. As well, projects across the province continue to advance.

**More than 125 kilometres of fibre have already been installed in Kings County.**

In addition to new builds, we are working with providers to ease congestion on existing services to enhance the quality of Internet connections for Nova Scotians who are trying hard to adapt their business, work, learn and stay connected with friends and family while hunkering down at home.

## **What's Next?**

The first round of projects get us almost halfway to our goal of serving Nova Scotia with a high quality Internet service. This is not enough, but it is a very good start. This pandemic situation has shone a very bright light on the need for quality Internet across Nova Scotia. The Province understands that and it's why we are committed to delivering this service for Nova Scotians.

The next round of project announcements are expected to begin this August and this will bring us toward our goal.

*If you have questions, please contact us at [info@developns.ca](mailto:info@developns.ca) or by calling 1-833-422-6591.*



Fibre being installed in Kings County. More than 125 kilometres are now in place.