



## Internet for Nova Scotia Update September/October, 2019

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

Over the past couple of months, we've been out on the road hosting drop-in community events to talk about the Internet projects being completed through the previously announced federal Connect to Innovate (CTI) program. During these events, we've also had some meaningful conversations about our plans to build a better connected Nova Scotia, talked about the process we've developed, and the progress we've made so far. We took time to outline the next steps and investments needed to deliver high-speed Internet to more than 95% of Nova Scotians.

We spoke with nearly 150 residents of the communities of Bakers Settlement, Hemsford Forest, Hemsford, Greenfield, Middlefield, Pleasant River, Maitland Bridge, and Scots Bay. Local MLAs and municipal representatives joined us.





Top Photo: Monique Arsenault, Director of Innovation, Develop Nova Scotia talks with community members at the Greenfield Recreation Centre during the Queens/Shelburne event Sept. 16.

Middle I-r: MLA Kim Masland, Queens-Shelburne and Deborah Page, Director of Marketing and Communications, Develop Nova Scotia.

Mayor David Dagley, Region of Queens Municipality at the Sept. 16 community event.

Bottom I-r: Monique Arsenault, Director of Innovation, Develop Nova Scotia, with community members in Scots Bay on Sept. 19.

MLA John Lohr, Kings North and Mayor Peter Muttart, Municipality of the County of Kings.

## Questions and Answers

Here are the most common questions we heard:

### Q. What does high-speed Internet mean?

Develop Nova Scotia is committed to delivering the minimum speeds outlined below.

Internet speed is measured by how fast data is transmitted from the Internet to your home & business computer or mobile device. It is measured in units called megabits per second, or Mbps.

**Develop Nova Scotia is committed to delivering a minimum of:**



**UPLOAD SPEED** refers to how fast your PC or device can send data to the internet.

**DOWNLOAD SPEED** refers to the rate at which your computer can stream or download data from the internet.

This will be delivered through a variety of technologies, including fibre/coaxial, signal off tower, or satellite. With our minimum speeds you'll be able to stream music, download large files, stream high-speed definition video, do video calls, and play online games.

### Q. When will I get high-speed service?

Connecting more than 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 infrastructure already exists in your community and how quickly providers can upgrade existing technology or install new equipment. Develop Nova Scotia is working to make sure this happens as quickly as possible. The next round of projects are expected to be announced this fall and another round announced in the first half of 2020.

**Q. How do I know my house won't be left behind?**

We have thorough research on where the unserved and under-serviced areas are in the province. While we know it is not feasible to reach 100% of homes and businesses in Nova Scotia, we are confident that we'll reach 95% or more and will work hard to get as close to 100% as possible. We know it won't be easy or fast.

If your specific area is not included in the first round of projects, know that we are issuing another RFP this fall and will continue to issue RFPs until we reach as close to 100% of Nova Scotia homes and businesses as possible.

To view the poster boards we had at the events, [visit our website and view the gallery](#) near the bottom.

You can also reference our [online Internet Dashboard](#) to see the progress we've made. This will be updated regularly as we progress toward access to high-speed Internet for more than 95% of Nova Scotia.

For the benefit of those newly added to our mailing list, here's a brief recap:

**Where We've Been:**

- Last year, Develop Nova Scotia was provided with the newly expanded mandate to provide province-wide high-speed Internet. Since then we've completed stakeholder engagement throughout the province, created the Internet for Nova Scotia Initiative strategy and developed our competitive process.
- In December 2018 we launched our initial Request for Suppliers to seek qualified suppliers. In February 2019, after reviewing and evaluating the submissions, we announced a list of 10 pre-approved providers that would be invited to submit proposals for high-speed Internet solutions for Nova Scotia. These 10 providers demonstrated they have the financial capacity, human resources, and experience to build, maintain, grow and evolve the networks in Nova Scotia.

- In May 2019, these organizations were asked to respond to a first Request for Proposals (RFP) for high-speed Internet projects. The RFP 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.
- This summer Develop Nova Scotia completed evaluation of all RFP submissions and is now in negotiations with those providers.
- On August 21, 2019 Develop Nova Scotia issued a second Request for Suppliers to seek additional qualified providers to add to our pre-qualified list. We believe having more organizations to bid on solutions will increase options for solutions and potentially open the door for more evolving technologies.

### **What's Next?**

- This fall, once contracts are signed, we'll announce the first round of Internet projects. We are confident projects will begin in some communities in 2019.
- On October 2, 2019 the second Request for Suppliers closed. Another RFP will be issued looking to address those areas left uncovered in the first round.
- In addition to newly qualified providers, all previously qualified organizations will be invited to bid on all subsequent RFPs.

As soon as we are able, we'll provide more information on our website, social media, through updates, in the provincial media, and at community events across the province.