



Internet for Nova Scotia Initiative - Stakeholder Update May, 2019

Between April 23-26, Develop Nova Scotia held stakeholder sessions in Bridgewater, Bridgetown, Guysborough, Sheet Harbour and Truro, as well as through a teleconference call to provide an update on the Internet for Nova Scotia Initiative. We were pleased to meet with representatives from municipalities, economic agencies, local government officials and community groups and hear the unique concerns of each community. Here are some common questions that we heard:

How does Develop Nova Scotia decide which projects start first?

The first Request for Proposals -- released on May 2nd -- asks pre-qualified providers to submit proposals detailing projects that can be implemented in the next 6-12 months. We are looking to capture those projects that can move forward quickly. Develop Nova Scotia will evaluate these proposals and look to optimize projects as much as possible. When we are in a position to announce which projects will move forward, Develop Nova Scotia and the successful providers will provide more detailed information.

When does Develop Nova Scotia expect to hit the 95+% access target?

Develop Nova Scotia is confident that we can make progress in communities across the province very soon by funding projects that can be implemented in the next 6-12 months. Providing internet access to over 95% of the province is a significant infrastructure project. Like any major infrastructure project, it will take time to plan, build and develop. We estimate that it could take 2-5 years to achieve the entire 95+% access target.

Should I contact you to tell you about the issues in my community?

We have all the detailed data necessary to determine which communities have the appropriate levels of high-speed internet access and which do not. As projects begin, no region will be left behind. Community members do not need to advocate for their own areas to see better access. Develop Nova Scotia will not provide "priority" to any individual communities based on advocacy from community members or leaders. High-speed internet projects will begin based on the work that needs to be done. The sequence of high-speed internet projects will be determined based on the responses to the RFP.

The presentation given at these sessions is attached and is available on our website at:
www.developns.ca/rural-internet

Future Sessions

Develop Nova Scotia is committed to ongoing engagement with stakeholders in every community across the province. We plan to host more sessions in communities across the province early in the fall of 2019. At that time, we expect to have more information and timelines about high-speed internet projects. In the meantime, please send any comments or questions to info@developns.ca, or by telephone to 902-292-2476.