

Internet for Nova Scotia Initiative Q&A's

Q. What happens to the remainder of this additional \$15M indicated for potential accelerated projects?

We continue to work with our Internet service partners and together look at every project to see if acceleration is possible. Any remaining funds will be part of the Nova Scotia Internet Trust for future projects.

Q. I'm part of the first round of projects announced but not currently in the accelerated project list? Is work still happening in my area? Will it still meet the 12 month timeline?

We're still working to identify ways to speed up all projects. There may be more specific acceleration efforts to come. Regardless, we believe that all of the rocks we're turning over will help to speed up all projects incrementally, those already approved and those to come in the future.

Q. I wasn't in the first round of projects. What's next?

After the first round of Internet for Nova Scotia Initiative projects were announced in February, we immediately issued another Request for Proposals that will attempt to capture areas that remain underserved/unserved areas for high-speed Internet.

There are now 15 pre-qualified providers that are eligible to respond to this, and future RFPs. Having more organizations to bid on solutions will increase options for solutions and potentially open the door for more evolving technologies. These project announcements are expected to begin this August.

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

The projects announced in February include approximately half of the unserved and underserved homes and businesses in Nova Scotia. We know where homes and businesses remain unserved and underserved across the province and all of these areas are included in the second RFP currently in market.

Our mandate is to cover more than 95% of Nova Scotia homes and businesses – and we're confident we can meet and exceed this goal, working to get as close to 100% as possible.

Q. Will projects still be expected to meet the speed targets you set out?

Yes. 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.

Q. How will the providers be held accountable?

In addition to contribution agreements, contracts with providers also include multi-year service delivery agreements. These ensure accountability for service and quality standards, a competitive pricing structure, and ongoing maintenance and investment in the network. Service level agreements will be managed by Develop Nova Scotia.