



Internet for Nova Scotia Initiative – New Projects + Spring 2022 Update

We are pleased to provide an update on the progress of the Internet for Nova Scotia Initiative.

New Projects Announced

High-speed internet will reach another 400 Nova Scotia homes and businesses under new contracts with Eastlink and Bell signed by Develop Nova Scotia.

Eastlink will expand access to 66 more homes or businesses in the Annapolis Valley and is working with Develop Nova Scotia on solutions for other underserved areas across the province. Bell will expand access to 333 more homes or businesses located in smaller, less populated areas across the province.

"We know that reliable, high-speed internet access for all Nova Scotians cannot come soon enough," said Susan Corkum-Greek, Minister of Economic Development. "It's a vital service in today's world and plays a key role in helping communities across our province, particularly in rural Nova Scotia, seize economic opportunities and reach their full potential."

The Nova Scotia Internet Funding Trust has approved \$1.7 million for these projects. Another \$446,000 is coming from private sector investments.

With the additional high-speed internet coverage provided by Nova Scotia Internet Trusting Fund projects announced to date, the municipal-led project in Pictou and Bell's Wireless Home Internet Service, it is expected 99.5 per cent of Nova Scotia's homes and businesses will have high-speed access by the end of 2023.

Develop Nova Scotia is working with internet service providers to identify solutions for the remaining 4,000 underserved homes and businesses across the province, of which about 1,000 do not have commercial power. The goal is to achieve high-speed internet access for as close to 100 per cent of the remaining homes and businesses as possible.

"New connections are happening daily and by the end of March 2022 approximately 89 per cent of Nova Scotians have access to high-speed internet. Together with our internet service provider partners, we are working hard to ensure projects underway are delivered on time and to identify solutions for the remaining homes and businesses. Thanks to this announcement with Bell and Eastlink, we are one step closer to our goal."

- Jennifer Angel, President and CEO, Develop Nova Scotia

"At a time when fast and reliable internet connections are more important than ever, we're proud to bring our pure fibre connection, in partnership with Develop Nova Scotia, to households and businesses in rural and underserved communities across the province. For those in hard-to-reach areas, through partnerships and innovations like our Wireless Home Internet service, Bell is advancing our long-standing objective to connect communities throughout Nova Scotia and across our footprint."

- Glen LeBlanc, CFO and Vice Chair Atlantic, Bell

"As a company rooted in delivering high-speed internet to smaller towns and communities, we are very pleased to be working with Develop Nova Scotia on expanding access to more Nova Scotians."

- Jeff Gillham, CEO, Eastlink

For more information on the Internet for Nova Scotia Initiative and to view projects in your community, visit: <https://internet.developns.ca>

Quick Facts

- With Develop Nova Scotia projects announced to date, almost **60,000** of approximately **90,000** homes and businesses included in those projects now have the network in place for new or improved high-speed internet
- To date, the Nova Scotia Internet Funding Trust has approved a total of **\$164.7 million**, leveraging an additional **\$137.5 million** from other funders, including **\$118.5 million** from the private sector
- All projects approved for funding to date by the internet trust meet or exceed the minimum target speeds required by the CRTC (**50 Mbps down/10 Mbps up** for wired, 25 Mbps down/5 Mbps up for wireless); most significantly exceed these speeds
- Contracts are currently in place with Bell, Cross Country, Eastlink, Mainland Telecom, Seaside Communications and Xplornet
- There are a total of **15** pre-qualified internet service providers for the Nova Scotia Internet Funding Trust

Tips & Tools

SEARCHING YOUR COMMUNITY: We've made some changes to our [web site](#) to make it easier to find your community. It is now searchable by both community name or by first 3 digits of your postal code. You can't miss the search window! **NOTE: The new Eastlink project is in the South Truro area. The new Bell project is located in small pockets across the province. You can search by community.**

CIVIC ADDRESS LISTS: As parts of the project areas are complete, we are adding address lists that show the civic address of homes and businesses for which connections have been made available. So keep checking back with your community's project page.

COVERAGE MAPS: Coverage maps are also available on our site for many projects. Parcels with or without a civic address in a red zone, off a blue road and serviced by power lines are anticipated to be covered.

We will continue to update project pages as new information becomes available.



Welcome Eastlink!

Pleased to have you onboard the Internet for Nova Scotia Initiative - helping to extend high-quality, high-speed internet to as close to 100% of Nova Scotian homes and businesses as possible.

Check out their website: www.eastlink.ca

What's Next For Those Not Served

Through our work we identified additional underserved and have captured where possible bringing us to 102,000* underserved homes and businesses across the province.

With these most recent contracts, and a separate Bell Wireless project, there are now approximately 4,000 remaining underserved homes and businesses, of which about 1,000 do not have commercial power. We're still working with qualified providers, with a variety of available technologies, including satellite, on potential solutions and hope to make more announcements soon. Work will continue in an effort to reach as close to 100% of homes and businesses as possible.

*This includes additional homes and businesses anticipated to be covered as part of municipal led project Pictou County.



Where We Are – Almost Two-Thirds The Way There

With Develop Nova Scotia projects announced to date, approximately 60,000 homes and businesses of 90,000 have the network in place for new or improved high-speed internet by the end of March. Providers are working to complete the rest, with new connections happening daily.

To date, approximately 5,700 kilometre of make ready and 5,500 kilometres of fibre have been laid.

Frequently Asked Questions

Some of the common questions we hear are below. You can read more at <https://internet.developns.ca/faqs>

- **Why the smaller number of homes and business announced this time?**
As smaller pockets of unserved or underserved are reviewed, these are often more challenging locations to serve -- eg. sparsely populated areas, longer driveways, difficult terrain -- so they can take more investment and time to reach. The overall goal is for completion of all projects, including these announcements today, is still by the end of 2023 -- and access to connections are happening daily.

- **What is make-ready work and why does that impact some estimated completion dates?** When a project area is announced, the provider still needs to do some detailed site and engineering work. This helps refine the footprint so more detail around street and address level detail can be provided.

Part of the project work is make-ready work. This can include tree trimming, pole inspections, pole replacements with new poles, and water and road/railway crossing permits. The level of work can vary and providers also work with other levels of government and private sector on these items. We continue to work with partners to speed up regulatory approvals and optimize coordination among all of the partners.

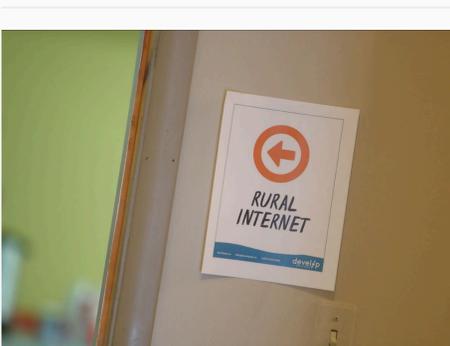
Overall, the initiative remains on track for completion by the end of 2023 with connections happening daily. We are trouble-shooting every day to keep the initiative on schedule, and when delays happen, the work is shifted to a different area to ensure work continues while the barriers are removed.

- **Did you only go to Bell and Eastlink for these ones?**
We have reached out to various pre-approved provider partners (in addition to Bell and Eastlink) to identify possible solutions for the remaining pockets. The contracts with Bell and Eastlink are now in place and we continue discussions with a mix of providers to explore additional possible options.

- **Am I getting fibre?**
All solutions delivered through this initiative must meet or exceed minimum speed targets. The majority of projects are fibre or coax directly to the home, but not all. Speeds can be delivered through a variety of technologies, including fibre/coaxial, signal off a tower, or satellite -- and all will continue to be considered as we look for solutions for those remaining.

- **What about cell coverage?**
Cell coverage is not explicitly part of Develop Nova Scotia's Internet for Nova Scotia Initiative mandate. However, we recognize this is an issue in many rural areas of the province and the Province has conducted a cell coverage gap analysis.

The extension of robust backbone networks (like fibre) further into communities does help to improve the business case for cellular providers. We will continue to look at opportunities to locate internet infrastructure so that it may eventually help to address cellular issues wherever possible.



Community Update Sessions - Spring / Summer

We're in the planning stages of another round of community update sessions. With COVID-19 restrictions being lifted, we felt it was good timing to get into communities where possible, or do a hybrid mix, to provide updates on new projects and address concerns and questions.

Stay tuned for more news as these are scheduled. We look forward to seeing you.



If you have questions, please contact us at info@developns.ca or by calling 1-833-422-6591.

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