

Reliable Internet for everyone



In today's Canada, fast and reliable broadband Internet access is an essential service that should be available to everyone, no matter where they live. Businesses need it to innovate, compete and grow. It is vital to public safety and public services—and to Canadians' everyday quality of life.

The issue

Two million Canadians cannot access a reliable fixed or mobile Internet connection. In rural, remote and northern communities, households cannot connect with the rest of the country and businesses face barriers to growth.

Access to the Internet is not equal. Many remote communities still rely on dial-up and have spotty mobile connections. In cities, Internet quality can vary from street to street. Nearly four-fifths of Canadians cannot access 50 Mbps download speeds—the CRTC's universal service objective.

The progress

With a willing federal partner, FCM's advocacy has driven progress in recent years. The \$500 million Connect to Innovate program and the CRTC's \$750 million Broadband Fund are first steps toward bringing service to hard-to-reach areas.

FCM also applauded the CRTC's 2016 commitment to a universal service objective for broadband.

But the job is not done. Achieving truly universal broadband and mobile access requires even stronger federal leadership.

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

- ▶ 2 million Canadians cannot access a reliable Internet connection.
- ▶ 13% of rural households with Internet can't even access 5 Mbps download speeds.
- ▶ 39% of rural communities report no access to download speeds between 25-50 Mbps.

What's next?

With bold Canadian leadership, we can achieve universal broadband. That means reliable, affordable Internet and mobile access for everyone—no matter where you live.



FCM is proposing a **national broadband strategy** with three pillars:

- ▶ **Clear standards and timelines** to achieve the CRTC's speed targets for fixed broadband (50/10 Mbps upload/download), and a new **target for rural mobile access**.
- ▶ **Long-term, predictable funding** for broadband and mobile Internet in rural, remote and northern communities—so local governments can plan for reliable service.
- ▶ **Affordable and accessible Internet** in rural communities matching that of big cities—guaranteeing access to the hardest-to-serve populations.

To drive progress, the federal government will need to invest **at least \$400 million per year over 10 years**.

Moving forward will support improved quality of life and economic growth for all Canadians—in communities of all sizes, from coast to coast to coast. **It's time.**