Internet for Nova Scotia Initiative

Key Stakeholder Update #3
April 2019

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Build places that attract people and investment to Nova Scotia

placemaking

"Creating or enhancing a community's assets to improve its overall attractiveness and livability."
International Economic Development Council
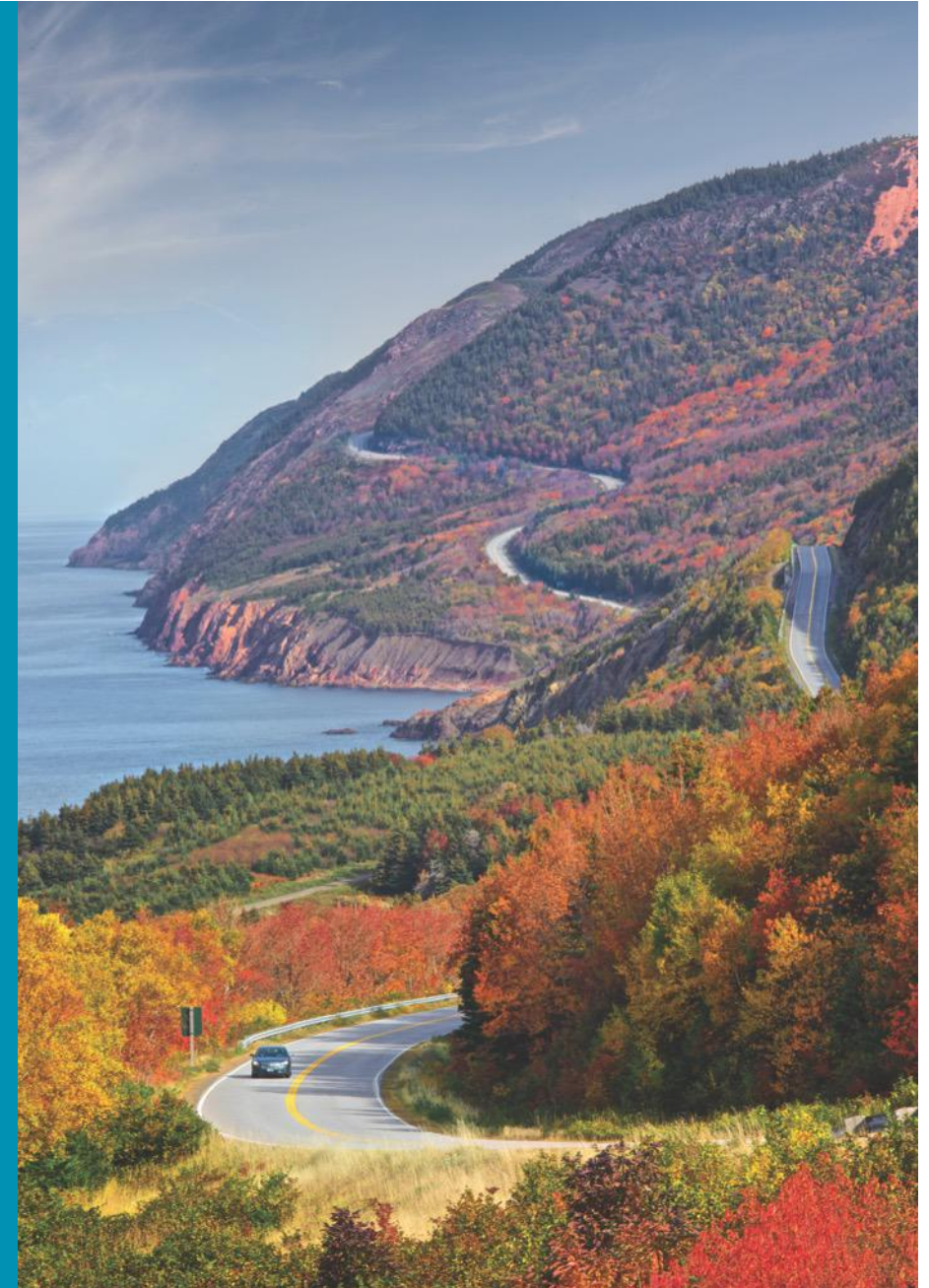
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rural internet

strong places are accessible & connected

- work with NS Internet Funding Trust
- build on provincial reports & progress
- develop & execute rural high-speed Internet implementation strategy
- assemble expertise & build local partnerships
- develop competitive process, incentivize private sector ingenuity

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opportunity ahead

1. high-quality, reliable, high-speed Internet to greater than 95% of rural Nova Scotians

2. build a competitive environment

3. do it as quickly as possible

4. inform and align stakeholders

5. leverage for additional public benefit

focus on outcomes

implementation plan based on following principles:

- >95% rural household coverage for Nova Scotians

- services delivered at <u>minimum</u> speeds of 50/10 Mbps for fixed wire & 25/5 Mbps for wireless

- ensure solutions include ongoing investment in networks & can evolve to meet new technologies

- ensure accountability for service & quality standards by those delivering Internet service

financial
estimated cost to implement $300-$500M*
(*full middle & last mile)

Fund/program	Lead	Details
Nova Scotia Internet Trust	Nova Scotia Internet Trust	$193M Eligible beneficiaries: ISPs, Municipalities, successful CTI projects
Connect to Innovate	Innovation, Science and Economic Development (ISED)	$500M Now closed – Approx. $17M announced for Nova Scotia
CRTC Fund	Canadian Radio and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC)	$750M In discussions re: process to access funds– expect $ to flow 2020
Recent Federal Budget	ISED (to be determined)	$1.7B In discussions with federal partners regarding process & programs

where we've been

Develop NS team have met with:

- Regional Economic Networks
- successful CTI (20+) proponents
- ISPs, industry representatives (large & small)
- Community Groups, including I-Valley, NOW Lunenburg
- Municipal representatives
- MLAs
- Municipal Affairs, Aboriginal Affairs, NSBI, Tourism NS
- ISED, ACOA & CRTC
- 2 Rounds of Key Stakeholder Engagement (Aug & Dec)

Conferences / Presentations:

- REN Conference, Digby, Sept. 6
- Atlantic Chambers of Commerce Meeting, Sept. 11
- AMANS Board Mtg., Sept. 14
- NSFM Internet Session, Oct. 11
- AMANS Annual Conference, Oct. 16-19
- NSFM Annual Conference, Nov. 7
- TIANS 2018 Tourism Summit, Nov 25 – 27
- NDP Caucus, Jan. 16
- Bidder's conference, January 16
- PC Caucus, March 6
- NSFM Board April 12

General Public / Constituents:

- Communications Plan for stakeholders & general public underway now
  - Web site, e-newsletters, dashboard, facebook content, working with libraries, community centres & others to spread information
- Materials available on www.developns.ca (new site will include visual dashboard)

pre-qualification

Open to ISPs (including groups who become ISPs), municipalities, First Nations who demonstrate:
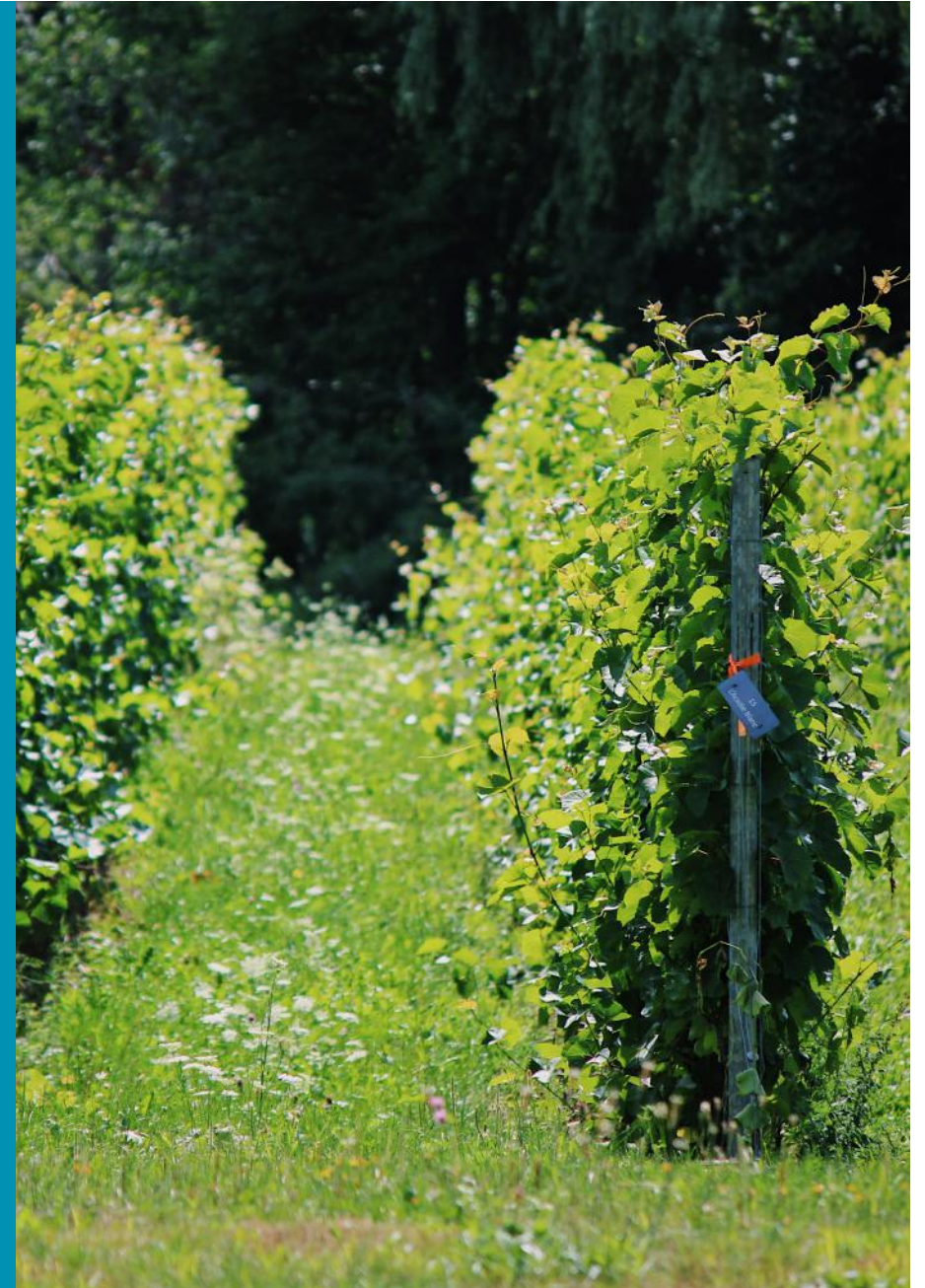
Financial Capacity
Human Resources
Experience

>

Build
Manage
Grow/Evolve

pre-qualified suppliers

1. Bell Canada
2. Cross Country TV Limited
3. Eastlink
4. ISM Canada (IBM Canada)
5. Mainland Telecom
6. Municipality of Kings
7. Municipality of Pictou County (with Nova Communications)
8. Seaside Communications
9. TNC Wireless Ltd.
10. Xplornet

competitive process

Prequalification Call	Prequal Closed	Prequal Results Released	Call for Proposals	Projects in some communities	2nd Call for Proposals	Projects continue
December 2018	March 13	April 16, 2019	Early May 2019	begin 2019	Fall 2019	
	11 Responses		Implement in 6-12 months		Longer Term Solutions	

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regional positions

- recruiting Regional Leads, Project Planning & Delivery

- 3 positions

- each will cover region:
  1. Cape Breton Canso
  2. Central Nova Scotia Valley
  3. South & West Nova Scotia

- prefer candidates who live in regions

- do you know of someone who might be right?

  meridiarecruitment.ca/Career/12960

stakeholder engagement

- replaces suggested Community Liaison Committee

- round # 3 Scheduled for April 23 – April 26, 2019

    Bridgetown | Bridgewater | Guysborough | Baddeck

    Sheet Harbour |Truro

- invitations sent April 16, 2019

- round # 4 anticipated in Fall 2019

- ongoing mechanism for communications, consultation, & advice

common questions

1. cellular coverage included?

2. knowledge of existing community gaps?

3. issues with existing service providers?

QUESTIONS

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current service issues?

projects managed by Develop NS will be monitored & managed through service level agreements & contracts

Internet Service Providers are regulated federally – here are some contacts that might be useful:

1. contact Public Interest Advocacy Centre - consumer-advocacy group based in Ottawa that specializes in Canadian telecommunications. Can provide information regarding contracts & pricing issues (piac@piac.ca or 1-613-562-4002)

2. contact Canadian Commission for Complaints, independent agency that works with consumers & telecommunications companies to resolves customer complaints (1-888-221-1687 or at www.ccts-cprst.ca)

3. contact Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC), which is developing mandatory Code of Conduct for Internet Service Providers & are seeking feedback from customers who may have experienced issues related to contract clarity, bill shock, & cancelling or changing service providers, among others (1-877-249-2782 or https://crtc.gc.ca/eng/contact)

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