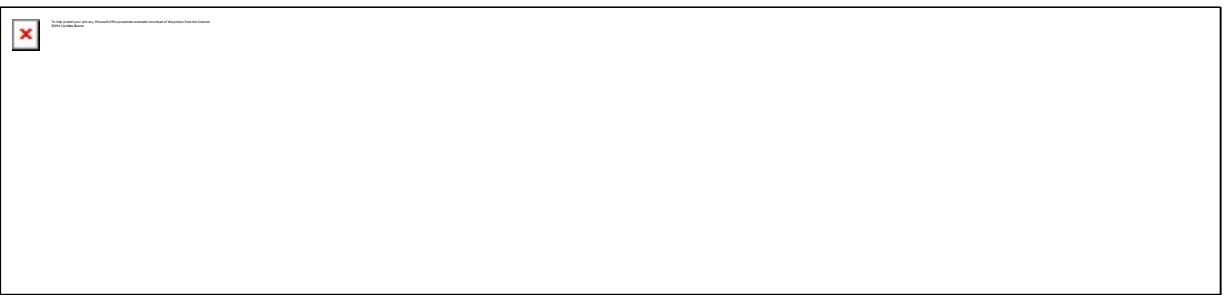


Monica Hawkins

From: ROMA Communications <romacommunicate@roma.on.ca>
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2020 4:05 PM
To: Monica Hawkins
Subject: A Path to Better Connectivity: ROMA Launches Municipal Broadband Resources

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November 19, 2020

A Path to Better Connectivity: ROMA Launches Municipal Broadband Resources

Dear ROMA Members,

Your ROMA Board is pleased to announce the release of two comprehensive resources tailored specifically for Ontario's rural municipalities about broadband and cellular connectivity.

The [Municipal Primer](#) gives an overview of the broadband landscape, including Canada's regulatory framework. The [Municipal Roadmap](#) lays out components of a municipal connectivity plan that municipal councils and staff can implement to create local solutions. Both of these can found on ROMA's website at:

<http://www.roma.on.ca/broadbandandcellularconnectivity.aspx>.

Investing in connectivity remains a choice at the municipal level because local governments do not have a mandated role in telecommunications. That said, ROMA is aware of growing demand in our communities that has increased during the pandemic for elected officials at all levels of government to help improve broadband and cellular connectivity.

These new resource documents will serve as a foundational briefing for municipal elected officials and staff who are interested in improving

connectivity in their communities. By increasing knowledge for municipal officials, we can work to serve our communities and advocate for better connectivity outcomes that will improve social connections, cultural opportunities, services and overall prosperity.

To help explain the documents and answer members' questions, ROMA will be hosting a webinar on Tuesday, December 1st from 12:00-1:30pm. To register, click [here](#).

Finally, note that the federal government's Universal Broadband Fund opened in November, and information including upcoming webinars can be found [here](#). The Ontario Ministry of Infrastructure's Improving Connectivity in Ontario (ICON) [program](#) also remains open for applications.

Thank you for your continued membership in ROMA.

Sincerely,

Allan Thompson
Chair of ROMA.

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