Ontario Connects: Bringing High-Speed Internet to Every Community

April 2022

Ontario

Overview

Ontario has committed to ensuring that every household and business in the province has access to high-speed internet (50/10Mbps) by the end of 2025.

The ministry will be providing information and an update on progress so far on broadband initiatives since the last Virtual Information Session in January.

1
Legislative and regulatory proposals

Reducing barriers to broadband infrastructure deployment

2
Application based programs and projects

Continuation of existing programs

3
Accelerated High Speed Internet program

An innovative, competitive process, including a series of reverse auctions

4
Broadband One Window and Technical Assistance Team

Support for municipalities and other broadband stakeholders

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Coordinated and accelerated action to achieve 100% connectivity

Application Based Programs and Projects			**+**	AHSIP
70,700	**18,000**	**280,000**		**Up to 300,000**
SWIFT, Northern Projects and Matawa Rapid Lynx project	ICON Program	Co-fund with Canada under ICON and UBF		Reverse Auction

In March 2021, the government announced a historic commitment of nearly $4 billion in funding-based programs and projects for unserved and underserved communities across the province.

To date, the Ontario government has already committed over $900 million to over 180 broadband, cellular and satellite projects, bringing faster internet access to more than 375,000 homes and businesses across the province and significantly improving cellular connectivity throughout Eastern Ontario.

Through its competitive procurement process, the government is helping to connect up to 300,000 unserved and underserved homes and businesses to reliable high-speed internet.

Work is underway to ensure that no household or business is left behind when it comes to accessing our digital world.

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1. Legislative and regulatory support for faster broadband deployment

In line with the Statement of Intent and <u>Building Broadband Faster in Ontario Guideline</u>, legislative and regulatory measures will serve to accelerate the timely deployment of designated broadband projects and address ongoing barriers to the deployment of internet infrastructure.

Bill 93, Getting Ontario Connected Act was introduced on March 7, 2022 and was passed by the Legislature on April 11.

The legislation amends the Building Broadband Faster Act and the Ontario Underground Infrastructure Notification System Act.

Building Broadband Faster Act key amendments:

- Require municipalities to meet a service standard 10 or 15 business days to consider and respond to right-of-way permits for designated broadband projects.

- Require utility infrastructure owners (e.g., municipalities, energy transmitters) to share data within 15 business days when they receive request for data concerning utility infrastructure owned or operated within 10 metres of a designated broadband project.

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1. Legislative and regulatory support for faster broadband deployment

Next steps include:

- New proposed regulation under Ontario Energy Board Act to ensure faster support for deploying internet fibre on hydro pole attachments (April 2022).

- Administrative monetary penalties regime for non-compliance with Minister's orders under Building Broadband Faster Act (not intended to be directed towards municipalities related to rights-of-way permitting).

- Updates to the Building Broadband Faster in Ontario Guideline so there are clear expectations.

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2. Application-based programs and projects

Ontario has built partnerships and leveraged funding from the private sector and other levels of government, enabling broader connectivity coverage and value for money.

Project	Progress to date
SWIFT	96 contracts to connect more than 63,000 households and businesses across the region.
EORN EASTERN ONTARIO REGIONAL NETWORK	100 telecommunication towers completed to date.
Northern + Indigenous	6 projects to reach over 7,000 homes and businesses in several municipalities and First Nations communities + Matawa Rapid Lynx project for 700 homes and businesses.
ICON	17 announced projects to enable access for over 18,000 homes and businesses.
ICON+UBF	Finalizing agreements for 58 projects co-funded with Canada to enable access for over 280,000 homes and businesses. More details to come including impacted ISPs and municipalities.
Telesat	Dedicated capacity on Telesat Lightspeed to help connect the hardest to reach households.

Municipalities will receive letters to know what projects will be coming to their communities.

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3. Accelerated High Speed Internet Program (AHSIP)

A new, innovative and transparent procurement process to accelerate access to high-speed internet for as many underserved homes and businesses as possible.

Preliminary outcomes of the reverse auction

- The Ontario government is taking another step forward in its competitive process to help connect up to 300,000 unserved and underserved homes and businesses to reliable high-speed internet as possible.

- The province has now completed the reverse auction events for this innovative process to identify preferred Internet Service Providers.

- The province will announce further details on the service areas and successful Internet Service Providers, once the process has concluded.

- Municipalities will receive letters to know what projects will be coming to their communities.

Goals of competitive process

- Support goal of 100% access to high-speed internet with at least 50/10 Mbps service by the end of 2025.

- Attract broad participation from range of internet service providers.

- Maximize wired connections

- Obtain value for money through competitive tension

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4. The Broadband One Window (BOW) platform

The BOW platform has been designed to address barriers and streamline coordination to deliver on Ontario's high-speed internet commitment. It facilitates embedding processes, templates and timelines to enhance information sharing and process coordination, leading to risk reduction and more collaboration. It addresses utility coordination needs (i.e., consistency, traceability, proactive management, and knowledge institutionalization) through a robust set of key functionalities that can be leveraged for projects beyond broadband.

NOTE: IO will provide training and onboarding materials to municipalities for BOW.

## Key Functionalities of BOW

DATA SHARING

A web portal accessible to all stakeholder maintains a single source of truth for project: latest analyses, data, project status and requests.

REPORTING & VISUALIZATION

Dashboards and reports provide real-time access to project performance tracking and status reporting across the portfolio.

WORKFLOW & REQUEST MANAGEMENT
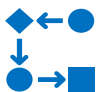
Stakeholder interaction managed using automated service delivery tools that ensure requests are managed in a timely basis.

GEOSPATIAL ANALYTICS

Repository for geospatial data and mapping enabling users to access and extract relevant information in location-based analytics

DATA PROCESSING & MANAGEMENT

Embedded data ingestion and validation features enable rapid setup times and perpetual, automated delivery of solutions.

ADVANCED ANALYTICS

Big data tools and data science helps track project performance and pre-empt potential recurring issues during the execution phase.

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4. Major Benefits for All Involved Stakeholders

BOW meets needs of multiple stakeholder groups by providing data access, sharing information and documentation, streamlining approval processes and monitoring project progress. It will provide users with several key benefits:

Internet Service Providers

- Access to geospatial data during the auction
- Manage and track markup requests through a coordination platform
- Upload project status reports

Municipalities

- Manage and track municipal consent requests through a coordination platform

Local Distribution Companies

- Manage and track asset joint use applications through the coordination platform

Ontario One Call

- Manage locate requests
- Track and assess compliance with legislation

Government / Infrastructure Ontario

- Monitor the status of an application and project activity.
- Early identification of issues at the planning stage.
- Accomplishment reporting

Contractors

- Tracking of applications and approvals.
- Provision of documents and permits

Ministry of Transportation

- Manage and track permit applications relating to encroachment through the coordination platform

Legislative compulsion to use platform

Broadband One Window

A platform for the BBFA Stakeholders to visualize project status, collaborate and share data.

| BBFA Lots | 3rd Party Attachments - BBFA | BBFA Locates |
| BBFA 3rd Party Attachment | BBFA Locate Requests |

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4. BOW Use Cases

By combining leading-edge monitoring and collaboration technology, BOW will realize multiple benefits towards achieving AHSIP's program goals of accelerated infrastructure delivery:

Municipal Permitting

Municipal Consents, Right-of-Way Permits, and other applications related to performing construction with a municipality

LDC Permitting

Pre-engineering utility requests and third-party pole attachments

ISP Reporting & Dashboards

Contractually-obligated reporting (milestone and interval) required to receive government subsidies

Infrastructure Data Sharing

Request and receive infrastructure data from infrastructure owners across the province (e.g. utilities, municipalities)

Locates

Tracks the status of locate requests sent via Ontario One Call

Case Management

Open tickets for support, including disputes, and requests for Broadband Coordinator and Technical Assistance Team (TAT) assistance

Supporting legislative compulsions.   Supporting contractual requirements.

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4. Technical Assistance Team (TAT)

Infrastructure Ontario is establishing a Technical Assistance Team (TAT) to assist municipalities and Local Distribution Companies (LDCs) that may not have the resources required to execute the AHSIP work. The team is expected to be onboarded, operational and ready to support stakeholders as early as late April 2022.

Focus of the TAT

1 Work with municipalities, LDCs and ISPs with resource constraints at their request

2 Provide extra technical resources for those municipalities and LDCs who may struggle to meet the demands of the AHSIP

3 Coordinate with and support all involved parties to reduce barriers for delivering designated projects

TAT Core Service Offerings

Broadband Stakeholder Support

Develop resources (e.g., FAQs, fact sheets, etc.) to assist stakeholders with understanding the Guideline and associated processes such as permitting and dispute resolution.

Provide support though the Broadband One Window (BOW), teleconference, virtual meetings, email or phone.

Permits and Approvals Coordination

Provide support related to permit applications such as reviewing applications for completeness, general coordination services, providing quality assurance and ensuring compliance with permit processes.

Dispute Facilitation and Coordination

Provide informal support on permitting issues, facilitate communication and coordination, and provide support for Guideline.

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Next Steps

- The ministry will finalize contracts with and announce details on the service areas and successful Internet Service Providers.

- Ongoing development of regulatory proposals in line with the Statement of Intent to further reduce barriers and delays to support the deployment of high-speed internet infrastructure across the province.

- Municipalities continue to play a crucial role in ensuring the timely deployment of broadband infrastructure to connect Ontario's unserved and underserved communities. Please reach out to us if you have any questions or comments on Ontario's commitment to achieve 100 per cent connectivity by the end of 2025.

Email us: broadband@ontario.ca

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