

Broadband
Internet
Connectivity
Session - Recap

Stakeholder Session



On Friday, February 14th, 2020 Cape Breton Partnership hosted a Stakeholders meeting on Broadband Internet Connectivity at the Inverary Resort in Baddeck.



The meeting included updates from Develop Nova Scotia and local Internet Service Provider Seaside Wireless Communications.

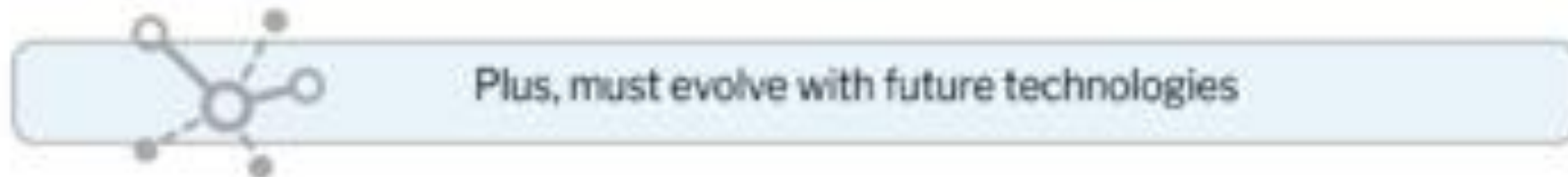
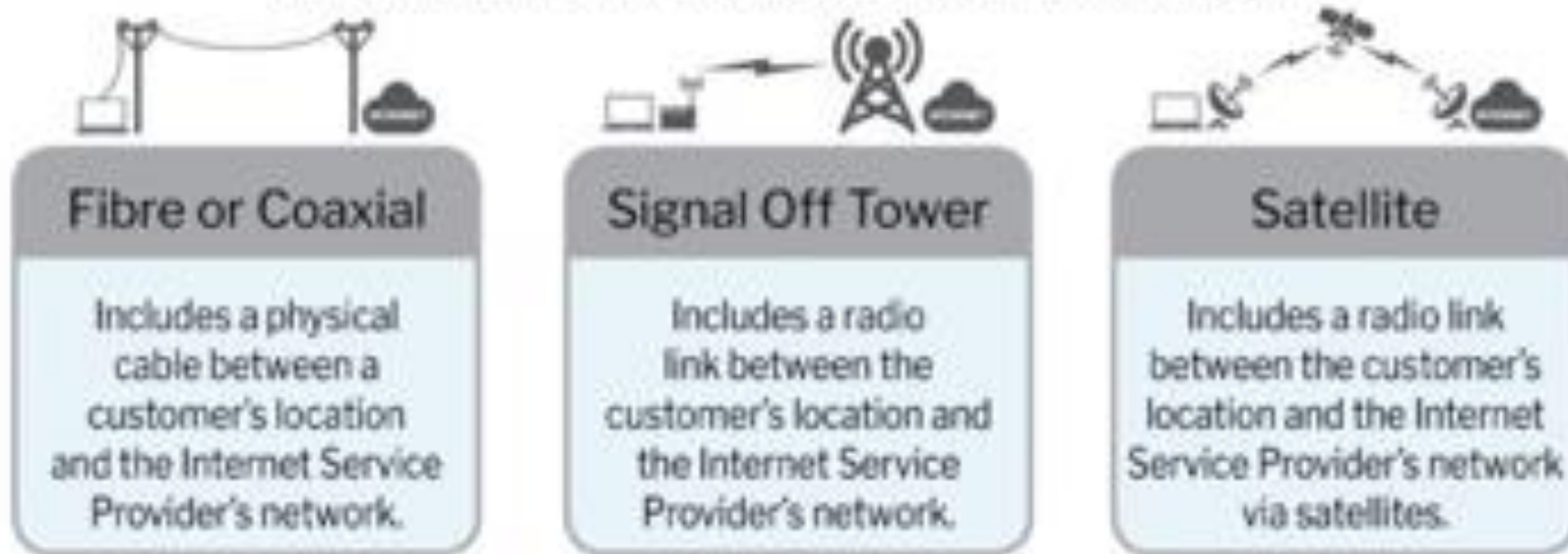


The meeting was an exclusive session for Municipal & First Nation councils and staff.

- ▶ Develop Nova Scotia is committed to providing access to at least 95% of Nova Scotia homes and businesses.
- ▶ Delivering a minimum speed of:
 - 50Mbps download and 10Mbps upload, for wired technologies.
 - 25Mbps download and 5Mbps upload for wireless technologies.(Federal standard regulations)
- ▶ Currently about 70% of homes and businesses have access to high speed internet.
- ▶ The quality and condition of existing community broadband infrastructure will factor into how quickly providers can upgrade existing technology or install new technology.
- ▶ Satellite service will still have data caps.
- ▶ In many cases the population density does not offset capital investment for fibre.
- ▶ 10 pre-qualified internet service providers were invited to submit proposals for this request for proposals- a second round of five pre-qualified providers is approved and all 15 are eligible to respond to all future request for proposals.
- ▶ Develop Nova Scotia put out a call for high-speed Internet projects in May 2019 the call closed June 28, 2019. The approved projects from the first round were announced on February 7th, 2020. Successful first round projects were those that could be implemented within 6-12 months – to get connections happening as quickly as possible.

Develop Nova Scotia Update

That will be delivered through a variety of technologies:



NOVA SCOTIA HOMES & BUSINESSES WITH ACCESS TO HIGH-SPEED INTERNET

UPDATED Feb 7, 2020



Pre-qualified organizations to address high-speed Internet in Nova Scotia include a mix of small and large companies, as well as municipalities:



These organizations demonstrated they have the financial capacity, human resources, and experience to build, maintain, grow and evolve the networks in Nova Scotia. They are all invited to respond to future RFPs.

Project Announcement - RFP 1, Results

Announced:
February 7th,
2020

- ▶ Round 1 RFP results will see approximately 42,000 homes and businesses connected (or existing connections improved). Percentage of NS connect post round 1 - 86%.
- ▶ Contribution from Internet Funding Trust \$45M
- ▶ Leveraged funds \$56M
- ▶ Work has already begun in a few areas and will start in most communities early this year. It is anticipated to be substantially complete over the next year.
- ▶ Cape Breton projects:

Seaside Communications:

Grand Mira South/Marion Bridge/Louisburg/Main-A-Dieu and surrounding area

Eskasoni – in partnership with the community

Bell Canada:

Boularderie/Chéticamp/Dingwall/Inverness/Boisdale

3,900 Wired to home/business (fibre or coax)

\$3.0M

Round 2 - Call for Projects RFP

- ▶ Another call for projects was issued by Develop Nova Scotia on February 13th, 2020 (DNS-1920-0002) for prequalified proponents only, to seek projects for areas that remain underserved and unserved. This tender is expected to close on May 22nd, 2020. Announcements for those projects are anticipated to be announced this summer.
- ▶ Internet Service Provider – Seaside Communications was present at the stakeholder meeting. Bell was not. Bell is finalizing detailed maps of approved work areas.
- ▶ Seaside Communications primary focus for RFP 2 right now is Richmond County and Victoria County.

Next Steps



Request a meeting with Bell Canada to be briefed on the work expected for Inverness County as part of Round 1 and to discuss priorities for Inverness County for Round 2.



Communicate priorities to ISPs and see if there is a willingness to partner in the Round 2 call for projects.



Further investigate approved projects.



Any questions can be compiled and sent to the Cape Breton Partnership for follow up with Develop NS.