

June 29, 2017



Communiqué

Access to high-speed Internet is essential to the growth and stability of rural and remote communities. In a submission to the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) this week, FCM stressed the importance of ensuring that the CRTC's funding program prioritizes under-served communities and provides flexibility to address local realities.

FCM's submission to the CRTC highlights the need to:

- Prioritize extending broadband access to under-served areas.
- Make high speed Internet affordable to all Canadians, no matter where they live.
- Align funding with other federal, provincial, territorial funding programs.
- Develop investment strategies for northern and remote communities to bring their Internet services up to the standards of urban centres.
- Enact a specific strategy for satellite-dependent communities to achieve service parity.

Closing the broadband gap and reducing the significant lag-time in bringing faster speeds to rural and remote areas requires long-term predictable funding and collaboration from all orders of government. Broadband Internet access has become fundamental to modern life, and has the power to transform

rural, northern and remote Canada.

FCM is ready to continue this discussion with the CRTC through the next phase of the consultation, including a public hearing in the fall, with a final submission due on November 29, 2017.

Read [FCM's full submission to the CRTC](#) on the funding of universal broadband.

To help your outreach efforts, we have prepared [a template news release](#) for you to use.

If you have any questions, please contact [Jean Lawson](#), Policy Officer, at 613-907-6246.

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FCM

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