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## A Message from the CEO

I am delighted to introduce this first edition of the SWIFT newsletter. We intend to make it a regular publication so as to keep our readers up-to-date on all things SWIFT. We chose a quarterly schedule to ensure that our correspondence is never overwhelming and that the content being delivered is relevant. In this and future editions, we hope to give readers inside access into what we have been researching, building and thinking. I hope this will be a welcome addition to your inbox and encourage you to provide feedback and comments on this first edition by emailing us at: [communications@swiftnetwork.ca](mailto:communications@swiftnetwork.ca).



I am also pleased to announce the appointment of Barry Field to the position of Chief Operating Officer (COO). In this role, Barry will be dedicated to the implementation and delivery of the SWIFT Network, including project management and financial oversight. Barry brings a history of entrepreneurial experience to the role, with an extensive background in project management for the telecommunications industry. Most recently, he has managed projects for the Telecommunication Services of Trinidad and Tobago (TSTT), The Bahamas Telecommunications Company (BTC), American Samoa Telecommunications Authority (ASTCA) and Cox Communications. I am

confident that Barry brings the right mix of experience and skill to translate SWIFT's vision into action. He will play a pivotal role in helping us to empower communities to access global opportunities through local, ultra-high-speed connections.

Finally, I would like to thank our members, partners, and supporters for their ongoing encouragement and dedication to the SWIFT initiative. We look forward to continuing to work together to "Build Broadband for Everyone."

Sincerely,

Geoff Hogan,  
Chief Executive Officer

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## Project Update

On January 3rd, SWIFT launched its first in a series of upcoming Request for Proposals (RFPs) that outlined a complete list of deliverables and requirements for the design, construction, operation and maintenance of the ultra-high speed, open access, fibre optic backbone network for

from across the region. During this phase of the project, our [20 pre-qualified telecom service providers](#) will be able to submit a proposal in response to the RFP for the first phase of network construction. Their responses to the RFP will determine exactly where and when the fibre will be built. SWIFT anticipates selecting the Preferred Proponent(s) in the spring of 2018, with construction of the network commencing mid to late 2018.

## Data Collection Update

To connect everyone as efficiently as possible, we're collecting information about how residents, farms, and businesses currently use the Internet. This 15-minute survey will help us to determine where we will invest our funding and support us in achieving our goal of building "broadband for everyone." To complete the survey, please visit our [Survey](#) webpage. If you are interested in promoting the SWIFT survey in your community, please visit our [Resources](#) webpage (under survey marketing materials) for a sample email, poster, and social media post to share with your networks.

## Membership Update

SWIFT now represents the purchasing interests of more than 2,000 member locations including municipalities, First Nations communities, hospitals, schools, school boards, and other large public and private enterprises across the region. SWIFT membership is open to any community or organization that needs connectivity to any of its locations. Regardless of the size of your community, where you're located, or what sector you represent, our membership rates are based on the principle of equal access. Annual membership rates range from \$250 to \$2500 depending on the number of locations you commit to the network. If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact Adriana Dekker, Stakeholder Relations Manager at [adriana.dekker@swiftnetwork.ca](mailto:adriana.dekker@swiftnetwork.ca).

## Advocacy Update

On March 28, SWIFT published a position paper that gave prominence to Ontario's increasing digital divide and provided an evidence-based case for continued investment in equitable access to high-speed broadband networks. To read the full position paper, please visit our [Resources](#) webpage.

## News Update

SWIFT was recently featured in:

- [CBC News - Windsor](#)
- [CTV News - Kitchener](#)
- [CTV News - Windsor](#)
- [How to be Smart\(er\) in Mid-Sized Cities report](#)
- [Municipal Interface Magazine](#)
- [The Municipal Information Network](#)

### Questions about SWIFT? We have answers.

We're working hard to fund the construction of broadband for everyone. We know you have questions about how we're going to accomplish our goals and invest our funding and we want to make sure that you have the information that you need. To find the answers to your questions, please visit our website for an updated list of [Frequently Asked Questions](#) or contact us at [info@swiftnetwork.ca](mailto:info@swiftnetwork.ca).

Connect with SWIFT and follow along as we build #broadbandforeveryone. Use the links below to visit our website and find us on Facebook and Twitter.

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