



We have been getting lots of questions about our Rural Internet Project so we have put together a list of frequently asked questions that should cover some of the common inquires.

### **Why did the MOPC decide to take on this project?**

One of the biggest concerns many councillors hear from MOPC residents is the lack of high-speed internet in their districts. Hence, in 2017 it started investigating how it could improve internet service in the entire County.

### **What is the timeline of the project so far?**

1. In 2017, The Municipality of the County of Pictou appointed an ad hoc communications committee to facilitate an accountable affordable and high-quality telecommunications network that serves anticipated residential and commerce needs.
2. In 2018, the committee heard a presentation from project partner i-Valley on the steps that would be taken to facilitate the construction of the network.
3. Internet Testing of the current network was completed.
4. A consortium led by Nova Communications, a division of ROCK Networks, to lead the engineering and construction of the project.
5. In the fall of 2019, a design study was done to determine what infrastructure is already in place, what needs to be built.
6. In March 2020, Council committed \$11 million to phase one of the project.

### **What exactly is the MOPC building?**

The MOPC is building the backbone infrastructure of a network so that high-speed internet can be made available to residents and businesses in every area of rural Pictou County. We like to compare it to a toll highway – we will build the road but charge others to use this service. Once the network is constructed, internet service providers can lease the network from the MOPC which will generate revenue for the municipality and provide high-speed internet to all residents.

## **Is the network wireless or fibre?**

Our options are both fibre (both in the ground and pole to pole) as well as wireless, every area could be different. Many factors play a role in determining what kind of network will be in your community.

## **What speeds will the network allow?**

When the network is completed, we are looking to meet or exceed the CRTC guidelines of wired speeds: 10 Mbps up and 50 Mbps down and wireless/satellite speeds: 5 Mbps up 25 Mbps down. (Mbps = Megabits per second). Our goal is to enable a 1GB download speed for fibre connections and meet the requirements for wireless.

## **What will we be billed?**

You will not be getting a bill from the MOPC for internet service. We are not in the telecommunications business, so we cannot tell you what your bill will be. This will be determined by the internet service provider that you select. We expect charges will be comparable to rates in rural Nova Scotia.

## **Who will be my service provider?**

That is dependent upon which providers choose to use our network and supply service.

## **Will cellular service be available?**

There will be opportunities on our network for cellular carriers to use our infrastructure. Like internet service providers, this will depend on the company providing the service.

## **What is Phase One of the project?**

The design study divided the County into eight areas and phase one of the project focuses on the Abercrombie/Granton, Lyons Brook, and Hardwood Hill area. Council approved \$11 million in funding for this phase that includes the construction of a new tower in the Hardwood Hill area.

## **When will construction for/of Phase One begin?**

The MOPC is currently waiting on an approval permit from the CRTC before construction can begin. We hope to have phase one completed by the fall of 2020.

## **Why were these areas selected first?**

The design study showed this area has good infrastructure in place so starting here made sense in terms of construction and cost. It also allows the network to easily connect to Truro which is the central hub for internet. This area also includes the Administration Building for the Municipality of Pictou County which is the network's central headquarters.

## **When will construction in other areas be announced?**

We are still in the early stages of this project and there are many factors to consider when looking at other locations. When construction moves to new areas, it will be announced on our website, social media pages as well as in a direct email to people who have signed up for the updates at [register.munpict.ca/internet](http://register.munpict.ca/internet).

## **What are the benefits of having 100 per cent coverage across rural Pictou County?**

Since the MOPC started this project, we have heard from many people who want an improved internet service. We believe more people will purchase homes and set up businesses in rural Pictou County if the best internet service is available to them. We believe that better internet and cellular service will improve our local economy.

**How can I keep updated on the project?** You can check our website at [www.county.pictou.ns.ca](http://www.county.pictou.ns.ca) or our keep on our Facebook and Twitter pages. You can also register for more information at [register.munpict.ca/internet](http://register.munpict.ca/internet) which will allow for direct emails to be sent to you when an update is available.