



Making the Connection: Improving Access to High-Speed Internet in MODL

In December 2016, the CRTC made a ruling that high speed internet is a basic service, just like the telephone. Reliable internet access is now a basic need, whether you are a student, a small business operator, or a resident trying to access government services.

Access to high-speed internet is of critical importance to the District, and a key priority for our Council. Large sections of the Municipality do not have access to reliable high speed internet service. MODL is committed working with partners and our community members to improve access to this critical service.

Municipal Action:

The District has taken advantage of opportunities to improve services:

- We were successful in securing \$75,000 in provincial government funding to create a fixed wireless pilot project which will provide reliable high speed internet service to up to 288 homes in the Sweetland area. NCS Networks will operate the service: visit <http://www.novascotiahighspeedinternet.com/sweetland> to learn about coverage and to sign up.
- The federal government announced a \$500 million *Connect to Innovate* fund to support internet projects across the country.
 - The District submitted a joint application with an Internet Service Provider (ISP) which would see the municipality invest up to \$246,800 in internet infrastructure, if approved by the federal government.
 - The District also wrote letters of support for two more project applications made by ISPs.

Internet Connectivity Strategy:

The District's 2017/18 budget also includes \$40,000 to develop a long-term strategy on how best to expand access to reliable high-speed internet.

- The plan will take into consideration the provincial government's "Middle-Mile Strategy", which is expected to be released in 2017.
- The plan will build on the knowledge and partnerships the District has developed in pursuing the short-term opportunities.
- Community members have been very active on this issue, and the municipality will continue to engage citizens on this important issue.

For more information about the issue, please contact Dave Waters, Economic Development Officer at (902) 530-3043 or Dave.Waters@modl.ca.