



**Build**   
NOVA SCOTIA

# Connectivity in Nova Scotia

# Build Nova Scotia

Build Nova Scotia is a solutions-oriented organization. We plan, design, and manage various infrastructure projects that promote sustainable development and prosperity throughout Nova Scotia.

## Vision

To enable a vibrant, connected, healthy and growing Nova Scotia through the delivery of innovative strategic infrastructure across the province.

## Mission

Through excellence and innovation, deliver strategic infrastructure solutions for the benefit of all Nova Scotians.



# From Vision to Action

## Healthcare Redevelopment

We are modernizing facilities, expanding services, and improving infrastructure for better patient care across the province.

## Environmental Management & Remediation

We manage remedial activities for environmental cleanup, focusing on sustainable infrastructure and community enrichment.

## Waterfront Operations and Stewardship

We curate and manage the Halifax and Lunenburg Waterfronts, hosting various festivals, activities, and events for community engagement and enrichment.

## Infrastructure and Development

We oversee the transformation of lands and properties, stimulating the economy, improving quality of life, and supporting healthy communities through strategic development.

## Connectivity

We work with partners to enhance digital connectivity across the province, fostering sustainable solutions for improved high-speed internet and cellular coverage.



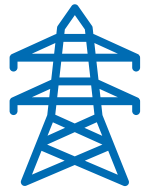
# Internet for Nova Scotia Initiative



**99.9%** of homes and businesses can connect through traditional Internet for Nova Scotia Initiative projects or the Satellite Internet Service Rebate Program.



Over **\$383.1million** has been invested through the Nova Scotia Internet Funding Trust, private sector contributions, funding from other sources, and the Government of Nova Scotia.



**More than 10,000** kilometres of fibre-optic lines have been laid.



**5,244** satellite rebates for Nova Scotians have been approved at a value of **\$3.8 million**.



# Cellular for Nova Scotia Program



The **\$47.3 million** investment in the Program will expand the province's telecommunication infrastructure and communication networks through a two-phased approach.



**\$3.3 million** is being invested to build four new trunked mobile radio 2 (TMR2) towers to expand radio coverage for first responders in areas identified as strategic locations.



The target is to achieve the following service levels where Nova Scotians live, work, and travel on major roadways.

- **99%** coverage for basic voice call service.
- **95%** coverage for standard-definition service.
- **85%** coverage for high-definition service.



# Current State and Future Direction



Build Nova Scotia conducted a cell gap study to analyze cell service levels. This study has highlighted coverage gaps for civic addresses and stretches of unserved or underserved roadways across Nova Scotia.



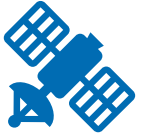
Phase 1 is focused on **utilizing existing infrastructure** to address coverage gaps and enhance service.



Phase 2, initially **focusing on the 100 series highways and principal roads**, will address the remaining coverage gaps by exploring various solutions, including potential new infrastructure and alternative technologies.



# The Future of Cellular Connectivity



Satellite cellular connectivity

Fixed Wireless Access as an option



The Internet of Things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence (AI), and data transition and control are shaping the future of technology.



The increasing popularity of unlimited data plans has led to intense data usage, putting pressure on the current infrastructure.



Capital program slowdowns hinge on the level of support provided by federal and provincial governments for these initiatives.



# Ongoing Priorities



Collaborating with all levels of stakeholders to enhance connectivity, ensuring that the solutions we identify are sustainable and align with any ongoing or planned federal initiatives.



Exploring new infrastructure and alternative technologies, guided by consultations with industry experts to ensure effective and innovative progress.



Advocating with the CRTC for shared tower access, more competition, federal infrastructure funding, essential status for cellular coverage, and legislative recognition as an essential service.





# Enhancing Telecommunications in Nova Scotia

Federal law regulates telecommunications.

The Government of Nova Scotia is acting to ensure reliable internet and cellular coverage is available to all Nova Scotians, especially in rural areas.

In a presentation to the CRTC, the Government of Nova Scotia advocated for several enhancements:

- Recognition of internet and cellular service as essential services.
- Prioritization of 911 calls in the telecommunication network infrastructure.
- Regulation of comprehensive access to all cellular towers and locations for mobile virtual network operators (MVNOs) and provincial services.
- Encouraging stronger and sustainable competition in the telecommunications sector to ensure reasonable costs and service options.



# Factors Affecting Cellular Connectivity

Cellular connectivity can be influenced by a myriad of factors, each crucial in determining the quality and reliability of your mobile connection.



Proximity to Cell Towers



Building Materials and Obstructions



Network Congestion



Antenna Strength and Network Type





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**Questions?**