

CANADA'S INTERNET PROBLEM

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Canadians are being asked to “flatten the curve” to fight the impact of COVID-19. This translates to an unprecedented reliance on the internet. Working from home, accessing healthcare services, communications, public safety, reliance on-line education, and social connections to name a few. For most rural Canadians, their internet service is inadequate at the best of times but in a case such as the pandemic it is unreasonably inadequate. The current COVID-19 pandemic has made it evident that rural Canada is a HAVE-NOT of high-speed internet and this is bringing the rural internet inferiority to the forefront.

The lack of control over the internet is the root cause. Along with the fact that we do not have a comprehensive Canadian Broadband Strategy, nor have we seen the level of commitment to fix the problems. Money alone will NOT solve this problem

List of Recommended Approaches and/or Policies

(non-exclusive) that are essential to driving the change required:

1. Immediately address the pandemic containment requirements request ISPs and Canadian Military to deploy portable Cell on Wheels (COWS) with a priority to those areas where residents don't have internet.
2. Develop a holistic Canadian Broadband Strategy for rural internet
3. Partial ownership to infrastructure – how can the public get control for assets they have funded
4. Smaller regional players are quick to share networks and provide unlimited data – they are the answer to rural internet but they lack the incentives and capital to build.
5. Consider how to de-couple the vertical integration of the Oligopoly (control of the infrastructure, media, and content. Canadians are NOT well-served with this situation.
6. Ontario Government should make Ontario Hydro's pole infrastructure a public asset and rework the rules for access by regional and rural providers.
7. All infrastructure projects like roads, pipelines, wind energy projects, etc. must include conduit for future fibre or they will not receive any public funding.
8. Help Municipalities fund to build fibre backbone.

... for a comprehensive report of the problems and further details [please click here](#)