Presentation Purpose

• Provide an update on SuperNet

• Discuss work underway to develop policy options for a potential Provincial Broadband Strategy
SuperNet Update

- Existing SuperNet operator agreement expires June 30, 2018
- Looking for a partner that will provide good quality services, at a reasonable price, while also helping to improve broadband across Alberta
- Priority #1 is continuity of the 3,400+ existing SuperNet public sector circuits
- Two proposals received
- Consensus scoring completed December 13, 2017
- Short-list presentations completed February 12/13, 2018
- Reference checks are now underway
- Expect to determine successful proponent by mid-March
- Due diligence process will then take place
- Goal is to sign contract around mid-April
Broadband Services

Federal Update

- ISED Connect to Innovate program
  - Launched December 15, 2016
  - $500 million rural broadband internet program to be spent by 2021
  - 892 applications submitted
  - 104 applications from Alberta
  - Projects announced in Quebec, Ontario, Newfoundland, Nunavut, Manitoba, and British Columbia
  - Expecting Alberta announcements in the next 4 to 6 weeks

- December 21, 2016 CRTC ruling (2016-496)
  - Internet is now considered a basic telecommunications service for all Canadians
  - Target speeds of 50 Mbps download and 10 Mbps upload for 90% of residences and businesses by 2021
  - Additional $750 million of funding
  - Program specifics being finalized following extensive public consultation
Provincial Broadband Strategy

• Government of Alberta (GoA) is working toward a future where every Albertan has access to a quality broadband connection
• Summer 2017 approval given to work on broadband policy options
• Scope includes all of Alberta with a focus on rural and Indigenous locations
• Access to reasonably priced, reliable, high-bandwidth broadband services is important for the survival and long-term economic prosperity of rural Alberta
  • Education
  • Businesses/Agriculture
  • Economic Development/Diversification
  • Healthcare
  • Social needs
Provincial Broadband Strategy

• Aim is to have policy options ready for autumn 2018
• Starting with a current state analysis
  • 10 of the 11 REDAs have completed studies showing the current state
  • Taylor Warwick Consulting updated data for current state analysis of advertised residential speeds in communities across Alberta, excluding Edmonton and Calgary
    • Advertised speeds in only 103 of the 795 communities (13%) meet the CRTC objective of 50 Mbps download speeds and upload speed of 10 Mbps.
    • Community number count refers to the sum total of the cities, towns, villages, summer villages, hamlets, First Nation, and Metis Settlements in that areas. Counties, municipal districts, and special areas were also included.
Provincial Broadband Strategy

Across the study regions, the new (minimal) CRTC broadband objective of 50 Mb/s down by 10 Mb/s up is met in only 103 of the 795 communities.
Provincial Broadband Strategy

Across the study regions, some ~1.188M of 1.828M people have access to services meeting the new (minimal) CRTC broadband objective.
Provincial Broadband Strategy

Larger communities meet the guideline while smaller communities do not. There are a lot of small communities in Alberta.
Provincial Broadband Strategy

As premise density increases, so do the chances of having service levels meeting the new CRTC objective.
Provincial Broadband Strategy

• Work also underway on a jurisdictional analysis
  • On December 13, 2017 Quebec announced a broad five-year, $1.5 billion plan to ensure citizens have access to high-speed internet, making it the first Canadian jurisdiction to unveil a broadband strategy
  • From July 1, 2010 Finland made broadband access a legal right
  • UK looking at legislation in early 2018 that will give members of the public a legal right to a basic level of broadband service (10Mbps) by 2020
  • The Philippines has the slowest internet speed in the entire Southeast Asian region with an average download speed of 3.54 Mbps. That doesn’t sound that slow until you realize that South Korea is downloading at 26 Mbps, nearly four times the world average of 7 Mbps
Provincial Broadband Strategy

- We also need to gather input
  - TELUS (ILEC)
  - Major network/infrastructure owners
    - Bell
    - Rogers
    - Shaw
    - Zayo
  - ISPs/WISPs
  - ISED
  - Indigenous groups
  - Not for profit/research groups
  - All GoA Ministries
  - All Municipalities, Districts and Counties
  - Regional Economic Development Alliances
  - Alberta Chambers of Commerce
Provincial Broadband Strategy

• Examples of what we have asked stakeholder groups:
  • How should we define urban, rural and remote communities?
  • What are some limitations currently facing residents, businesses, and other organizations in your municipality/region, based on broadband services currently available (or not available) in your municipality?
  • With the growth of the internet of things and the speed of change in technology, does your municipality/region foresee any future limitations as a result of the current broadband services available?
  • Is your municipality considering any in-kind funding to assist with broadband investments? For example, waiving taxes, providing free access to municipal land, or waiving permit fees for the private sector investing in broadband infrastructure?
  • If public sector funding was made available to support improvements in infrastructure, do you think your municipality/region would be interested in public sector ownership?
Provincial Broadband Strategy

• Examples of what we have asked stakeholder groups:
  • We know the private sector is continuing to invest in infrastructure. Do you think a municipality should be able to contribute to broadband investment in order to accelerate the build schedule?
  • What do you think are reasonable funding percentages if broadband infrastructure was being built based on funding from the three levels of government and the private sector?
  • Does your municipality have any future funds allocated to enhancing broadband services?
  • To help fund municipal investment in rural broadband infrastructure has your municipality considered passing some or all of the capital costs on to the residents?
  • What has your municipality done to date, and does your municipality have current or future plans to improve broadband services in your jurisdiction?
Provincial Broadband Strategy

• Examples of what we have asked stakeholder groups:
  • Is your municipality/region looking for opportunities to partner with neighbouring jurisdictions to enable a regional approach to enhancing broadband services?
  • Is your municipality/region currently working or partnering with any major infrastructure companies to enhance broadband services?
  • If your municipality is interested in public sector ownership, does your municipality have the knowledge, supports, and resources in place or will your municipality be looking to sell access, operate and maintain the infrastructure?
  • Does your municipality/region foresee any opportunities for job creation or economic development as a result of enhancing broadband services?
  • Is your municipality contemplating any changes to regulations, rules, and processes to facilitate improvement to broadband infrastructure in your municipality?
Provincial Broadband Strategy

• Examples of what we have asked stakeholder groups:
  • Are businesses in your community reporting future expansion plans or sales marketing campaigns that are dependent on people having access to fast and reliable broadband services?
  • Have businesses in your community reported that business decisions have been impacted by poor reliability or connection speeds?
  • What opportunities are available for businesses in communities to grow; such as more product turnover, employment of more staff, etc.?
  • What do you believe is a priority for Alberta to pursue towards meeting the minimum standards for broadband access?
  • Working towards the CRTC targets, how would you prioritize improvements to broadband services?
Provincial Broadband Strategy

- Unlikely we will advocate one model but we want to help with decision making
  - Regional discussions are beneficial
  - If you build it will anyone be willing to maintain and operate it
  - How do we maximize competition while making a business case for the private sector to provide services
- Also unlikely to be one technology solution; very long-term fiber to every business and residence would be nirvana
  - Significant cost
  - Multiple stepping stones along the way
  - Wireless technologies continue to improve
  - Leverage existing copper and cable connections
Provincial Broadband Strategy

- What would come next?
  - Likely starting 2019 and assuming a strategy is approved
  - Confirm funding mechanisms
    - Work already underway to identify possible Federal and Provincial funds; nothing for certain at this point
    - Implementing a strategy will take collaboration, planning and funding from all levels of government together with the private sector
  - Program development and implementation
Questions