

From: Minister of Infrastructure <Minister.MOI@ontario.ca>

Sent: Friday, September 1, 2023 2:15:45 PM

To: Minister of Infrastructure <Minister.MOI@ontario.ca>

Subject: Red Tape Reduction for Designated Broadband Projects | Réduction des formalités administratives pour les projets de large bande désignés

CAUTION: EXTERNAL MAIL. DO NOT CLICK ON LINKS OR OPEN ATTACHMENTS YOU DO NOT TRUST.

Good afternoon:

As you may know, our government is committed to ensuring that communities across Ontario have access to high-speed internet. We have made a historic investment of nearly \$4 billion in funding-based opportunities to help us meet our goal of bringing high-speed internet access to every community in Ontario by the end of 2025.

I am pleased to share an update on our efforts to expand high-speed internet access across the province.

In Spring 2023, Ontario introduced the *Less Red Tape, Stronger Economy Act, 2023* to help reduce burden for businesses, not-for-profit organizations, municipalities and other provincially regulated entities. As part of this initiative, the government has made legislative and regulatory amendments to the *Building Broadband Faster Act, 2021* (BBFA) to address barriers to timely municipal permit approvals and efficient infrastructure data collection.

This summer, the government has just released a newly updated version of the *Building Broadband Faster in Ontario Guideline* to provide additional clarity and best practices for completing work for designated broadband projects in compliance with legislative and regulatory requirements. This Guideline was first released in April 2021 with input from municipalities, ministries, and other partners as a tool to expedite the delivery of designated high-speed internet projects. It was updated in August 2022 to reflect new regulatory requirements that came into effect after its original release.

I'm happy to share our newly updated Guideline which provides additional clarity and best practices for completing work for designated broadband projects in compliance with legislative and regulatory requirements under the BBFA, the *Ontario Underground Infrastructure Notification System Act, 2012* (One Call Act) and the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* (OEBA).

To further support timely progress towards our end of 2025 commitment, Infrastructure Ontario has tools in place to help municipalities meet requirements under the legislation. These include the Technical Assistance Team (TAT), and the use of an online platform called the Broadband One Window (BOW). The Ministry has also re-started its Technical Working Group with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) to

REFERRAL TO _____
RECOMMENDED
DIRECTION REQUIRED _____
RECEIPT RECOMMENDED ☒

enhance these tools and ensure municipalities have the support they need to build broadband faster.

Thank you for your ongoing support to ensure that the people we serve have the access they need to participate in the digital world and help to grow Ontario's economy. We appreciate your continued partnership in helping us achieve this important goal.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

The Honourable Kinga Surma
Minister of Infrastructure

Confidentiality Warning: This e-mail contains information intended only for the use of the individual(s) named above. If you have received this e-mail in error, we would appreciate it if you could advise us through the Minister's website at www.ontario.ca/page/ministry-infrastructure and destroy all copies of this message. Thank you.