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Community Models for Addressing Connectivity Challenges and Related Funding Options

Canada's Rural & Remote Broadband Conference 2019   #CRRBC2019

Addressing Connectivity Challenges

Community Models and Funding Options

Laura Bradley
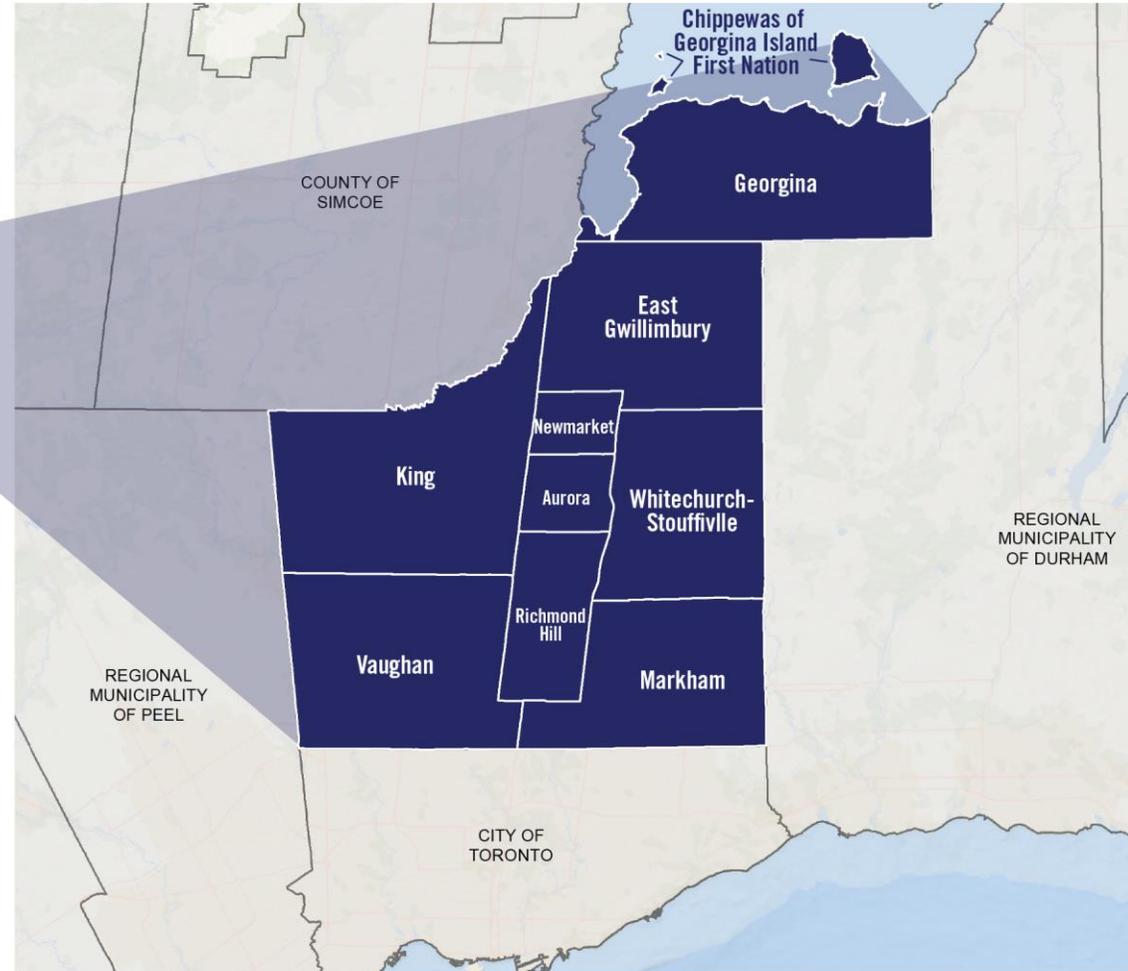General Manager, YorkNet

York Region   YORKNET

Presentation overview

• About York Region and YorkNet

•Broadband in our communities

• Funding Models

• Funding opportunities

About York Region

- Stretches north from Toronto to Lake Simcoe includes many hectares of protected Greenbelt

Area: 1,762 km²
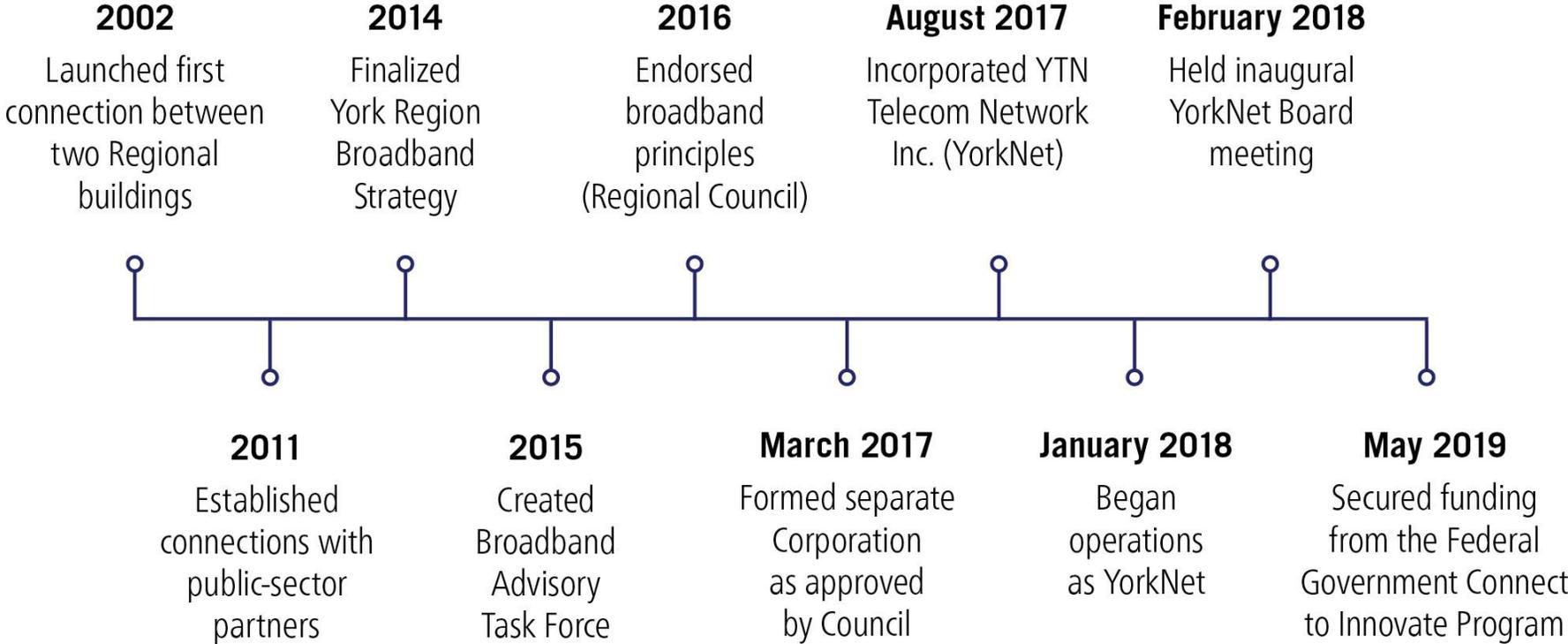
Population: 1.2 million

Nine municipalities

About YorkNet

- Helping create equitable access to high-speed internet

- Expanding open access to high-speed internet across York Region

- Planning, building, and operating an affordable, reliable and sustainable dark fibre network across York Region

The evolution of YorkNet

2002
Launched first connection between two Regional buildings

2014
Finalized York Region Broadband Strategy

2016
Endorsed broadband principles (Regional Council)

August 2017
Incorporated YTN Telecom Network Inc. (YorkNet)

February 2018
Held inaugural YorkNet Board meeting

2011
Established connections with public-sector partners

2015
Created Broadband Advisory Task Force

March 2017
Formed separate Corporation as approved by Council

January 2018
Began operations as YorkNet

May 2019
Secured funding from the Federal Government Connect to Innovate Program

Broadband in our communities

Underserved areas

Limited capital

Low household density

Difficult terrain

Low income neighborhoods

Limited revenue opportunity

Funding models

Private Sector

Public and
Private Partnerships

Build it

Private sector

- Providers decide when and where to bring high-speed solutions to communities

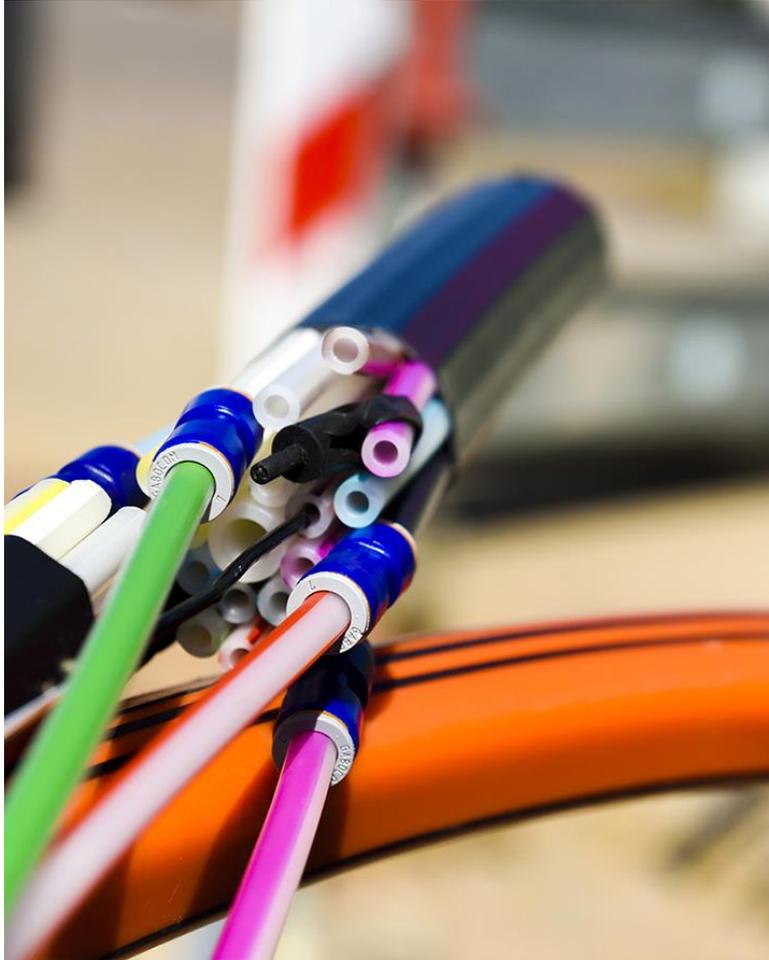- Communities may struggle to keep pace for economic success

Public and private partnerships

- Public and private sector partners collaborate to provide high-speed internet service to communities

- Enables a commitment to the community to ensure that dollars are spent responsibly

Build it

- Communities have decided to build their own networks

- Often provided through Local Distribution Companies (LDC) who have the technology and means to monitor and manage connectivity

- Some build through local municipalities

- Offers open access to bringing the potential for high-speed internet to businesses and households

Funding considerations

- Competitive process

- Must meet criteria eligibility

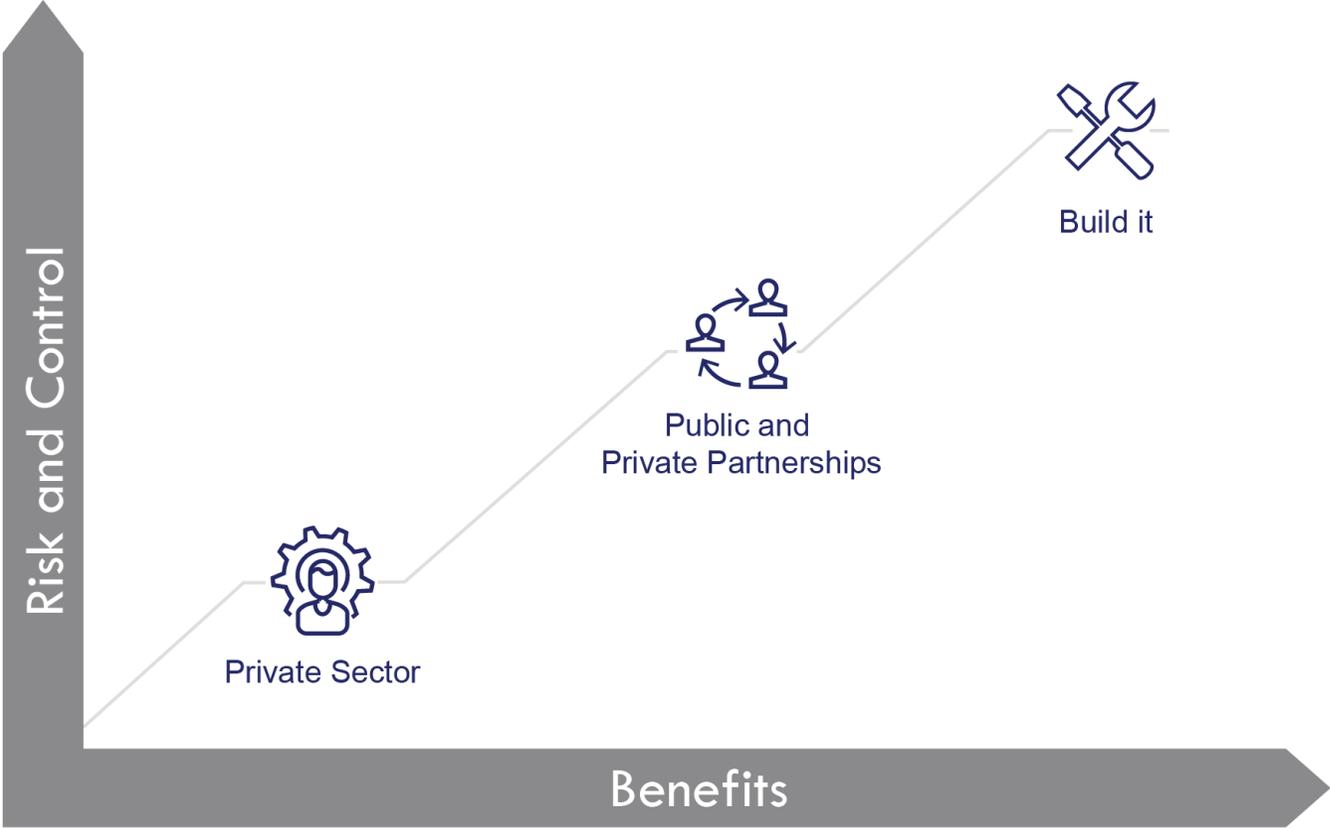- Reporting requirements

- Eligible expenses

- Time constraints

YorkNet's Build It model

- Building dark fibre and leasing to others

- Co-building in rural areas allows private internet service providers to deliver high-speed internet to new areas and enables government to address specific needs
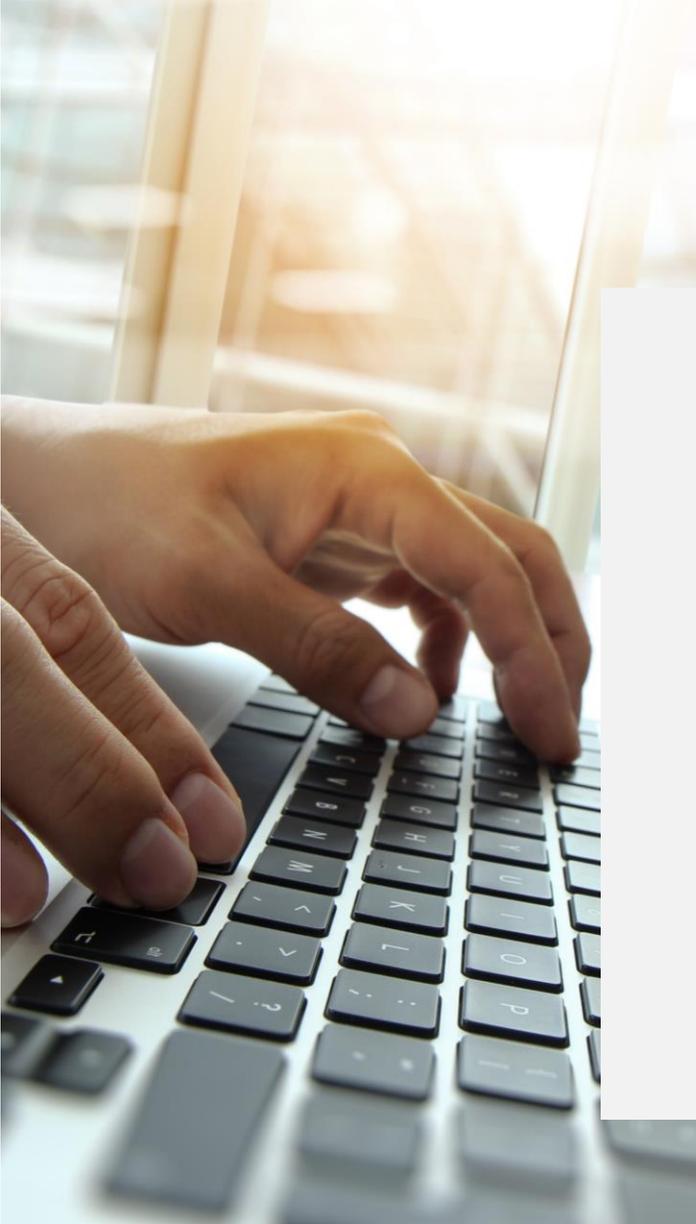
Funding model considerations

Funding benefits

Applying for funding can:

- Support areas unable to attract private sector investment

- Provide an opportunity to build the network sooner

- Address the need to advance connectivity for future needs

Funding options

Applications to apply for funding can be made through:

- Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC)

- Province of Ontario (awaiting funding details)

- Connect To Innovate (CTI)

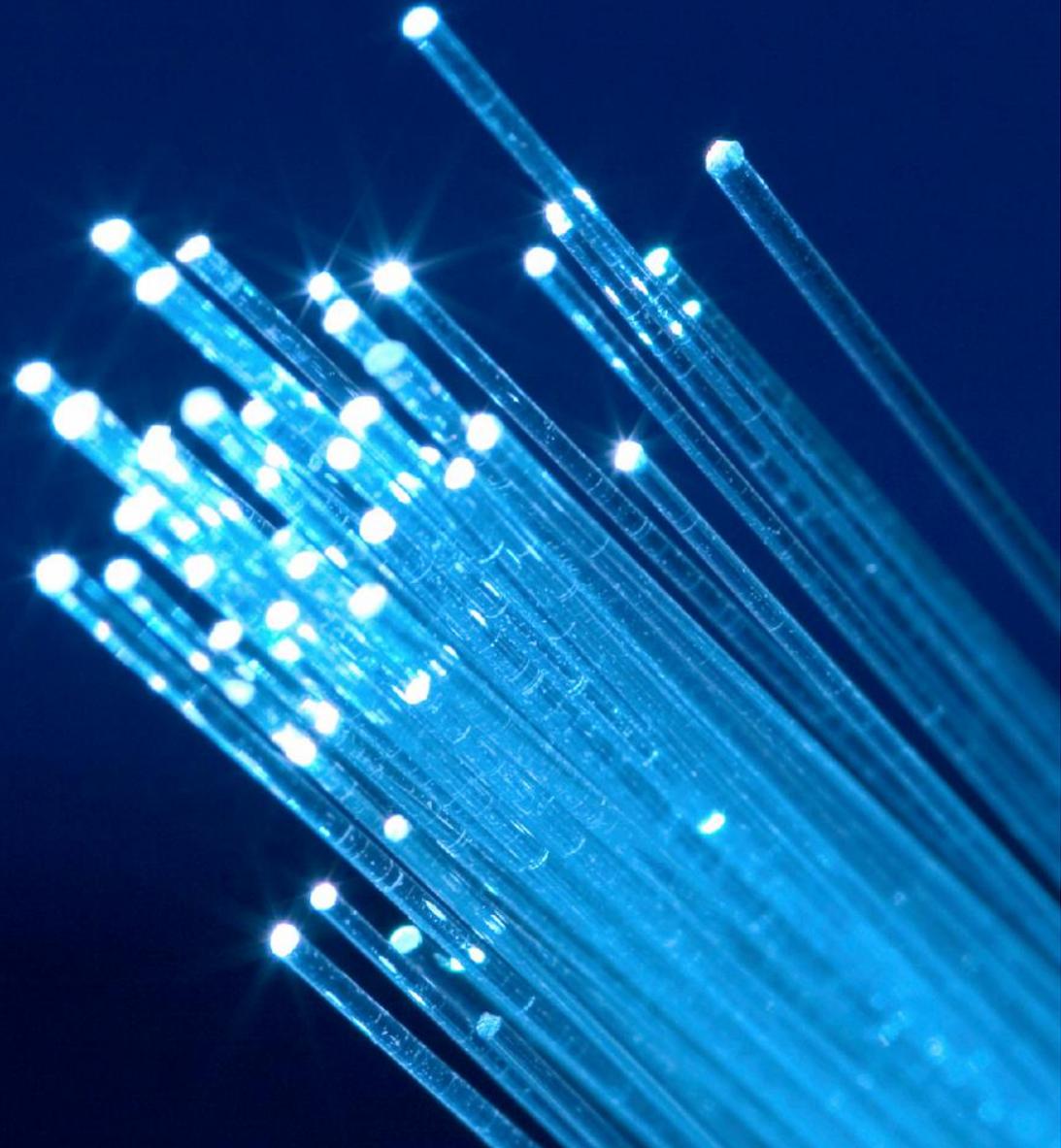- Investing In Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP)

The future is bright for broadband

- Start conversations that keep the focus on rural and remote needs

- Work together to find solutions with public and private partners

- Focus on communities, residents and businesses

THANK YOU

Contact us

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