



## VIRTUAL CONFERENCE 2020

Monday, June 8, 2020  
(all times Eastern Standard Time)

- 11:00am – **Conference Introductions and Overview** **Amedeo Bernardi**  
11:10am Conference Founder
- 11:10am – **KEYNOTE: COVID-19 and Why Addressing the Rural Digital Divide Matters More than Ever** **The Honourable Maryam Monsef**  
11:20am *COVID-19 has awoken all of us to the criticality of ubiquitous, reliable and affordable broadband access - for ALL.* Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Rural Economic Development
- 11:20am – **Fireside Chat with Minister Monsef** **Amedeo Bernardi**  
11:30am *UNAVAILABLE* Conference Founder
- 11:35am – **Panel: Government’s Role in Addressing the Challenges of the Rural Digital Divide** Moderated by: **Greg O’Brien**  
12:35pm *The Pandemic has applied renewed pressure on all levels of government to address the digital divide. What should governments do – from policies to funding – as the future is now upon us?* Editor-In-Chief  
Cartt.ca
- PANEL**
- Ray Orb** – President, Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) and Chair of the Rural Forum, Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)  
**Fausto Iannallice** - Director of Broadband and Digital Strategy Branch, Ontario Ministry of Infrastructure  
**Susan Stanford**- ADM Technology, Connectivity and Distributed Growth Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Competitiveness, Province of BC  
**Brian McCullagh** – Director Business Development, Vianet  
**Imran Mohiuddin** – Policy Analyst, Cybera Inc.
- 12:35pm – **BREAK**  
1:00pm

1:00pm –  
1:55pm

### **Panel: Indigenous Community Connectivity**

*Global events have highlighted the digital divide especially in Indigenous communities. A discussion on the opportunities and challenges of new models and partnerships.*

#### **PANEL**

**Sally Braun** – General Manager, Western James Bay Telecom Network

**Lyle Fabian** – President, KatloTech Communications, (Yellowknife)

**Rob McMahon** – Assoc. Professor, University of Alberta, First Mile Consortium

**Gary Wilson** – Director of Operations, Coastal First Nations / Great Bear Initiative

Moderated by:

**Kim Barrington**

Chair of the Indigenous

Peoples Committee

Rogers Communications

2:00pm –  
2:55pm

### **Panel: Economic Realities of Funding Rural Projects**

*Rural and Remote Broadband projects have challenging business cases and are difficult to sustain. Are there different models to consider?*

#### **PANEL**

**Rob Barlow** – Vice President, Crown Capital Inc.

**Terry Dalton** - President and Co-Founder, i-VALLEY

**Craig Dobson** – Taylor Warwick Consulting

**Amar Singh** - Executive Vice President - Commercial Advisory & Strategy, Infrastructure Ontario

Moderated by:

**David Pickett**

Partner – Financial

Advisory

RDM Management Group

2:55pm –  
3:05pm

### **Day 1 Closing Remarks**

**Amedeo Bernardi**

Conference Founder

**Tuesday, June 9, 2020**  
**(all times Eastern Standard Time)**

11:00am –  
11:15am

### **Conference Day 2 Introductions and Overview**

**Amedeo Bernardi**

Conference Founder

11:15am –  
12:10pm

### **Panel: Rural Community Broadband Models**

*Community and regional representatives discuss how they are trying to address their broadband challenges while coping with the realities of COVID-19.*

#### **PANEL**

**Brian Cullen**– Chief Administrative Officer, Municipality of the County of Pictou, Nova Scotia

**Lisa Severson** – Stakeholder Relations, Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN)

**Colleen Sklar** - Executive Director, Winnipeg Metropolitan Region

**Paul Ouimette** - Director of Operations, North Eastern Ontario Communications Network Inc. (NEOnet)

Moderated by:

**Colleen McCormick**

Lead, Connected

Communities

Ministry of Jobs, Economic

Development and

Competitiveness

Province of BC

12:10pm – 12:35pm	<p><b>The Promise of Technology and the Next Big Thing</b>  <i>The potential for a new technology to deliver communications to rural areas including an overview of the realities of 5G, Low Earth Orbit satellites and other advancements.</i></p>	<p><b>Sylvain Raymond</b>  <b>Ph.D.</b>          Director (Acting), High Throughput and Secure Networks Program          National Research Council</p>
12:35pm – 1:00pm	<b>BREAK</b>	
1:00pm – 1:55pm	<p><b>Panel: The Good, The Bad and The Ugly - Lessons Learned from Deploying Broadband Projects</b>  <i>Vendors talk about the realities of implementing their projects and some painful insights.</i></p>	<p>Moderated by:  <b>Jason Presement</b>          Regional Vice President,          Sales          Calix</p>
<b>PANEL</b>		
<p><b>Keith Ponton</b> – Senior Systems Consultant, IBI Group  <b>Justin Cameron</b> – Business Development Manager, TVC Communications  <b>Laura Bradley</b> – General Manager, YorkNet  <b>Ron Huinink</b> – Technical Manager, Telonix Communications Inc.</p>		
2:00pm – 2:55pm	<p><b>Panel: Measuring and Assessing a Rural Project’s Technical Viability</b>  <i>The questions of validating and measuring a rural broadband project’s technical success will be discussed. It is critical to identify what the problems to be solved are and how their respective solutions should be assessed.</i></p>	<p>Moderated by:  <b>Dave Lampron</b>          Chief Operating Officer          Columbia Basin Broadband Corporation</p>
<b>PANEL</b>		
<p><b>Grant Street</b> - Internet Performance Test (IPT) Product Management, Canadian Internet Registration Authority (CIRA)  <b>Kirby Koster</b> - Senior Manager, Broadband Programs, Centre of Excellence in Next Generation Networks (CENGN)  <b>Barry Gander</b> – VP and Co-Founder, i-VALLEY  <b>Dr. Reza Rajabiun</b> - Research Fellow, Ted Rogers School of Information Technology Management, Ryerson University</p>		
2:55pm – 3:05pm	<b>Conference Closing Remarks</b>	<p><b>Amedeo Bernardi</b>          Conference Founder</p>

Topics and times subject to change.