

Remarks for Premier Rodney MacDonald

Broadband for Rural Nova Scotia

Canaan, Lunenburg County, 10 a.m., December 5, 2007

Thank you Nancy.

And good morning everyone.

Better infrastructure is one of the five immediate priorities of my government. Having the right infrastructure in place is critical for Nova Scotia to compete in the global economy.

We believe expanded information technology will create the winning conditions for the New Nova Scotia. That's why I'm so pleased that today we are moving ahead with our goal of bringing access to high-speed internet to every corner of the province by 2009. I am proud to announce that the Province will commit 14.6-million dollars toward the 74.5-million Nova Scotia broadband project.

And it is with great pleasure that I am announcing today the successful companies for our broadband project. Seaside Communications from Sydney and Eastlink from Halifax. Together, we are about to make Nova Scotia the most connected jurisdiction in North America.

That means businesses and students in communities like this one will no longer endure the screech and delay of a dial up connection. They will have instant access to the world-wide- web at their finger tips.

If anyone doubts the positive impact of having broadband, just go to the pilot area in Cumberland County. Ask any of the more than 200 subscribers to broadband if they notice a difference between their new service and the previous dial-up connections. I'm sure they'll tell you that a whole new world is now available to them.

Our broadband project is not just about connecting people. It's about connecting schools, hospitals and businesses. It's about creating a place where people stay to build careers, raise families, and realize their dreams. It is a place with world-class health care and education and a vibrant economy with a bright future. It's about building the New Nova Scotia.

I look forward to the progress reports from Seaside and Eastlink in the coming months. I fully expect the most common question we will hear is: "When will I have access to broadband?"

We are on track to having the right infrastructure in place to make Nova Scotia a connected, competitive player in the global economy.

Thank you.