

Media Release
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Saskatchewan Broadband Action Committee: A Proposed Broadband Development & Investment Framework



Saskatchewan's Digital Divide Worsens as Access to Broadband Connectivity is Not Equal for All Canadians.

In response to Saskatchewan's 'digital divide', the Saskatchewan Broadband Action Committee (SBAC) is asking the Provincial Government to adopt the attached Broadband Development & Investment Framework. Committee Co-Chair, Jay Meyer, noted that "it is our hope the Province will embrace this strategy and invite the Committee to work directly with the appropriate Ministries and Government Officials on 'how' to move forward collectively. By publicly releasing this Framework, we are also hoping to hear from more organizations across Saskatchewan." Endorsement of the Committee's Broadband Framework would help to put in place the following key building blocks for change:

1. Establishment of a Broadband Coordination & Planning community-based Office;
2. Creation of a \$3.0M to \$4.0M Regional Community Capacity Grant; and,
3. Commitment to a \$50M Market Incentive Co-Funding Infrastructure Grant.

The Need for Change

Lowest Investment Per Capita	Since 2015, Saskatchewan continues to receive the lowest per capita investment from the Federal Government.
Persistent Digital Divide	The recent Federal Auditor's Report further highlighted Saskatchewan's lagging position in terms of services for "rural and remote communities and First Nations". The Auditor General's report noted "the persistent digital divide for people living on First Nations and in rural and remote communities".
Below National Standards	At the local provincial level, SBAC's 2022 Saskatchewan Broadband Survey, 53% of respondents indicated they ARE NOT or DO NOT have access to broadband 50/10 high-speed internet.
NO Provincial Plan	To the best of our knowledge, Saskatchewan is currently the only province without a formal provincial plan or strategy related to improving broadband infrastructure.

For a copy of the Investment Framework or to learn more about the committee, please visit: <https://sarm.ca/saskatchewan-broadband-action-committee/>

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The Saskatchewan Broadband Action Committee

The Saskatchewan Broadband Action Committee (SBAC) is a cross-sector and community-based group of provincial, local, and Indigenous organizations, networks, and service providers. The committee was established in February 2021 in response to the exacerbated broadband issues experienced across the province due to COVID-19.

Formed through a shared and collective concern over the issues and lost opportunities for all citizens related to broadband connectivity across the province, we're committed to achieving broadband infrastructure parity by 2025, and exceed the CRTC standard by 2030, for all Saskatchewan residents, regardless of location.

Our key focus is to assist with addressing long-standing issues affecting broadband connectivity; and advise and direct actions leading to a shared strategy, investment, and vision.

The Committee has identified four key building blocks that will help guide achievement of the above noted vision statement.

