

“BRANT CONNECTS” BROADBAND STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Proposal to County of Brant By
Paris & District Chamber of Commerce

September 23, 2021



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<http://www.pariscoc.ca/>

Presentation Outline:

Paris and District Chamber of Commerce – Who are we?

- Susan Morton, President

Proposal to Develop a Broadband Strategy & Action Plan

- David Cash, Chamber Advocacy Committee
 - Joint project
 - 5 Key questions/Issues
 - Recommendations

Q&A

Paris and District Chamber of Commerce

Susan Morton, President

- Founded in 1998
- *Vision: to be recognized as the “voice of business” dedicated to creating a sustainable, engaged, collaborative and vibrant business community in the County of Brant.*
- Some recent supports include:
 - Safety Plan templates for businesses in the Restaurants, Bars & Other Food Establishments, Retail locations & Personal Services sectors
 - Rapid Antigen Test Kits for businesses with under 150 employees
 - COVID resources (PPE, government updates, funding opportunities)
 - Virtual networking events
 - Educational and informational seminars
 - County of Brant updates
 - Shop local campaigns
 - Advocacy on internet access
 - Federal election candidate debate forum

Broadband Strategy & Action Plan

David Cash, Chamber Advocacy Committee Member

High Speed is Critical – minimum 50/10; available; reliable; affordable

- Many businesses are struggling with poor broadband

County of Brant already active

- ED Strategy, SWIFT member and Council resolutions

New Provincial & Federal funding now flowing

“Brants Connects” - Broadband Strategy & Action Plan Proposal

- Builds on existing efforts
- Joint project – Brant ED and Chamber
- Short term priorities and long-term goals

5 Key questions & Issues For Strategy:

Verify current state – availability; download/upload speeds; reliability; affordability

Best way to deliver (fixed, wireless, satellite) today & tomorrow

- "Future Proof"

Roles of major players – ISPs, senior governments; County of Brant

- Engineering standards; conduit; dark fiber; revenue generation

Most important broadband projects in short term (2022-25)

- Business parks? Alignment to ISP priorities?

Long Term Strategic Goals for County (2025+)

- Remote work; home businesses; distance learning; virtual medical

Broadband Mapping Data (ISED)

National Broadband Internet Service Availability Map

Third-party information liability disclaimer

Enter an address for a list of Internet service providers operating in this area

Enter an address for a list of Internet service providers operating in this area

Area Information | Layer Selector

Map | Satellite

Colour Legend:

- 50/10 Mbps
- 25/5 Mbps
- 10/2 Mbps
- 5/1 Mbps
- <5/1 Mbps

Display these technologies:

Wireline only

Wireless only

Wireline and Wireless

Coverage represents:

Current available services

Government supported services

Private expansion commitments

Aggregated Presentation:

Current 50/10 Mbps areas:

- >75% to 100%
- >50% to 75%
- >25% to 50%
- >0% to 25%

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Recommendations:

Susan Morton, President:

We are requesting County Council:

- Continue with its existing efforts to support improved Broadband in County of Brant, and
- Endorse the “Brant Connects” proposal (as attached) from the Paris and District Chamber of Commerce to create a Broadband Strategy and Action Plan; and
- Ask your staff to report back to you (2-4 weeks) on options available to move this forward.

Q&A