



Ministry of
Citizens' Services

Community Readiness for Rural Connectivity

Ministry of Citizens' Services

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September 2018



Framing Questions:

**For communities that want to improve their connectivity,
what steps should be followed by leadership
in the community?**

**What supports are available to communities that are going
through this process?**



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POLL

BC's Connectivity Status

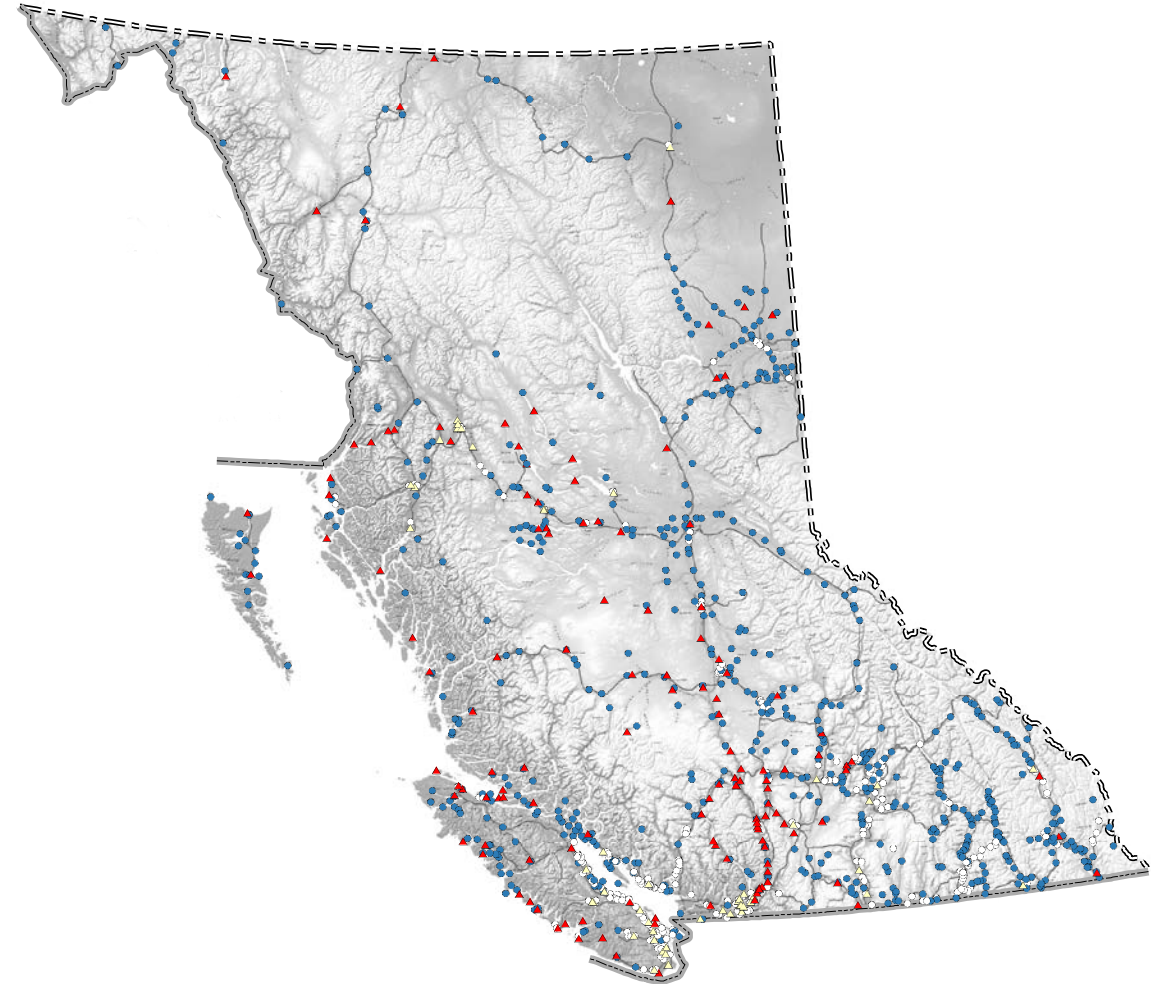
88% of Canadian households have access to at least 50 Mbps

92% of BC households have access to at least 50 Mbps

But this is only part of the story...

41% of rural Canadian communities have access to 50 Mbps

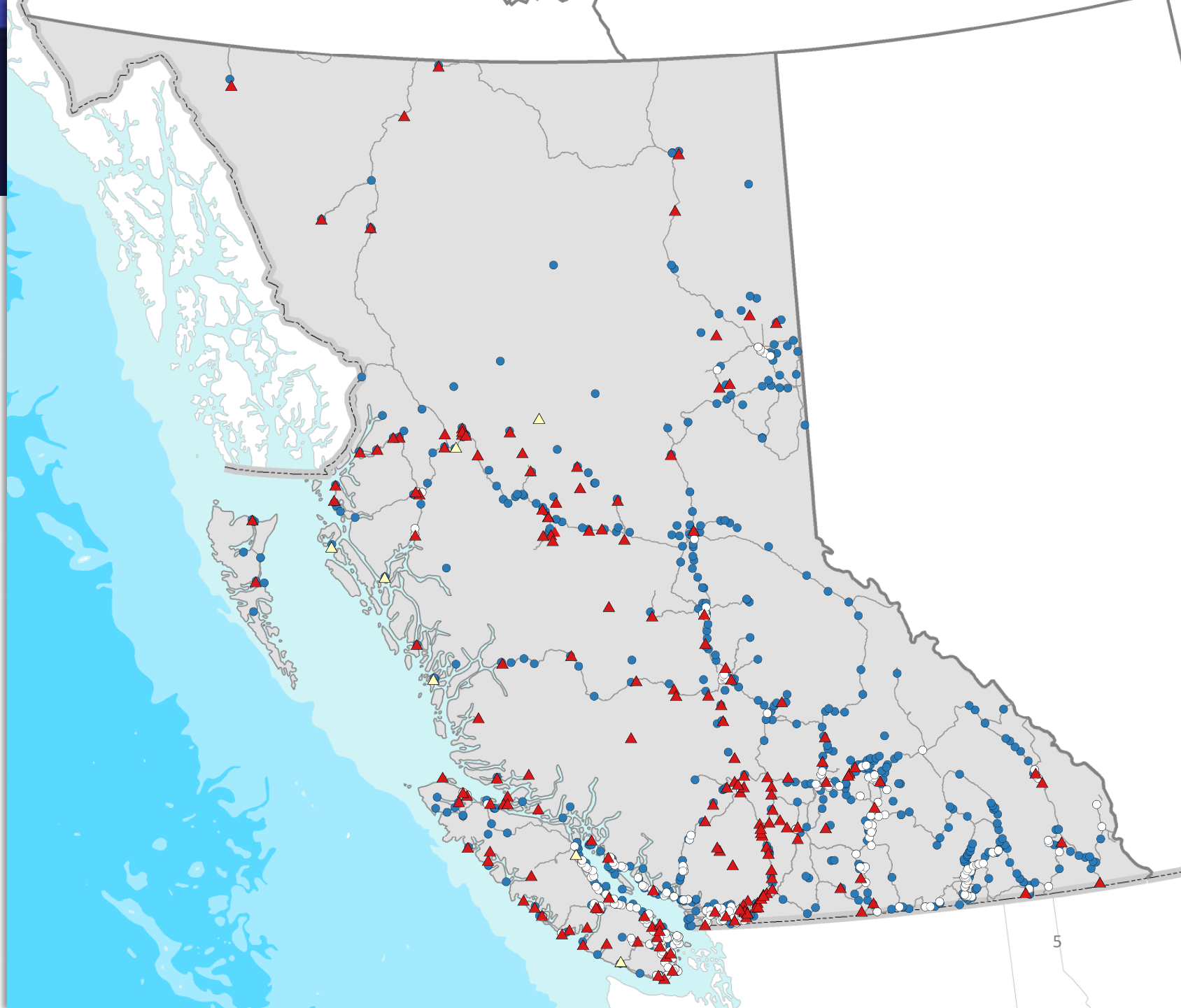
Only **30%** of BC's rural communities have the ability to delivery 50 Mbps—below the national average



***70% of BC's rural
communities are
underserved.***



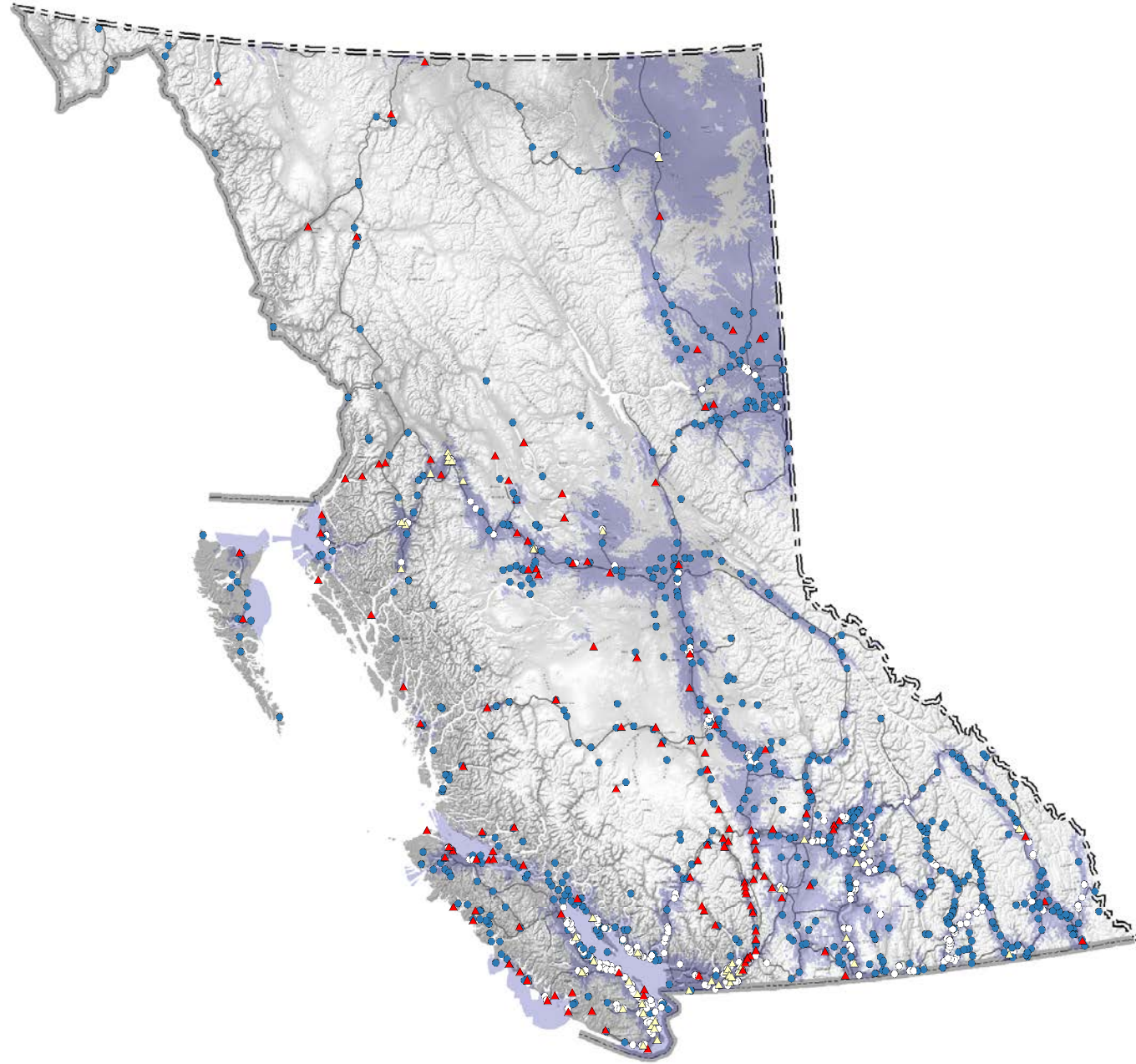
***75% of BC's rural
First Nations are
underserved.***



BC's Cellular Coverage

Low population densities and terrain limit cellular availability

8 highway wifi rest stops have been created by the Ministry of Transportation providing additional highway connectivity





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7 new projects have been announced in 2018

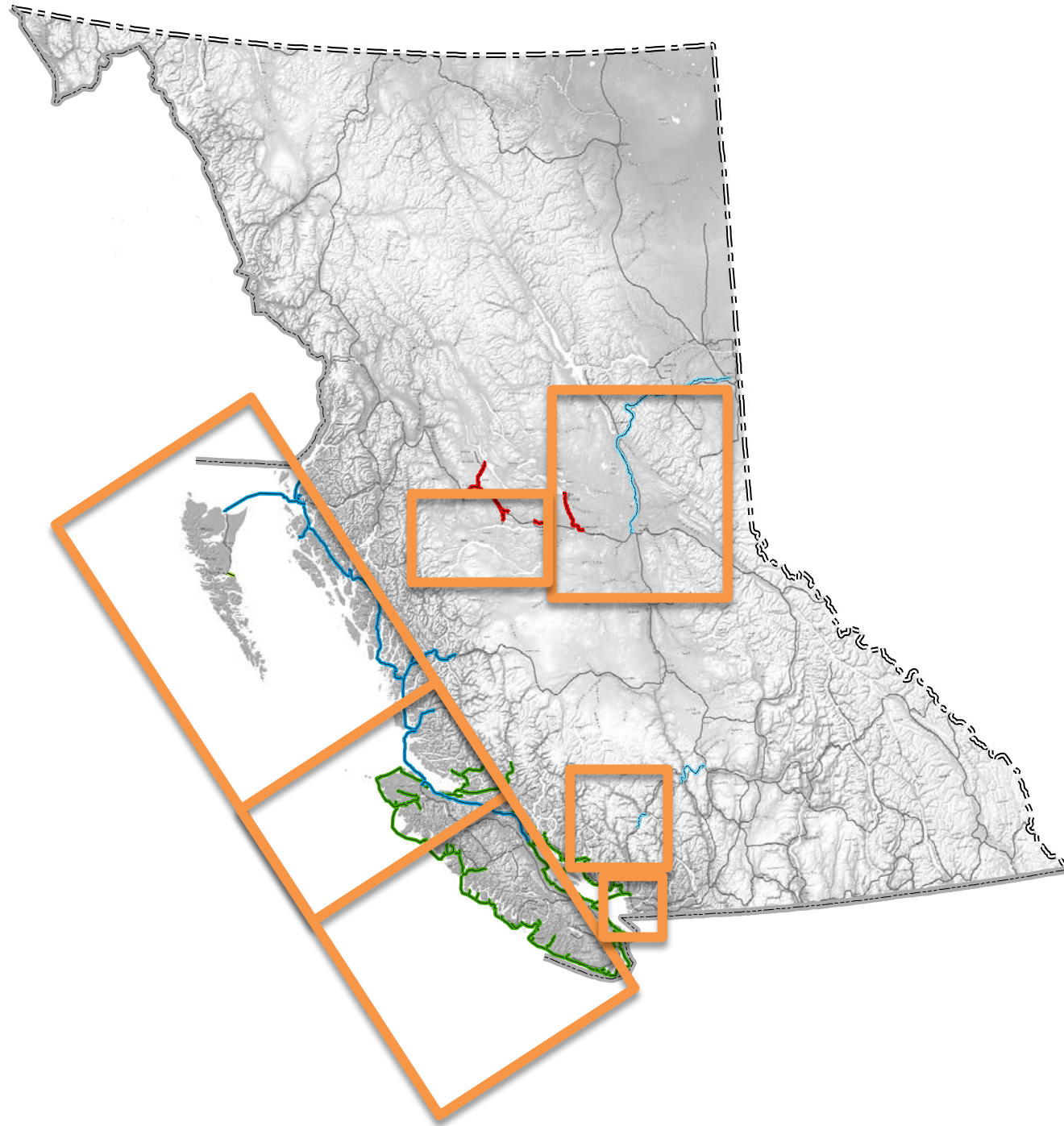
\$83M project value

187 community will receive new or improved transport—making them ready for last mile projects

121 communities will have the needed transport to support 50 Mbps last mile projects

50 communities will benefit from improved redundancy and resiliency

16 communities will receive both transport and last mile making 50 Mbps available for the first time





BRITISH
COLUMBIA



Connected Communities funding opportunities:

- Connecting British Columbia (CBC)
- Investing in Canada Infrastructure program
- New CRTC fund 2019-2013: \$750M



Connecting British Columbia

- **Dedicated funding program for internet connectivity.**
- Three funding streams available to internet service providers, First Nations, local governments, and not-for-profit organization:
 - develop regional connectivity infrastructure strategies (intake opened July 1, 2018)
 - improve local or last-mile connectivity infrastructure (intake opened July 1, 2018), and
 - install new transport infrastructure (intake opened September 1, 2018).
- Funded by Ministry of Citizens' Services. Program administered by Northern Development Initiative Trust.
- Intake details are posted on Northern Development's Initiative Trust.
- No deadline. Total \$16M available combined for all three funding streams. Available until funding is exhausted.



Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) Rural and Northern Communities

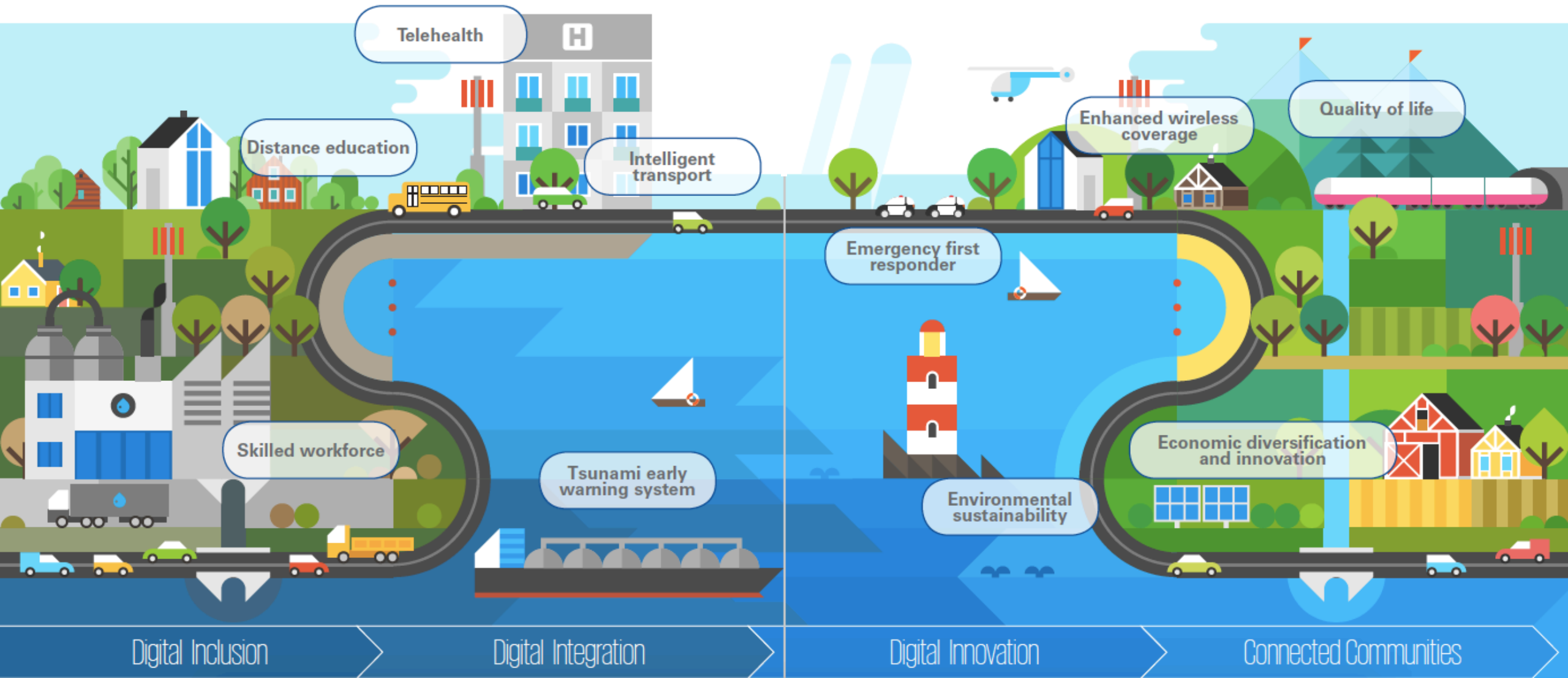
- Targets capital infrastructure projects in communities with a population of 25,000 or less.
- Highly Competitive: Focused on a wide variety of areas including food security, reliable road, air or marine infrastructure; broadband connectivity, efficient and reliable energy; Indigenous health and educational facilities; community, culture and recreation; local public transit; improved resilience to natural disaster events; and, environmental quality.
- Program administered by Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.
- Intake opened September 12, 2018 and closes January 23, 2019.



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Connectivity is foundational...





Opportunity: >\$800M in program funding for broadband and cellular projects coming online in 2019.

The CRTC will launch the \$750M in early 2019 specifically for improved internet to rural and First Nations communities.

Federal Government will launch the Build Canada fund available for Rural and Northern communities.



Challenge: Increase the quality and quantity of submissions from BC service providers.

Funding programs are merit and proposal-based, requiring large and small service providers to build very competitive proposals.



Gap: Rural communities and First Nations are challenged to articulate their digital infrastructure needs.

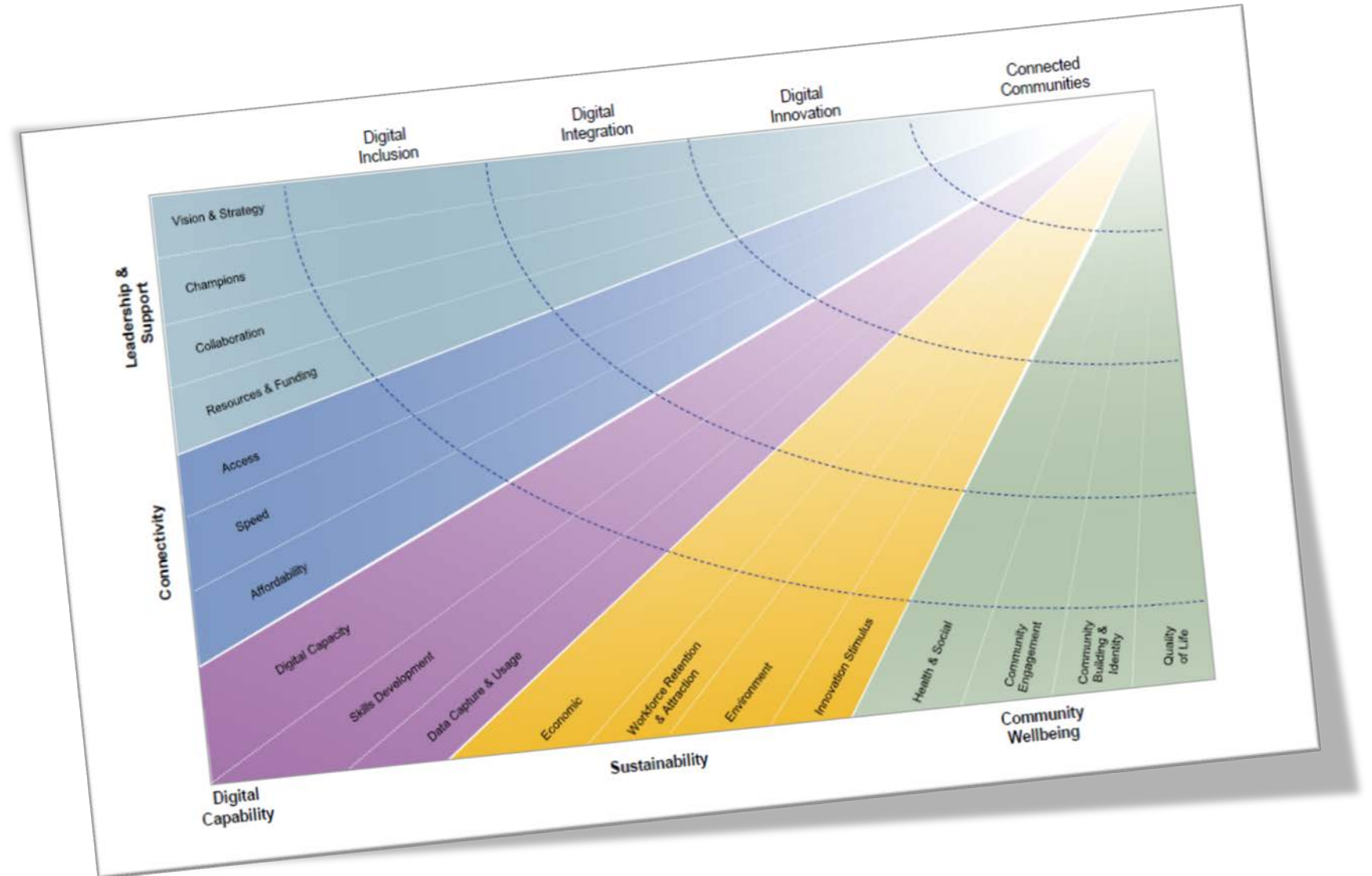
Rural and FN communities need to develop their digital plans as part of their community planning to better access, and optimize digital infrastructure investment.

Community digital plans are a primary input to service provider investment plans and proposals.

Connected Communities BC Digital Roadmap

What is the Connected Communities BC framework?

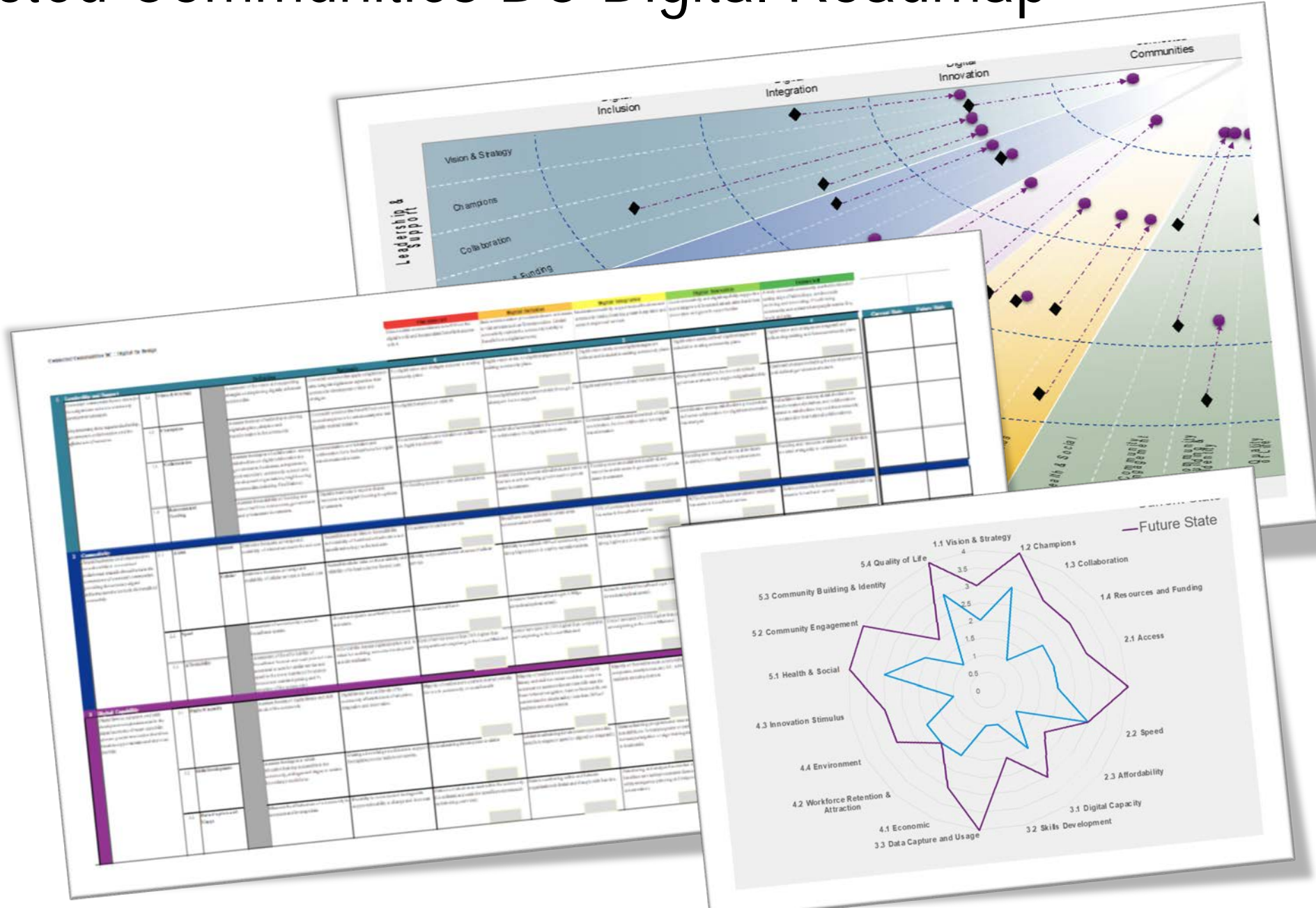
The framework describes five strong foundational elements that participating communities have identified as key to digital transformation: *leadership & support*, *connectivity*, *sustainability*, *digital capability*, and *community wellbeing*.



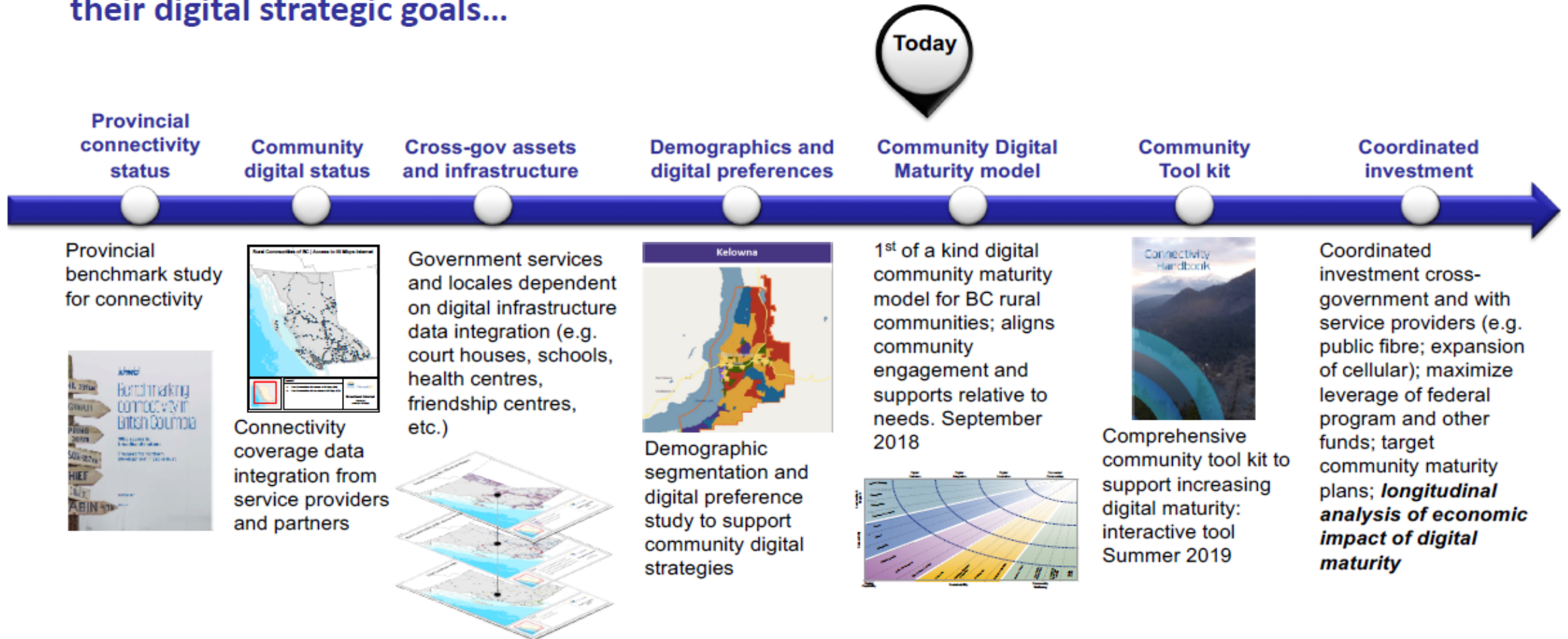
Connected Communities BC Digital Roadmap

Made in BC for Small Communities in BC

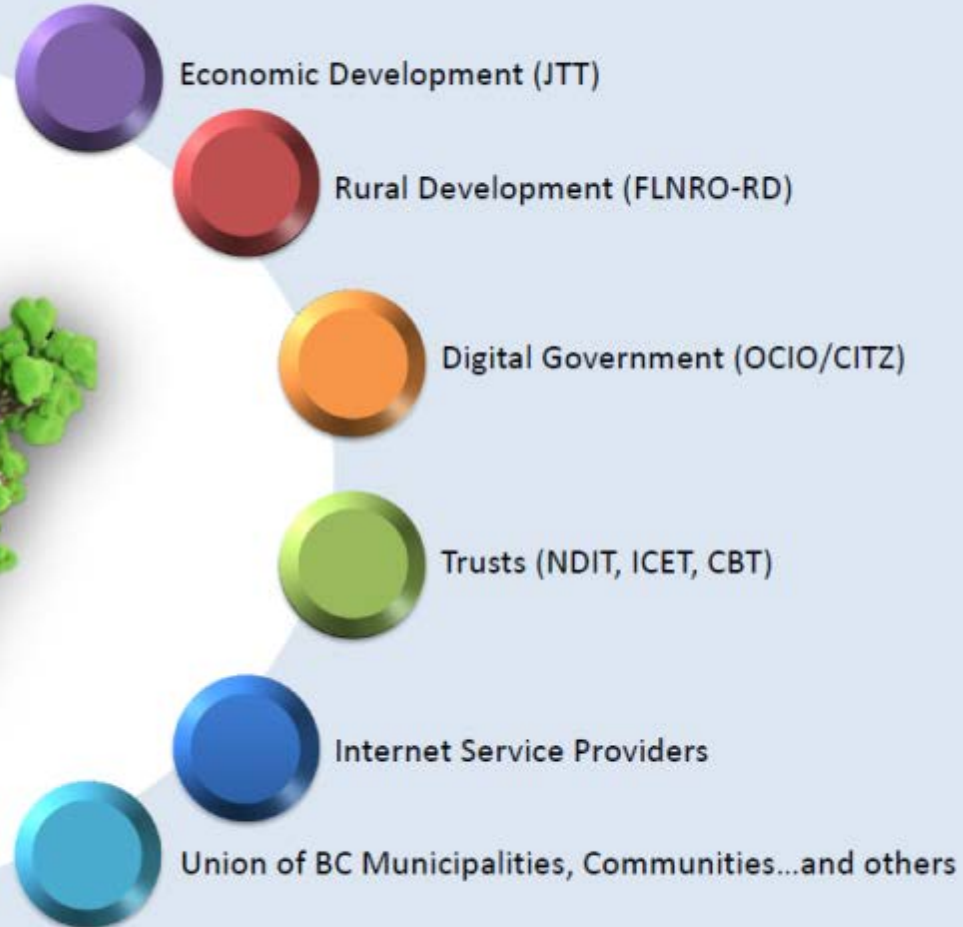
Benchmark and accelerate community digital readiness through a simple self-assessment tool that maps current and future state, while guiding communities through a strategic connectivity development maturity model (created by them) aimed at yielding the greatest socio-economic benefits.



Pathway to better analytics and tools to support communities to reach their digital strategic goals...



Connected Communities BC + Connecting BC





Connected Communities in BC

Including the 2018
Connectivity Benchmarking Study:
Why Broadband Matters

Prepared for Northern
Development Initiative Trust

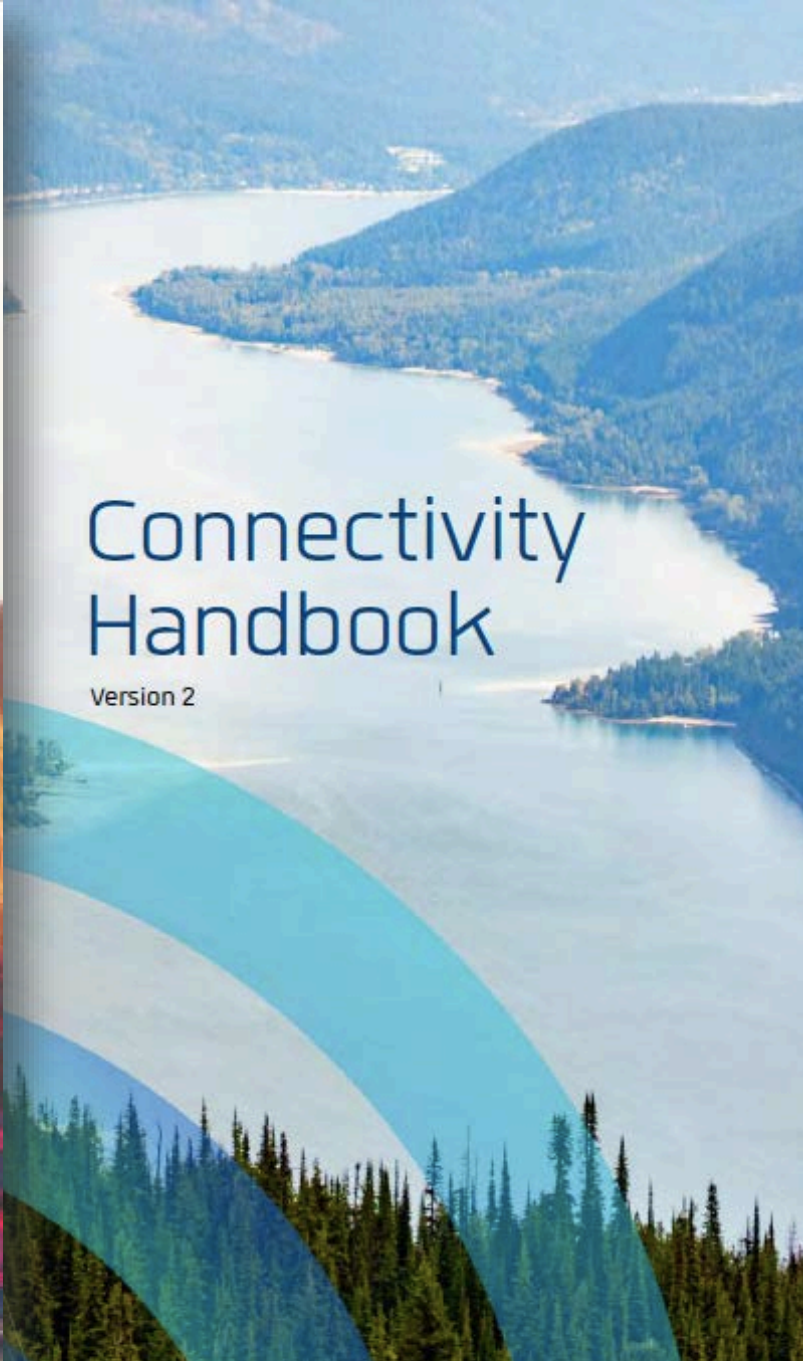
August 2018

kpmg.ca



Connectivity Handbook

Version 2



Connecting British Columbia Program Phase Two – Intake 3 – Transport Application Guide

Northern
Development
INITIATIVE

Introduction

The Connecting British Columbia program is a province-wide program administered by Northern Development Initiative Trust (Northern Development) and is available to all eligible applicants. The program is funded by the Province of British Columbia.

Program Purpose

The current objective of the multi-year Connecting British Columbia program is to accelerate the delivery of high-speed internet connectivity at minimum speeds of 50 megabits per second (Mbps) down and 10 Mbps up to homes and businesses in rural communities in BC. Applications that can demonstrate the ability to support the target of 50/10 Mbps are highly preferred.

The high cost of infrastructure has been identified by local governments, regional districts, First Nations, and internet service providers as one of the key barriers to expanding internet services. The Connecting British Columbia program helps pay for infrastructure required to deliver high-speed internet connectivity to rural areas of the province.

For the Connecting British Columbia program, transport projects are key enablers for providing improved connectivity to rural and underserved areas, provide network diversity to key transport segments, support expansion of services to reach the 50/10 service objective, and support future services.

Approved projects must be completed by March 31, 2020.

Transport Project Objectives

Transport projects funded under the program must achieve one or several of the following objectives:

- Provide new infrastructure or upgrades to existing infrastructure to allow improved availability to high-speed internet in areas with limited coverage. Examples of upgrades are replacing of old copper cables and replacing aging or saturated radio links.
- Improve network diversity by providing alternate paths into regions with single points of failure or circuits exposed to natural or human risk factors like landslides, flooding, or fire.
- Support expansion of the 50/10 Mbps CRTC service objective at affordable rates by providing market options or competitive wholesale pricing to rural and underserved areas, or areas historically dependent on only one provider.
- Provide transport infrastructure capable of supporting future services in areas underserved by other telecommunication services like cellular or public Wi-Fi, by offering breakouts in specific geographical areas where improved coverage can be achieved.

<https://www.northerndevlopment.bc.ca/connecting-british-columbia-resources/>



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Questions?
Thank you