

	Broadband Policy		Policy #5.2.10
Department Owner:	Community/Economic Development		
Policy Applies To:	All Town of Claresholm Employees		
Date Created:	February 2024	Date Approved By Council:	February 26, 2024
Version #:	1.0	Resolution #:	24-030
Last Review Date:	February 20, 2024	Policy(ies) Replaced/Rescinded:	N/A

Intent

To provide the governance framework for the continued support and advocacy of a sustainable broadband network throughout the Town, and to enable municipal operations and its partnerships to support essential broadband development.

Policy Statement

The Town of Claresholm recognizes:

- a) The importance of an affordable, accessible, and high-quality rural broadband service.
- b) That internet is an essential service for the Town of Claresholm
- c) Many town residents and businesses are underserved by current Internet services available,
- d) That economic diversity, sustainability and innovation are essential to the community's success.
- e) That to ensure residents and businesses have affordable, accessible, and high-quality broadband access, the Town will seek partnerships with broadband internet and cellular providers and potentially invest in a high-speed open-access broadband network to reduce the digital divide and provide further opportunities for economic prosperity and social well-being, for now and for generations to come.

SCOPE

This policy applies to the Town of Claresholm Council, and Administration and any partnership undertaken.

DEFINITIONS

- a) "Broadband" means wide bandwidth data transmission which transports multiple signals and traffic types, including internet. The medium can

be coaxial cable, optical fiber, radio, or twisted pair.

- b) "CRTC" means Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission that serves as a quasi-judicial independent body and telecommunications regulator for Canada.
- c) "End-User" means a person or business that ultimately uses or is intended to ultimately use a product.
- d) "Essential Service" means those daily services essential to preserving life, health, public safety, and basic societal functioning that people have come to rely on in their daily lives. Access to affordable, quality internet is considered an essential service in Canada.
- e) "Gbps" means "gigabit per second" which is a unit of measurement for bandwidth and throughput on a network. Each gigabit is equal to 1,000 Mbps.
- f) "ISP" or "Internet Service Provider" means an organization that provides services to access and use the Internet.
- g) "Qualified ISP" means an ISP that meets the Town's standards set for service quality and security.
- h) "Mbps" means "megabit per second" which is a unit of measurement for bandwidth and throughput on a network. Each megabit is equal to 1 million bits.
- i) "OAN" or "Open-Access Network" means a telecommunications network architecture and business model that separates physical access to the network from delivery of services. Owner of an OAN does not supply services; these services are supplied by separate ISPs. OAN can include physical towers, physical network equipment such as fibre or radios, or conduit that is large enough to support multiple ISPs access.

GUIDELINES

1. The Town supports the following Broadband Goals and Initiatives:

- a) Broadband Accessibility – Providing enhanced coverage that aims to support current broadband standards for speed and availability along with consideration for future needs.
- b) Broadband Quality – Adherence to industry standards and best practices for design, implementation and operations of infrastructure and networking options.
- c) Broadband Affordability – Service offerings enhanced or developed new remain comparable and competitive with local service providers for business and residential broadband.

2. Principles for Sustainable Broadband Development

- a) The Town will support broadband improvements throughout the Town that support Town residents and businesses in meeting the minimum CRTC's broadband standards.
 - i. Emphasis will be put on network options that facilitate speeds that scale past basic service levels, with targets of 1 multi-Gbps download speeds where achievable.
- b) A fiscally responsible approach to investment and partnerships will be taken to support any infrastructure capital purchasing along with ongoing operating and replacement costs.
 - i. Grant opportunities and partnerships will be pursued and leveraged as a top priority.
- c) Expected service lifetime of broadband infrastructure will be at a minimum of 30 to 50 years depending on the type of infrastructure.
- d) Broadband considerations must be applied to all future development and during the evaluation of any existing development broadband requests.
- e) The Town will look to develop broadband that addresses infrastructure needs within the municipality.

3. Principles for Open-Access Network

- a) Broadband investments and partnerships will support OAN of broadband infrastructure.
- b) Investing in OAN will create a competitive environment in which all qualified ISP's have equal access to all end-users, customers, and common infrastructure.
- c) The Town will not provide end-user internet services.

REVIEW CYCLE: This Policy shall be reviewed at a minimum of every three (3) years.