

Ministry of Infrastructure

Broadband Strategy Division

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Ministère de l'Infrastructure

Division des stratégies pour l'accès à large
bande

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MEMORANDUM TO: Municipal CAOs

FROM: Jill Vienneau
Assistant Deputy Minister
Broadband Strategy Division

DATE: December 1, 2021

RE: Building Broadband Faster Act Guideline and Regulations

As you may be aware, the Ontario government has committed to ensuring that communities across Ontario have access to high-speed internet by 2025 and has committed nearly \$4 billion funding-based opportunities for unserved and underserved communities.

On September 9, 2021, the Government also launched a new innovative and competitive process which will enable qualified ISPs to bid for opportunities to provide high-speed internet access to remaining underserved and unserved communities across the province by the end of 2025. This process is now well underway and is being led by Infrastructure Ontario.

In April 2021, the Government of Ontario enacted the *Building Broadband Faster Act, 2021* (BBFA) along with amendments to the *Ontario Energy Board Act* through the passage of the *Supporting Broadband and Infrastructure Expansion Act, 2021* (SBIEA). The BBFA will help to remove barriers and support a more streamlined approach to the timely deployment of reliable, high-speed broadband infrastructure in unserved and underserved areas throughout Ontario.

On November 30, 2021, the Ministry of Infrastructure and Infrastructure Ontario issued the **Building Broadband Faster Act Guideline (Guideline)**, and two BBFA regulations (“**Prescribed Loss or Expense**” and “**Designated Broadband Projects**”), effective as of that date.

The Guideline and regulations support a new, more coordinated process and set out the collaboration expected of all partners, including municipalities, to reduce barriers and expedite deployment of broadband infrastructure. We will also put in place a Technical Assistance Team to provide implementation support to municipalities and other partners involved in high-speed internet projects.

The government has also proposed future legislative and regulatory amendments, as explained in the **Statement of Intent** (included in the Guideline). The Ministry is actively consulting on the proposed legislative measures, including with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), before bringing forward amendments. If passed, these additional measures would provide greater certainty, and ensure the successful implementation of broadband projects.

The Ministry will be hosting a webinar in early 2022 on the Statement of Intent and Guideline. Further information will be provided in the coming weeks, including an invitation to you and/or your representative to participate.

Thank you for your support and should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Ministry.

Yours sincerely,

Original signed by

Jill Vienneau

Attachment: Building Broadband Faster in Ontario Guideline

