Internet for Nova Scotia Initiative

Cape Breton Presentation

September 30, 2020

High-Speed Internet – Our Approach

95%   Reach at least 95% NS homes and businesses
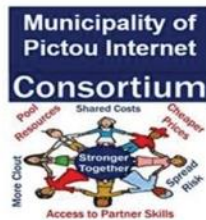
Focus on outcomes, not technology

Deliver minimum speeds (50Mbps/10Mbps wired/ 25Mbps/5Mbps wireless)

Hold ISPs accountable to deliver reliable service over time

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15 Pre-Qualified Providers

Summary: Connections & Investment

- **Potential Connections**
  - Phase 1 – approximately 42,000 access to connections (*18,000 complete)
  - Phase 2 – approximately 32,000 access to connections
  - Other initiatives – approximately 7,000 access to connections
  - Percentage of NS reaching target – 97%

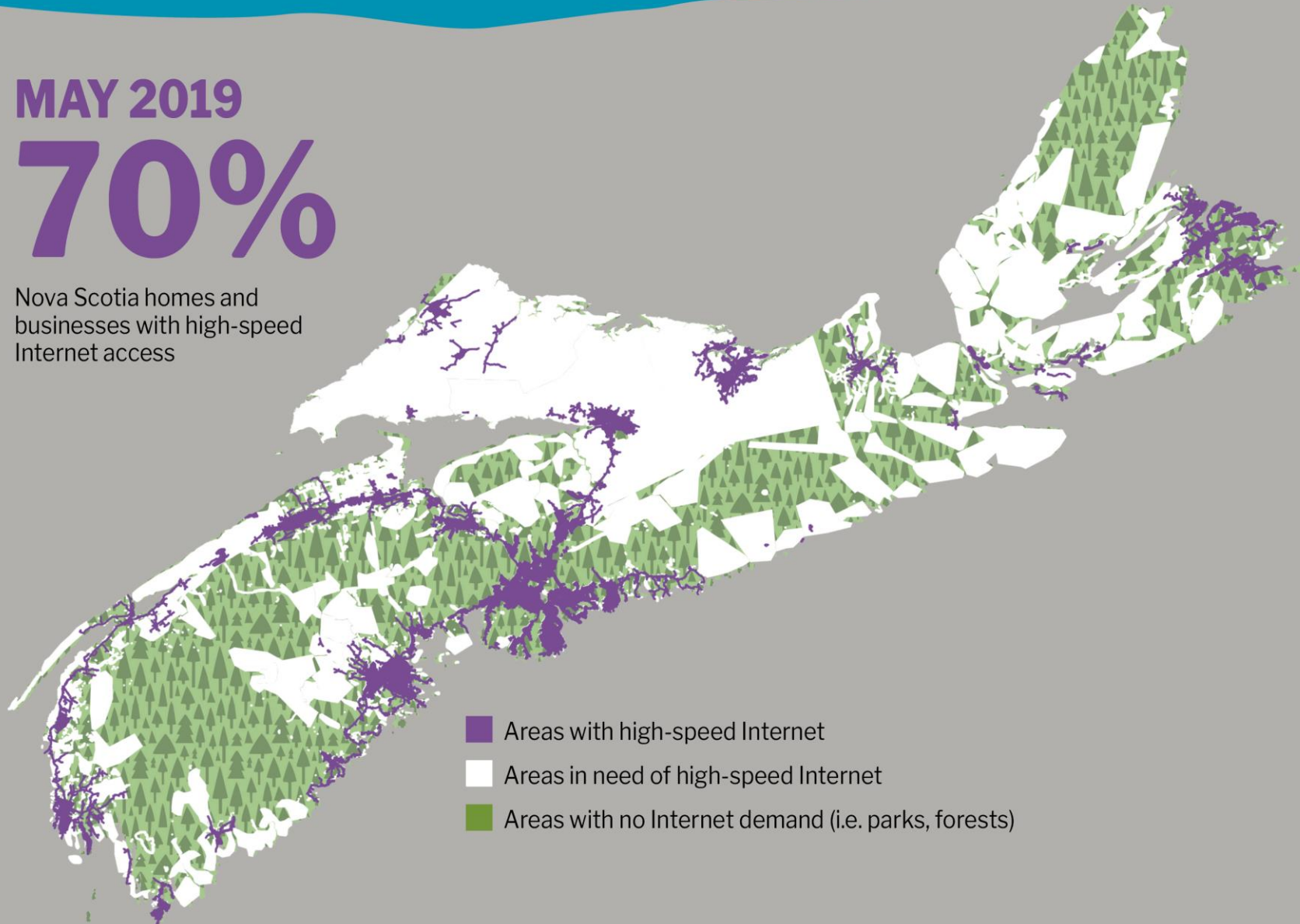- **NS Internet Funding Trust Contribution**
  - Connect to Innovate (Fed) - $500k from Trust
  - Phase 1 -$51M from Trust (inclusive of acceleration funds)
  - Phase 2 -$60M from Trust
  - Remaining -$82M in Trust

- **Leveraged $102M private sector investment, $18M other public investment**

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MAY 2019

70%

Nova Scotia homes and
businesses with high-speed
Internet access

Areas with high-speed Internet

Areas in need of high-speed Internet

Areas with no Internet demand (i.e. parks, forests)

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SUMMER 2022

97%

Nova Scotia homes and businesses with high-speed Internet access

Areas with high-speed Internet

Independent Municipal Internet projects

Areas in need of high-speed Internet

Areas with no Internet demand (i.e. parks, forests)
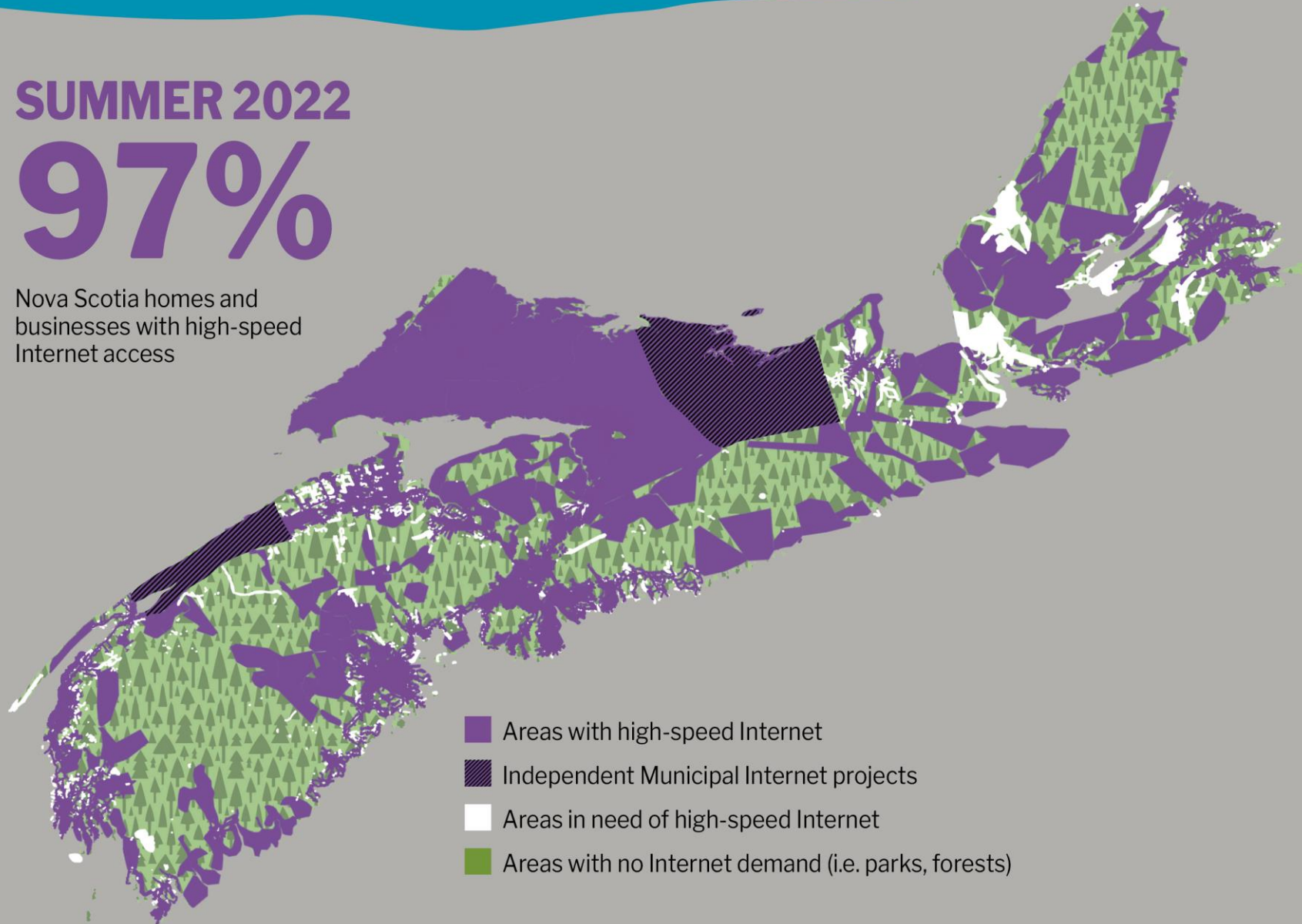
Internet for Nova Scotia Timeline (August 2020)

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50%	60%	70%	80%	90%	100%

May 2019	Pre-Initiative	**70%**
August 2020	1st Round Accelerated	**78%**
March 2021	1st Round Projects	**88%**
Summer 2021	2nd Round Projects	**91%**
End of 2021	2nd Round Projects	**94%**
Summer 2022	2nd Round Projects	**97%**
Not done yet	looking for solutions for communities left to cover	

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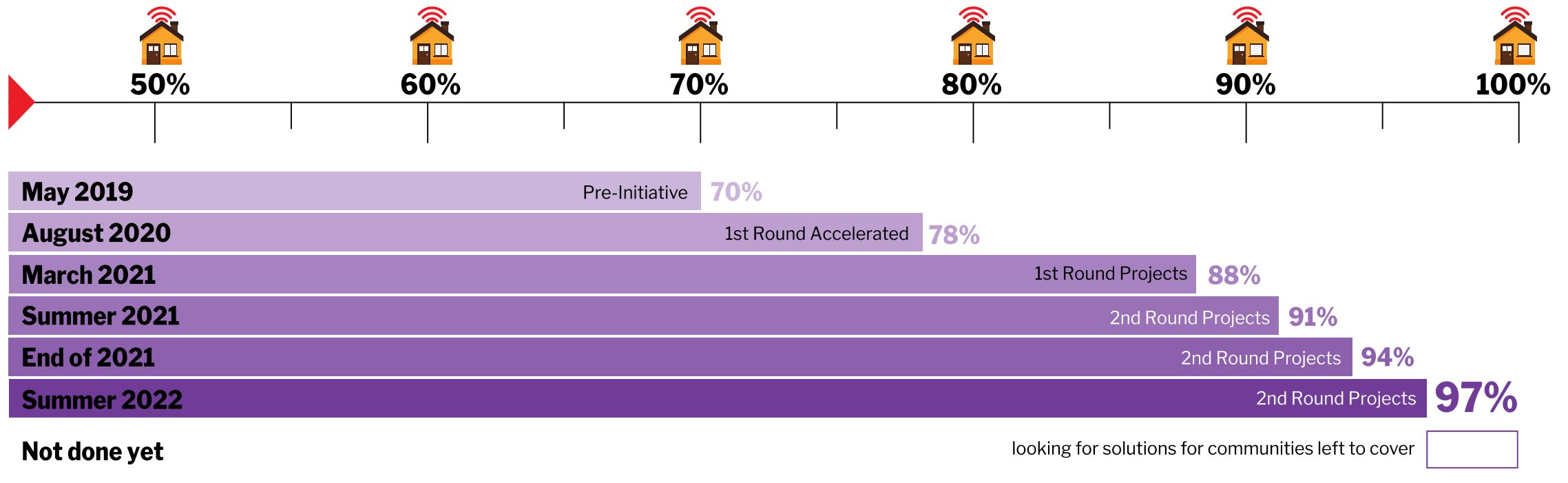
Nova Scotia Project Comparisons

- Nova Scotia ranks 4th in Canada for access to coverage at 50Mbps/10Mbps by population in rural communities (CRTC Communications Report)

- At completion of build, it is anticipated Nova Scotia will lead the country

- Nova Scotia is moving 50% faster on most steps of project implementation (compared to industry norms)

Where we are in Cape Breton

After Round 2

- Rural Cape Breton | CBRM

- Approximately 17,000 homes and businesses; substantially complete June 30, 2022

- Bell Canada Project - Wired to home/business (Fibre) | Seaside Communications Project - Wired to home/business (Fibre and upgrade to existing Coax)

- Acceleration efforts in place to complete ahead of schedule

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Now What?

Finish the job. We are not done.

~ 10,000 remaining homes & businesses across NS ~ 3200 in Cape Breton

The following efforts are already underway:

1. Expand coverage of current approved projects

2. Negotiate directly with Internet Service Providers

3. Invite proposals to cover unserved areas

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Common Public Questions

- New projects – is my home / business included?
  - Street/address level info not available yet
  - More engineering & design needed by ISP
  - Coverage maps & est. completion dates to be posted on site

- No project for my area – what now?
  - We're not done
  - Work underway to find solutions – confident we will for most
  - We know where remaining pockets are

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Common Public Questions

- **Price / Service Cost Affordability?**
    - Manage cost competitiveness thru Service Level Agreements
    - Comparable projects must be comparable prices, no matter the location

- **Will we receive inferior service in rural areas?**
    - All projects approved must meet or exceed minimum standards
    - Majority of projects approved deliver much higher speeds
    - Not technology-focused, priority on outcome – high-quality, reliable Internet for Nova Scotia

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Low Income Affordability

- Our work to increase access to reliable internet is one part
- Province is actively working on ways to bridge the "digital divide"
  - programming to increase access and digital skills:
    - Communities, Culture & Heritage
    - Education & Early Childhood Development
    - Labour & Advanced Education
- Affordability is an important part of a bigger digital initiative
  - but beyond scope of this project

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Updates & Community Outreach

- Learn more: internet.developns.ca (searchable by community; will continue to add information)

- Coverage maps & estimated completion dates to be posted

- Virtual Town Hall Meetings like this one

- Outreach, updates through local media, partner platforms

Thank You

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