

**Ministry of Infrastructure**

Broadband Strategy Division

777 Bay Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Suite 425  
Toronto, Ontario M5G 2E5

**Ministère de l'Infrastructure**

Division des stratégies pour l'accès à large bande

777, rue Bay, 4 étage, Suite 425  
Toronto (Ontario) M5G 2E5



## **Getting Ontario Connected Act, 2022**

I am pleased to reach out to you today, following the update that the Minister of Infrastructure, The Honourable Kinga Surma provided (March 7, 2022) to municipal heads of council.

The Government is committed to ensuring that all communities across Ontario have access to high-speed internet by committing nearly \$4 billion in funding-based opportunities for unserved and underserved communities. The *Building Broadband Faster Act* was enacted in April 2021 to help achieve this goal by the end of 2025. This legislation will help remove barriers or delays to broadband project construction and support a more streamlined approach to the deployment of high-speed internet infrastructure.

The Building Broadband Faster Act Guideline (Guideline) was then released in November 2021 to outline the standards for supporting broadband deployment. This was accompanied by a Statement of Intent that provided a roadmap for further legislative, regulatory, and policy tools to facilitate this work.

In line with the Statement of Intent, the Government of Ontario has introduced the *Getting Ontario Connected Act, 2022* which, if passed, would help achieve its high-speed internet goals by reducing construction delays and expediting collaboration among infrastructure owners.

The legislation, if passed, would amend the *Building Broadband Faster Act, 2021* (BBFA) to set required service standards to ensure municipalities provide timely responses to right-of-way permit requests. It would also require information and data sharing by municipalities, infrastructure owners and other stakeholders upon request in relation to designated broadband projects.

Infrastructure Ontario is concurrently developing an online platform called Broadband One Window that would provide municipalities and stakeholders with easy and secure access to datasets while helping to manage right of way access applications.

The legislation, if passed, would also amend the *Ontario Underground Infrastructure Notification System Act, 2012* to improve the process for locating underground infrastructure while enabling construction activities in the province to be completed faster and more efficiently, without compromising safety.

The government has worked with municipalities and other key stakeholders to communicate the impacts these measures would have in advancing broadband projects. To further support these efforts, I would appreciate your feedback on a proposal to be posted shortly on [Ontario's Regulatory Registry](#) related to these amendments, as well as a separate proposal for an administrative penalties framework under the BBFA, which will be developed in the coming months.

Thank you for your ongoing support and should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Ministry at [broadband@ontario.ca](mailto:broadband@ontario.ca).

Yours sincerely,

Jill Vienneau  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Broadband Strategy Division