

Connecting British Columbia Program Phase 3 – Last-Mile, Transport Application Guide



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1. Program Overview

The Connecting British Columbia program (“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.

This guide is intended to help applicants apply for funding to the Program and as such, the criteria outlined is based on an applicant applying to this as a stand-alone funding program. However, the Program can also support applications seeking to leverage connectivity funding from other sources.

1.1 Program Objectives

The high cost of infrastructure has been identified as one of the key barriers to expanding internet services. The objective of the Connecting British Columbia program is to expand the delivery of high-speed internet connectivity to rural and Indigenous communities in B.C.

The Program is intended to offer the greatest value for British Columbians in terms of extending robust, affordable broadband service in a cost-effective manner to underserved rural and Indigenous communities. It supports the federal connectivity strategy goal of connecting every Canadian to affordable, high-speed internet services (50 Mbps download /10 Mbps upload) to the home.

In March 2019, the Province announced an investment of \$50M to expand the Program to help support last-mile and transport infrastructure projects required to deliver high-speed internet connectivity in rural areas across the province. The Phase 3 intake(s) are a result of the recent investment to expand the Program.

Projects that are approved for funding should be completed by December 31, 2022.

1.2 Application Intakes

The Program will invite applications for funding through successive in-takes until funds are exhausted. Applicants must ensure that all required information is completed and submitted to Northern Development at connectingbc@northerndevlopment.bc.ca by the closing date of the current intake. **Refer to [Northern Development’s website](#) for intake opening and closing dates.**

Applicants that are unsuccessful in one intake may resubmit their applications for funding in a following intake if desired.

1.2.1 Project Timelines

Applications should demonstrate that the project should be completed by December 31, 2022 in accordance with the funding agreement signed between the applicant and Northern Development.

General Conditions:

- As part of the project plan, a timeline indicating major milestones is required
- Applications for projects with an immediate start date will be ranked more favourably in the assessment and review process
- The need for additional steps before a project can start (e.g. securing other funding, completion of other projects) will be taken into consideration in the review and assessment of applications
 - Such applications may also be deferred for consideration to a future intake round pending availability of funds

1.3 Other Funding Programs to Consider

1.3.1 CRTC Broadband Fund

The Connecting British Columbia program will consist of multiple intakes, subject to funding availability. The initial intake of Phase 3 will align with the second intake of the \$750 million CRTC Broadband fund. A successful application to the Program would allow a conditional letter of financial support from Northern Development to be made available to accompany a CRTC Broadband Fund application.

The CRTC Broadband Fund criteria aligns with the Connecting British Columbia program criteria with some exceptions. Applicants that plan to apply to both funding programs are encouraged to contact Northern Development prior to submitting an application to discuss specific differences and how they may relate to the proposed project.

2. Applicant Eligibility

The Program is available to all eligible applicants based on the criteria outlined in this section.

2.1 Applicants

Eligible applicants must agree to own and operate the proposed network as a condition to obtain the funds for three years after the project is complete.

General Conditions:

- All eligible applicants should have experience deploying and operating the proposed broadband infrastructure in Canada for a minimum of three years. Entities without sufficient experience may partner with an established internet service provider (ISP) to complete a project
 - For partnership arrangements, an agreement should be established outlining how the two parties will work together with the ongoing and active involvement of the ISP for the initial 3-year duration of the network
- If the applicant does not maintain and operate the network for three years, a pro-rated repayment of the funds would be required
- Individuals cannot apply to the Program
- There is no limit to the number of applications that can be submitted by an applicant; however, if more than one application is submitted, there cannot be any geographic coverage overlap between the projects

Eligible applicants for the Connecting British Columbia program include:

- Local, regional or national internet service providers
- Local governments as established by British Columbia legislation
- First Nations or First Nations organizations (i.e. band council or a corporation controlled by a First Nation)
- Registered not-for-profit organizations, registered and active in B.C.

3. Transport Projects

Transport projects provide a high capacity link between communities. They may serve to provide alternate routes for data traffic to increase competition or network resiliency in the event a fibre is damaged, or provide increased competition for wholesale services available for last-mile service providers.

There are several areas across B.C. that currently do not have high-capacity transport infrastructure that supports modern internet services along the route at affordable prices or provides improved capacity and network resiliency to multiple regions.

Transport projects should achieve one or more of the following goals:

- Provide new or upgraded transport infrastructure that is open-access for transport and internet gateways at affordable wholesale rates to last-mile service providers in underserved regions
- 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
- Provide infrastructure that can support future services such as cellular, public Wi-Fi, and future technology
- Providing market options and competitive wholesale pricing to rural areas where communities are constrained by high prices and low capacity
- Enable government services in rural areas

An application may include transport and last-mile components as long as the criteria for each project type is met.

3.1 Transport Project Eligibility

Transport projects will provide improved transport network capacity to a region and will include point of presence (PoP) for communities along the route that can support last-mile services that currently have insufficient capacity or are not otherwise accessible.

General Conditions:

- PoP(s) along the proposed route should be located within 2km of nearby communities
- PoP(s) should have a minimum capacity of 1 gigabit per second (Gbps)
- Transport projects that use fibre are highly preferred over other technology such as microwave wireless
- Eligible applications are for new transport infrastructure projects only and not for access to existing transport infrastructure
- Contractual arrangements such as Indefeasible Rights of Use (IRU) where the physical asset is not owned by the applicant are not eligible
- Applicants applying for transport infrastructure located along a road or highway must:
 - Be a facilities-based provider, or
 - If the applicant is an ISP and does not provide cellular services, the applicant (ISP) must partner with a facilities-based provider
 - For these partnership arrangements, the Program requires confirmation in writing from the facilities-based provider indicating their support for the application and that the proposed network design meets their standards for future expansion of cellular coverage along the route

- If an applicant is not able to partner with a facilities-based provider, the condition may be waived if the local government(s)/regional district along the transport route submit a letter of support for the application, with an acknowledgement that future cellular services may be negatively impacted

4. Last-Mile Projects

A last-mile project is a project that connects homes to a community Point of Presence (PoP), by upgrading existing or installing new network infrastructure. Projects for last-mile infrastructure should to the greatest extent possible, be scalable and support priority objectives for the region.

Last-mile applications should align with the regions plans to demonstrate that the project is a priority for the local government or Indigenous community benefiting from the investment. A resolution or letter of support for the project from the local government, is required before an application will be considered for funding last-mile projects.

Projects that provide last-mile infrastructure to eligible communities should achieve the following:

- Provide value for money utilizing public funding to leverage investments from other sources
- Provide a last-mile solution that delivers 50/10 Mbps packages to households at a similar retail price to nearby urban areas
- Invest in infrastructure that has potential for long-term usage and expansion. This may include: Fibre-to-the-Premise (FTTP), coaxial cable and fixed-wireless Long-Term Evolution (LTE) technologies
- Provide complete coverage for as many households as possible in the community and not just the most desirable core areas
- Leveraging existing last-mile infrastructure is highly recommended
- Collaboration between applicants and existing internet service providers for the same service area is highly preferred

4.1 Last-Mile Eligibility

Program funding is available for last-mile projects that serve communities that currently do not have 50/10 Mbps speeds available. For a detailed list of communities, including their current status of connectivity, please see the [Template 2 – Application Workbook](#).

General Conditions:

- If an applicant believes there is an error in the 50/10 Mbps status of a community in [Template 2 – Application Workbook](#), then to change this status, the applicant must provide confirmation from either the Innovation, Science, and Industry (ISI) or the Canadian Radio-television and Communications Commission (CRTC). Only after this justification is provided will the Program consider the community for funding.
- For projects that are seeking co-funding with federal connectivity funding programs, if there is a discrepancy between an eligible/ineligible community between the federal program criteria and the Connecting British Columbia program criteria, the federal program community eligibility status will be used

5. Funding

In addition to project specific funding stipulations mentioned in 5.1 and 5.2 below, applicants may apply for funding up to a **maximum of 50% of total eligible project costs**. The remaining funds will come from other sources such as the applicant, other connectivity funding programs, or other levels of government. Applications that request a lower percentage of Program funding will be viewed more favourably.

General Conditions:

- Applicants are required to submit a detailed breakdown of the total costs for the project including costs that are eligible and ineligible for funding. Eligible costs for funding are directly associated with the deployment of transport and last-mile services to an underserved community
- Applicants who received funding from previous intakes are not restricted from applying
- All funding decisions are final

5.1 Transport Project Funding

Applications for transport projects can apply for Program funding up to 50% of the total eligible project costs.

5.2 Last-Mile Project Funding

Applications for last-mile projects can apply for Program funding up to 50% of the total eligible project costs. Additionally, the Program will use a baseline funding level of \$250,000 per community in order to support the Program objectives as outlined in Section 1.1.

The Program may fund applications above \$250,000 per community with the following considerations:

- Potential higher costs for deploying fibre technology versus other technologies such as fixed wireless in a community
- Remote communities that have a higher cost of deploying telecommunications infrastructure
- Communities that are facing economic challenges/distressed/undergoing transformation where connectivity is an integral part of their revitalization
- Applications that leverage funds from other levels of government and the private sector and where there is still a shortfall to meet a business case
- Applications that demonstrate the proposed increase in connectivity will generate priority outcomes that are consistent with provincial and community objectives (e.g. public safety, health, education, economic development)

See below for an example last-mile project and associated Program funding request.

Sample Project – Last-Mile:

Community	Total Eligible Project Costs	Program Funding Request
Community A	\$750,000	\$450,000
Community B	\$500,000	\$250,000
Community C	\$250,000	\$50,000
Total	\$1,500,000	\$750,000
<i>Average per Community = \$250,000</i>		

5.3 Awarding of Funding

Approval of funding to successful applicants will be conditional upon signing of a funding agreement that sets out the terms and conditions of the project. The Program reserves the right to award partial contributions towards the total funding request.

General Conditions:

- Funding agreements will require the applicant to follow the Program guidelines and requirements, including submitting progress and final reports and financial reporting documents. Further details on reporting requirements will be provided to successful applicants
- Failure to meet the requirements of the grant agreement could result in the requirement for the repayment of funding to the Program and disqualify the applicant from further applications

5.4 Eligible/Ineligible Costs

Eligible costs under the Program are the reasonable and essential expenses required to complete the project.

If an applicant intends to include a cost that is not explicitly listed or does not reasonably fit the costs listed, the applicant may state in their application why that cost should be eligible. Northern Development will then assess the eligibility of the cost.

5.4.1 Eligible Costs

- Equipment hardware and software including: servers, switches, fibre-optic cable, repeaters, radio equipment, towers, poles, shelters and enclosures, back-up power supplies, network broadband connectivity devices including upgrades and adaptations
- Material including: cost of materials which can be specifically identified and measured as having been used or to be used in the performance of the project
- Labour including: gross wages or salaries, work that can be specifically identified and measured as having been performed on the project
- Contracted services related to the build of the network
- Project management: for internal project management, work that must be specifically identified and measured as having been performed on the project
- Engineering and design: network architecture and systems design and integration
- Travel: cost of travel which is deemed necessary to the performance of the project
 - Travel expenses, at economy rates, shall be charged at actual costs. To be eligible, travel costs must clearly document the purpose of each trip and be considered reasonable by the Program
- Other direct costs: related to development and implementation of the project such as material
- PST

5.4.2 Ineligible Costs

Funding will not be provided under the Connecting British Columbia program to cover ineligible costs including, but not limited to, the following:

- Costs incurred prior to the date of written conditional approval of the application by Northern Development

- Costs related to funding application development
- GST
- Customer-Premises Equipment (CPE)
- Mobile wireless infrastructure (including towers) unless it is used support both LTE fixed wireless as a broadband solution and mobile wireless in the future
- Radio and spectrum licensing fees
- Insurance (e.g. construction, general liability, commercial, etc.)
- Financing or carrying costs, loan costs, and interest payments
- Legal fees, survey fees, right-of way/access fees, audit fees, rent, land applications and co-location
- Land acquisition and/or leasing buildings, and other facilities, including permanent shelters for housing network-related equipment (except for temporary facilities directly related to project construction)
- Purchase of capital assets including: land, buildings, and vehicles, as well as other indirect, fixed, and/or capital costs
- Operational costs to run infrastructure built as a result of the project; general repairs and ongoing maintenance resulting from the project and related structures
- Ongoing operation expenses such as vehicle leases, general office space, office equipment (e.g. photocopiers, furniture, telephones, computers, printers and office software)
- Project administration including: maintenance costs, research and development of pilot projects, operational costs resulting from the project such as customer service, progress reports, etc.
- Fees paid to members of a Board of Directors for their time
- Advertising and/or promotional activities related to the project
- CPP, EI, WCB, and other benefits
- Project contingency costs
- Any goods and services that are received through donations or in-kind

6. Application Process

Applying to the Program is a two-step process. Applicants must have submitted a pre-screen and be approved before submitting a full detailed application.

General Conditions:

- Applications can be submitted in coordination with federally led connectivity funding programs, or as stand-alone applications
- Projects involving a combination of transport and last-mile must fulfill the requirements for each project type
- Funding decisions are final

6.1 Step One – Pre-Screen Application

All applicants must complete a pre-screen before completing a full application for Program funding. The pre-screen will assess the technical merit of the applicant and not the project itself. Applicants will select the type of project and technology they intent to apply for funding and once an applicant has been approved, they do not need to submit a pre-screen in subsequent Program intakes. Program staff will evaluate pre-screen applications to determine if the applicant is eligible to apply for funding.

6.2 Step Two – Full Project Application

If the applicant pre-screen is approved, Northern Development will provide a full application package.

6.3 Required Attachments

All attachments must be specific to the legal entity applying for funding and may not be from a related organization such as a parent company or subsidiary. If information is missing from the application, the application will not be reviewed.

- Completed [Template 1 – Project Plan](#)
- Completed [Template 2 – Application Workbook](#)
- Corporate Profile of Internet Service Provider
- Certificate of Incorporation
- Most recently filed Annual Report
- Financial statement (2018 fiscal year or newer):
 - Must be specific to the legal entity applying for funding and may not be from a related organization
 - Statements submitted must be in the final approved form, including signatures from the organization’s representatives
 - Statements must be submitted in their entirety; partial documents will not be accepted
 - The following types may be submitted:
 - Notice to reader financial statements
 - Review engagement financial statements
 - Audited financial statements
- Mapping Data in a geo-coded format (i.e. Google Earth KMZ, ESRI shp file, or similar; PDF maps will not be accepted). Data must include:
 - Current and proposed last-mile coverage for the communities proposed in the project (last-mile applications only); identify available speeds
 - All applicant-owned or operated fibre lines in B.C. Fibre data must show long-haul, regional and core community lines; applicants do not need to show fibre drops to the premise
 - All applicant-owned or operated PoPs, COs, towers, and microwave links in B.C.
 - *Note: information will be used for assessing applications and used for internal purposes only*
- Logical network diagram of the project
- Resolution(s) in support of the project (required for last-mile projects; optional for transport projects):
 - Local government resolution(s)
 - For Indigenous communities, a Band Council or Tribal Council resolution is required
 - Must be signed, recently dated and reference the project
- Funding approval letters from other sources (if applicable)
- Regional District or First Nation connectivity infrastructure strategy (if available)
- Letters of support (optional)

7. Application Scoring

Applicants will be scored based on the following categories and criteria. Applications must score a minimum of 50% in each category to be considered and applications with the highest overall score will be preferred within each intake

7.1 Community Benefits (% of overall score = 20%)

General Information:

- The applicant has demonstrated that there has been community support for the project.
 - A regional connectivity plan is provided (if available)
 - The application provides a realistic assessment of community and regional needs
 - Eligible communities demonstrate a demand for the proposed service
- Where possible, there is evidence of collaboration with existing internet service providers in the area

Transport Projects:

- Communities along the route, end-points and general area will benefit from lower cost retail services, greater reliability, and potential for future services not currently available through existing infrastructure
- PoPs will be available near underserved communities and made available for last-mile providers
- The application includes wholesale pricing that supports small ISPs and access to business internet at affordable prices that are comparable to nearby urban areas
- The applicant has demonstrated how the project will benefit the region by improving resiliency, increasing competition, and services available
- The applicant has demonstrated that the project will improve connectivity to the region including future opportunities to support government priorities such as:
 - Breakouts in fibre for future cellular infrastructure
 - Breakouts along highways can support sensors, cameras, electrical signage, and public safety

Last-Mile Projects:

- Underserved communities, households, and businesses will be connected by the project
- The application provides retail pricing for a minimum of 50/10 Mbps that are comparable to similar services in nearby urban centres
- The applicant provides evidence that the project is a realistic assessment of community needs and anticipated benefits
- The project aims to serve as many households in the community(s) as possible and not just in the core desirable areas
 - If the project cannot serve all households in the community(s), then an explanation on how households additional households can be connected the future is provided
- There is a local government resolution of support/approval for the proposed project. Band Council Resolution, or other equivalent documentation indicates support for the project and technology proposed

7.2 Corporate Capability (% of overall score = 5%)

- The applicant(s) have demonstrated they are an experienced internet service provider with the expertise and qualifications to implement the project
- The applicant(s) has demonstrated project management expertise and experience with overseeing high-speed internet connectivity projects
- The project can start quickly
- The applicant has addressed rights-of-ways and permits in the timelines of the project
- The project milestones are reasonable

7.3 Financial Leverage Program Funding (% of overall score = 40%)

General Information:

- The application provides a breakdown of the total project costs and funding requested (identification of funding from all sources):
 - Amount of funding requested from the Program (maximum of 50% of eligible costs)
*Applications with a higher leveraging ratio of provincial funds will be scored higher
 - Amount of funding the applicant will contribute
 - Amount of funding from other sources (with supporting evidence)
- The application provides a detailed budget using Template 2 – Application Workbook, that includes the following information:
 - Total eligible costs
 - Total ineligible costs
 - Projected revenues and expenses (including eligible and ineligible costs identified in the project budget)
 - Forecasted financial operating plan for five years, including the implementation phase and subsequent service provisioning stage, with supporting evidence and assumptions

Transport Projects:

- A list of proposed service offerings for wholesale open access, including:
 - The range of broadband services
 - The broadband service speeds offered
 - The prices to be offered for last-mile providers

Last-Mile Projects:

- A list of proposed retail broadband service packagers, including rate, speed, and capacity levels
- Costs per community
 - Provides a total eligible cost per community
- Cost per household
 - Provides a total eligible cost per household

7.4 Technology Used (% of overall score = 30%)

General Information:

- The technical solution describes the type of network being installed, the type of technology to be deployed, where it will be used and how it will be installed
- The technical solution adequately serves the projected number of subscribers (i.e. the connectivity supplied to the end user meets the definition of high-speed internet connectivity)
- Comprehensive explanation of the logical network design is provided and includes:
 - All project sites (including PoPs, Antenna sites, remotes, and aggregation points) and corresponding elements and equipment at each project site
 - Logical paths
 - Supporting assumptions
 - Technical dependencies
 - Clearly demonstrate end-to-end functionality of the network
- A description of the following technical merit elements:
 - **Feasibility:** Why the project is feasible and the appropriateness of the chosen technology for the particular project being proposed
 - **Scalability:** proposed solution is scalable and supported to address future needs of the community
 - **Sustainability:** the proposed technology and how sustainable it will be in the future to deliver broadband speeds
 - **Resiliency:** key network design elements addressing potential points of failure, remediation plans, and redundancies, with restoration time frames (including mean time to restore)
- The solution does not require the use of satellites for its primary backhaul technology

Transport Projects:

- Fibre is highly preferred
- The project is scalable and supported to address future needs, including breakout points and end-equipment to allow expansion to other areas
- PoPs will be constructed or existing PoPs will be upgraded along the route to allow access to high-speed infrastructure along the route

Last-Mile Projects:

- The last-mile technology used to deliver the service to the customer is fibre, cable or fixed wireless (LTE)
- Proposed LTE solutions that share spectrum and infrastructure, also used for cellular services provided to the community, are not eligible
- Last-mile infrastructure includes all equipment and materials required to connect households, businesses and institutions to the nearest suitable point-of-presence (PoP)
- The application confirms there is an internet gateway, point-of-presence (PoP) or other backhaul capability in place in order for the project to proceed

7.5 Quality of Application (% of overall score = 5%)

- Is the contribution necessary to fill the funding gap and complete any portion of the project or not?
- If the funding will meet a minimum requirement and allow a project to proceed (as opposed to simply improve on a project that is already feasible, this is preferable as it will lead to more people being connected)
- Applicant has provided a quality proposal
- Applications that leverage previous Program funding. For example, an application that proposes to complete the last-mile leveraging a transport project that was previously funded through the Program
- The proposal gives confidence that the project can and will succeed
- All information completed, comprehensive and detailed

Transport Projects:

- The applicant has clearly identified how the project will provide additional benefits such as future cellular services, network resiliency and competition
- The project will address any current capacity limitations if applicable, to the region
- Applicant has demonstrated that additional stakeholders have been involved and in the opportunities from the project that can support additional services
 - Emergency Services and Public Safety
 - Highway cameras, sensors along the route

Last-Mile Projects:

- The application clearly identifies the households and communities that will benefit from the project
- Overall project value is achieved by demonstrating multiple sources of funding for last-mile and best value for Program funding

8. Successful Applicant Information

Successful applicants must review and comply with the criteria outlined in this section.

8.1 Site Visits and Audits

Recipients may be subject to project, financial and performance evaluations or site inspections at any time during the term of the grant agreement and for up to three years following distribution of the Program funds to the recipient, so that Northern Development can examine project progress, documentation, and stated results.

Annually, for three years after the project has been completed, eligible applicants must sign a declaration confirming that they still own and operate the network resulting from the project.

8.2 Progress and Final Reporting Requirements

Milestone report(s) are required based on information submitted in the [Template 1 – Project Plan](#). The report template will be provided to the applicant following the issuance of the funding decisions.

Upon completion of the project, recipients are required to provide a final project evaluation specific to the deliverables accompanied by a letter of project completion from a professional engineer or consultant approved by Northern Development.

Upon completion of the project, the recipient is required to request and submit final reporting templates (a final reporting form and financial claim form for eligible costs incurred), along with mapping data.

Final payments will be withheld until project is validated by a professional engineer or consultant.

8.3 Events and Communications

Throughout the project there may be a number of occasions that require communication support for events and/or publications. As such, the following is required:

- Funding recipients must keep the Program contact person(s) informed in advance (with a minimum notice period) of any promotional activities or events related to the project
- The Program funder (the Government of British Columbia and the Ministry of Citizens' Services) and Northern Development Initiative Trust be acknowledged in project communications, events and signage
- Consent of the Province to publish project details in reports and in promotion of the Program (e.g. on websites and in public material)

As part of the project closeout, the final reporting will require:

- All marketing and promotional materials related to the project (i.e. any advertising, news articles, media releases or publicity for your network)
- Testimonials and success stories (i.e. any customer testimonials or positive feedback you've received for your network including any social benefits achieved as a result of the build)
 - Where possible, please provide names and contact information as they may be contacted in future regarding their support of the project
- Photos or video footage of your project (before, during and/or upon completion of the build)

8.4 Freedom of Information

Applications submitted under the Program are subject to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. The information being collected is for the purpose of administering the Program and evaluating eligibility of the proposal.

9. Application Support/Contact Information

If you have a question that is not addressed in this Program guide, support is available from Program staff at:

Northern Development Initiative Trust

301-1268 Fifth Avenue

Prince George, B.C. V2L 3L2

250-561-2525

connectingbc@northerndevlopment.bc.ca

www.northerndevlopment.bc.ca

10. Appendix 1 – Definitions

Backhaul: A network connection that transports data traffic from one Point-of-Presence to another or from a Point-of-Presence to a location that contains the internet gateway.

Bandwidth: The capacity for transferring data over a network as measured in bits per second (bps), kilobits per second (Kbps) or megabits per second (Mbps).

Breakout: A location in a transport line where additional transport(s) can be connected or branched out without compromising the integrity of the main or existing line.

Community: The collection of geolocated placenames in British Columbia which include large and small cities, villages, First Nations Communities, Small Hamlets etc. See [Template 2 – Application Workbook](#) for a list of communities in B.C.

Central Office: A building structure in a locality to which subscriber home and business lines are connected on what is called a local loop. The term is also known as an end office or exchange.

Customer Premise Equipment: Refers to any telecommunications equipment located at a subscriber’s premises that is connected to a service provider’s telecommunications network at a demarcation point. Examples include wiring, modems (DSL, cable, wireless) as well as antennae or other wireless equipment.

Dependencies: Also known as order of build, this is where separate projects depend on the completion of other projects in order to proceed.

Demarcation Point: A point that separates the customer premise equipment from the service provider’s network infrastructure equipment. In other words, a “Demarcation Point” is the point where the local loop (the network transmission equipment) ends and the inside wire (which is the responsibility of the customer) begins.

Download: Data traffic travelling from the internet to the end user.

Facilities-based provider: A provider that owns and operates transmission facilities as defined by the CRTC.

High-speed Internet: Also referred to as broadband, high-speed internet is an ‘always on’ fast connection to the internet with a minimum download speed of 5 Mbps. Three of the most commonly used technologies to provide broadband are cable, DSL (Digital Subscriber Line) and wireless broadband.

Monetized donations: Means contributions of goods or services, other than cash from third-parties.

Internet Gateway: A network connection that provides access to the internet for the service provider’s last-mile distribution system.

Internet Service Provider: An organization that offers its customers access to the internet.

Last-Mile Infrastructure: The components used to connect homes and businesses to the internet service provider’s Point-of-Presence. This may include routers, towers, antennae, fibre optical, cable, Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) equipment, cable modems, wireless radios and so on.

Locale: Can refer to a neighbourhood, community, subdivision, town site, reserve or village in a rural or remote area.

Long-Term Evolution or LTE: A standard for high-speed communication for mobile devices and data terminals. It increases the capacity and speed using a different radio interface together with core network improvements.

Milestones: Significant stages of completion for your project(s).

National Service Providers: Internet service providers who also provide service outside British Columbia.

Point-of-Presence (PoP): A facility where internet service providers house servers, routers, switches and other communications equipment. A PoP is where an internet service provider's last-mile infrastructure connects to an internet gateway.

Risks: When projects depend on outside factors to proceed. This can include order of build, grants from other sources, matching funding, Crown Land applications and so on. For the purposes of the Connecting British Columbia program, any risks must be clearly stated in your application.

Scalability: The ability of a network to expand service to a larger area around the vicinity of the existing connected locale.

Settlement: An unincorporated area/community, for the purpose of application to the Program, is considered to be a settlement area within a regional district electoral area.

Single End User: Where a single customer or business is the only user of the network.

Unincorporated Area: An unincorporated area/community, for the purpose of application to the Program, is considered to be a settlement area within a regional district electoral area