



SaskTel Investing an Additional \$100 Million in Rural Fibre Initiative to Help Bridge the Digital Divide for Dozens of Rural Communities

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The Government of Saskatchewan is pleased to announce that SaskTel will invest an additional \$100 million in its Rural Fibre Initiative to expand SaskTel *infiNET* service to over 80 more towns and villages throughout the province. This investment will help narrow the digital divide in Saskatchewan by connecting tens of thousands of rural households and businesses to SaskTel's fibre optic broadband network.

"Our government is committed to growing Saskatchewan's economy and improving the quality of life for all people of our province," Minister Responsible for SaskTel Don Morgan said. "The massive investments being made by SaskTel to expand their fibre optic broadband network across Saskatchewan will help create a more connected and prosperous future for our people, our communities and our province."

Powered by SaskTel's fibre optic broadband network, *infiNET* service delivers internet speeds reaching close to a gigabit per second (Gbps), allowing subscribers to surf, stream and share however much content they want at incredible speeds. Plus, the *infiNET* network has the capacity to grow to support the evolving needs of SaskTel's customers and increasing popularity of cloud services, video streaming and smart technologies.

"Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA) has long advocated for improvement in broadband services, in particular for smaller communities where access has lagged behind that of larger centres in our province," SUMA President Randy Goulden said. "We are pleased to see SaskTel continue to address this gap with additional funding. Connectivity is a priority for all our communities, and key to the viability of our smaller members in the future."

"Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) fully supports investments into improved broadband services for communities in rural Saskatchewan," SARM President Ray Orb said. "It is essential that access to broadband services in rural Saskatchewan achieves parity to those services available in larger communities and

we look forward to working with the provincial government on future projects to continue to expand broadband services for the benefit of all rural residents and businesses in the province."

Originally announced in 2020, the Rural Fibre Initiative is a multi-phase program that will see SaskTel invest \$200 million to bring *infiNET* service to over 110,000 residents and businesses living and operating in more than 130 rural communities. SaskTel anticipates all communities included in the Rural Fibre Initiative will be fibre-ready by the end of March 2025.

"Once we've completed these phases of the Rural Fibre Initiative, our *infiNET* network, which is already the largest fibre optic broadband network in the province, will reach approximately 80 per cent of all Saskatchewan households," SaskTel President and CEO Doug Burnett said. "This, combined with the significant investments we are making to deploy our 5G wireless network will ensure we remain one of the most well-connected regions in the country while also helping to accelerate Saskatchewan's transition to becoming a smart province."

The towns and villages that will receive *infiNET* service as a result of the additional investments announced today will be connected as part of Phases 5 and 6 of the Rural Fibre Initiative. While all communities included in Phase 5 have been established, SaskTel is still finalizing Phase 6 and will make a formal announcement once those details have been confirmed. See the attached appendix for a full listing of the communities included in Phases 1 through 5 of the Rural Fibre Initiative.

For more information about *infiNET* service, please visit www.sasktel.com/infinet.

About SaskTel

SaskTel is the leading Information and Communications Technology (ICT) provider in Saskatchewan, with approximately \$1.3 billion in annual revenue and over 1.4 million customer connections including more than 647,000 wireless accesses, 273,000 wireline network accesses, 293,000 internet and data accesses, 110,000 maxTV service subscribers and 78,000 security monitoring customers. SaskTel and its wholly-owned subsidiaries offer a wide range of ICT products and services including competitive voice, data and internet services, wireless data services, maxTV services, data centre services, cloud-based services, security monitoring services, advertising services, international software and consulting services. SaskTel and its wholly-owned subsidiaries have a workforce of approximately 3,300 full-time equivalent employees (FTEs). For more information, visit SaskTel at www.sasktel.com.

Rural Fibre Initiative – Community List

Phase 1				
Balgonie*	Biggar*	Langham*	Pilot Butte*	
Phase 2				
Kindersley*	Meadow Lake ⁺	Rosetown ⁺		
Phase 3				
Canora ⁺	Carlyle ⁺	Esterhazy ⁺	Fort Qu'Appelle ⁺	Hudson Bay ⁺
Indian Head ⁺	Kamsack	La Ronge ⁺ [^]	Lumsden ⁺	Maple Creek ⁺
Moosomin	Shaunavon ⁺	Watrous	Wynyard ⁺	
Construction expected to begin in all communities in 2022/23				
[^] Including Air Ronge and Kitsaki #156B				
Phase 4				
Assiniboia	Buffalo Narrows	Caronport	Carrot River	Dalmeny
Davidson	Dundurn	Foam Lake	Gravelbourg	Gull Lake
Île-à-la-Crosse	Kipling	La Loche ^a	Lanigan	Macklin
Osler	Outlook	Oxbow	Preeceville	Regina Beach [^]
Rocanville	Shellbrook	Unity	Wadena	
Construction expected to begin in all communities in 2023/24				
[^] Including Buena Vista and Kinookimaw				
^a Including Clearwater River				
Phase 5				
Aberdeen	Balcarres	Beauval	Big River	Carnduff
Churchbridge	Cudworth	Delisle	Eston	Grand Coulee
Grenfell	Hague	Hepburn	Herbert	Ituna
Kelvington	Kerrobert	Langenburg	Lashburn	Leader
Maidstone	Milestone	Pense	Pinehouse	Porcupine Plain
Radville	Southey	Spiritwood	Stoughton	Strasbourg
Waldheim	Watson	Wilkie	Wolseley	
Construction expected to begin in majority of communities in 2023/24				
Phase 6				
Communities included in Phase 6 will be announced once all details have been finalized.				

*Construction is over 95% complete

+Construction has begun