

NEWS RELEASE

Canada and Ontario Increasing Access to High-Speed Internet Service in Middlesex County

Rural Ontarians benefitting from expanded broadband access

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[Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs](#)

MIDDLESEX COUNTY – The governments of Canada and Ontario are investing more than \$278,000 to bring reliable high-speed internet to 114 families, farms and businesses in Middlesex County.

“Providing reliable internet access is especially important for rural communities to prosper in our increasingly digital world,” said Peter Fragiskatos, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of National Revenue and Member of Parliament for London North Centre, on behalf of the Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Infrastructure and Communities. “Today’s announcement marks another milestone for homes, businesses, and farms in Middlesex County that can now connect to essential online services and enjoy the additional economic opportunities made available through high-speed internet.”

The federal and provincial governments have partnered with Southwestern Integrated Fibre Technology (SWIFT) Inc. and are proud to announce that residents in the community of Ballymote now have the broadband infrastructure in place to enable access to high-speed internet service.

“Our government continues to deliver on its commitment to expand access to high-speed internet to communities across the province,” said Lisa Thompson, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. “By building new broadband infrastructure in Middlesex County, we’re helping to build Ontario and strengthen rural communities. This investment is helping people stay in touch with loved ones, enabling them to access the supports they need while providing a much-needed boost to the local economy.”

This announcement marks the completion of another project under SWIFT and builds on the Ontario government’s plan to get the right infrastructure in the right places - ensuring people can live, work and farm where they want.

“No matter where you live in southwestern Ontario, you should have the confidence you’ll have access to fast, reliable high-speed internet,” said Monte McNaughton, MPP for

Lambton-Kent-Middlesex. "Today's investment brings us closer to ensuring every family and business in our community can stay connected to the people and things that matter most."

The contract to expand broadband services in Middlesex County was awarded by SWIFT, a not-for-profit corporation initiated by local municipalities to address connectivity in Southwestern Ontario.

"High-speed internet access opens up a world of possibilities, transforming the way we learn, work, and connect with one another. Through collaborative efforts with local partners and government support, SWIFT continues to make strong strides in advancing the expansion of broadband infrastructure across Southwestern Ontario, empowering communities, fostering economic growth and innovation," said Gary McNamara, SWIFT Board Chair. "The completion of this important infrastructure project in Middlesex County signifies yet another step forward in bridging Southwestern Ontario's digital divide and we look forward to seeing the positive impacts it will have on the residents and businesses for years to come."

More than \$255 million has been invested by the governments of Canada and Ontario and the private sector to bring high-speed internet access to more than 63,000 homes and businesses in Southwestern Ontario through SWIFT by the end of 2023.

Quick Facts

- The governments of Canada and Ontario are each contributing more than \$63 million to SWIFT through the New Building Canada Fund's Provincial-Territorial Infrastructure Component – Small Communities Fund.
- The Ontario government is investing nearly \$4 billion to bring high-speed internet access to every corner of the province by the end of 2025. This is the largest single investment in high-speed internet in Canadian history.
- In July 2021, the governments of Canada and Ontario announced a [historic agreement](#) that will bring high-speed internet access to more than 280,000 Ontario households across the province through a joint investment totaling more than \$1.2 billion.
- Ontario launched a new interactive online map that shows where provincially funded high-speed internet projects are planned, currently under way, or have been recently completed in communities across the province. Ontarians can visit Ontario.ca/highspeedinternet and search by address, community or municipality to find out more about provincially funded high-speed internet projects and where high-speed internet service is currently available.

Additional Resources

[Ontario Connects: Making High-speed Internet Accessible in Every Community](#)

[Ontario Builds: our infrastructure plan](#)

[High-Speed Access for All: Canada's Connectivity Strategy](#)

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