

THE PACKET

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Welcome!

Welcome to the PACKET. The PACKET is the Muskoka Community Network's (MCN) newsletter. Inside this edition of the PACKET you will find information on what MCN is doing, and why it is important for the region.

We hope that you find this newsletter to be a valuable information tool on what's happening with technology advancement in our area. Enjoy!

Who Are We

Muskoka Community Network (MCN) is a not-for-profit organization facilitating the implementation of telecommunications solutions for the regions of Muskoka and Almaguin by forming partnerships with both the public and private sector.

In plain English, we are working to bring partners together who have a common interest in realizing technological advancement achieved in the region.

The public sector has a need for a group such as ours to work on developing the technology in the area for their benefit. The private sector can benefit from having access to that technology. In addition, private sector service providers can be contracted to deliver those services with funds that are leveraged through public programs. We are working to bring those players together for the benefit of our region.

The MCN is a registered with the Province of Ontario as a not-for-profit corporation, and has a representative Board of Directors from throughout the Muskoka and Almaguin regions.

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What We Are Doing

Our current project is the *Regional Broadband Deployment Initiative*. With funding assistance from FedNor, the MCN is working to determine areas in our region where high speed Internet is not currently available. Once we have completed that work, we will be issuing Request for Proposals (RFP) to interested service providers to roll-out these services.



"The only way to discover the limits of the possible is to go beyond them into the impossible. Arthur C. Clarke (1917 -)"

Please see [Frequently Asked Questions](#) on page 2

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Frequently Asked Questions

Question 1: When is high speed Internet coming to my area?

Answer: While there is no absolute guaranteed timeline, we are working towards having service providers expand their services to unserved areas in about 1-2 year's time through this program. The timeline may be shorter or longer depending on many factors. (Please see Question 4 below also).

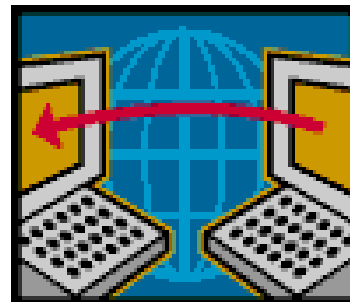
NOTE: Service Providers can also roll out their services to any new areas and clients at anytime outside of this program. We are obviously not involved in that process, but we do get pleasantly excited when new areas get access to high speed internet through a service provider.

Question 2: Can I buy high speed Internet access from the Muskoka Community Network?

Answer: No. We are working with service providers to develop the infrastructure which will allow for high speed internet in areas where it doesn't exist. You would still work with the service provider of your choice for your high speed needs.

Question 3: What will the cost of the high speed internet be when it becomes available?

Answer: You will need to talk to the Service Provider of your choice.



Question 4: Currently, our area doesn't have access to high speed internet. How do I make sure that our location is listed as an unserved area?

Answer: You will need to fill out the 'UNSERVED BROADBAND AREA' form found at <http://www.mcnet.ca/pdf/uba.pdf>. You will need Adobe Acrobat Reader to view this PDF file. Details on submission are detailed on the form. If you are not able to access this form then please call our office at 646-9044.

Please check out our website for more relevant information on the Muskoka Community Network

www.mcnet.ca

We have made our website dial-up friendly by keeping graphic usage to a minimum and using PDF files. You will need Adobe Acrobat Reader or another suitable PDF viewer to view the PDF files. You can download Acrobat Reader for free at:

www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html

"Science and technology multiply around us. To an increasing extent they dictate the languages in which we speak and think. Either we use those languages, or we remain mute".

J. G. Ballard 1930-, British Author