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SWIFT launches projects to improve high-speed internet in Southwestern Ontario

SWIFT, in partnership with the Government of Ontario and Canada is proud to announce the launch of a series of projects dedicated to improving internet connectivity to homes and businesses in Norfolk County, Wellington County and Lambton County.

The newly announced projects aim to spark the beginning of a digital transformation in the region and will be instrumental in shaping and supporting the ongoing expansion of SWIFT's open access broadband networks throughout Southwestern Ontario, Niagara and Caledon.

The pilot projects will focus on underserved areas within each of the three counties that do not meet the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications (CRTC) universal service objective of 50 Mbps download/10 Mbps upload (50/10) and will aim to connect business facilities, public buildings and residential homes in underserved areas within the project region.

Later this year, SWIFT will issue a Request for Proposals (RFPs) and as part of the project's procurement process, SWIFT's pre-qualified Internet Service Providers (ISPs) will bid on eligible funding areas by proposing the most efficient and effective network designs to maximize project impact while managing public dollars responsibly.

During the procurement process SWIFT will evaluate each ISPs proposal based upon a set of predefined evaluation criteria. Construction of the network will commence once the procurement process has been completed and successful proponents have been selected.

Upon the selection of the successful proponents SWIFT will release a full implementation plan for each of the targeted areas, including detailed construction timelines which will outline the specific communities that will be impacted by the project.

The process is designed to ensure the geographical expansion of the network and to increase access in underserved communities.

All project announcements, including construction timelines, will be released on the [SWIFT website](#).

SWIFT will also provide regular progress updates on its [Facebook page](#), [Twitter](#), and through its [e-newsletters](#).

How is SWIFT Funded

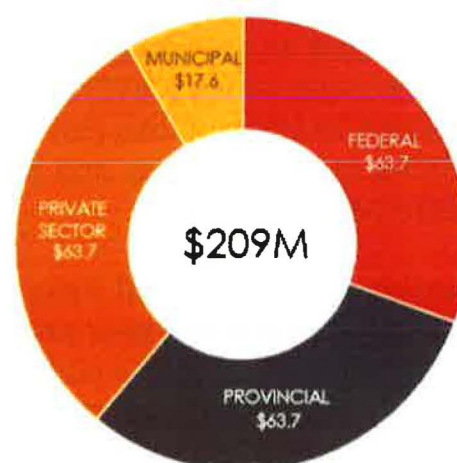
SWIFT was approved for funding under the Canada-Ontario Small Communities Fund (SCF), a joint federal and provincial infrastructure funding program. As a result, the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario have committed up to \$127.4 million, each respectively investing \$63.7 million to the total project cost.

SWIFT will also leverage additional funding from municipal partners and private sector investors to bring the total project investment to \$209 million.

The project will be delivered in a phased approach to ensure that public investments are spent wisely.

As part of the phased approach SWIFT will deliver three initial projects, one in each of the

SOURCES OF FUNDING



following counties: Norfolk County, Wellington County and Lambton County. The total cost of infrastructure investment for the targeted projects is projected to be \$31.6 million.

Upon the successful completion of the projects procurement, SWIFT intends to move forward with the next phase of the project to continue to ensure the expansion of high-speed connectivity throughout the remaining communities in Southwestern Ontario, Caledon and Niagara.

Updates



SWIFT issues second Request for Pre-qualification

SWIFT has issued a second Request for Pre-Qualification (RFPQ) to Telecom Service Providers (TSPs). The RFPQ is expected to close on **June 21, 2019**.

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How connected are you?

Explore Southwestern Ontario, Niagara and Caledon's 50/10 broadband footprint and tell us what you think.

[View Map](#)



SWIFT Appoints New Members to Board of Directors

SWIFT announces the expansion of its Board of Directors as it appoints 13 new members, with 10 returning directors.

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News Update

SWIFT was recently featured in:

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[Global News](#)

[The Observer - Sarnia](#)

[Mobilesyrup](#)

[The Beacon Herald](#)

[Simcoe Reformer](#)

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