



### PROGRESS TO DATE

- In August 2020, the EMRB received the **Edmonton Metropolitan Region Broadband Situation Analysis** final report for information. The completion of the Situation Analysis marks the conclusion of the first phase of the Board’s work on the Regional Broadband initiative.
- In partnership with Edmonton Global and the Greater Edmonton Region Chambers of Commerce, EMRB has prepared and submitted policy recommendations to the Provincial and Federal governments advocating for investment in digital infrastructure for the Region.
- EMRB has hosted **two webinars** providing member municipalities, the public, and regional stakeholders with an update on the initiative, insights on the current state of connectivity in the Region, and highlights of the potential regional socio-economic return on investment from investing in broadband. The **May 26 webinar** and **May 28 webinar** are available on [emrb.ca/regional-broadband](http://emrb.ca/regional-broadband) and on the **EMRB YouTube Channel**.
- In preparing the Situation Analysis, the project team facilitated **eighteen workshops** with municipalities across the Edmonton Metropolitan Region, as well as **seven interviews** with provincial, federal and regional stakeholders, to assess the current state of broadband in the Region.
- The Regional Broadband Situation Analysis has identified a number of key findings for the Region, including:
  - significant areas across the Region currently experiencing service levels below CRTC speed targets
  - socio-economic impact analysis estimating the Edmonton region could add up to \$412M to its GDP per year if it achieves 50 Mbps download speeds region-wide, or approximately \$1B if it reaches 100 Mbps
  - opportunities to coordinate advocacy through a regional voice, integrate broadband considerations into regional growth planning updates and regional initiatives, and create a regional strategy to advance the development of digital infrastructure in the Region.

### WHAT’S COMING UP

#### SEPTEMBER 2020

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#### OCTOBER 2020

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For more information and to access documents and past webinars, please visit [emrb.ca/regional-broadband](http://emrb.ca/regional-broadband)

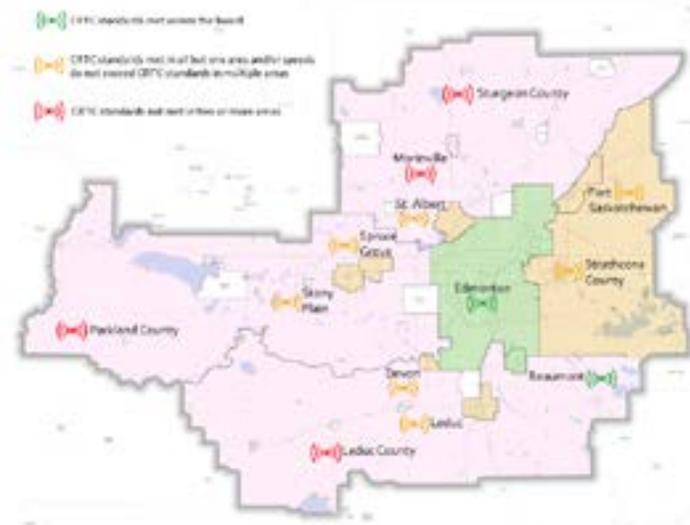
#### LEGEND

- ENGAGEMENT
- EMRB BOARD
- MAJOR DELIVERABLE

### UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- EMRB will facilitate two public webinars on **September 17** and **September 21** to present findings and share recommendations of the EMRB Broadband Situation Analysis final report with Board members, regional elected officials, the public, and stakeholders.
- Details on the upcoming webinars are available at [emrb.ca/events/](http://emrb.ca/events/).

### BROADBAND IN THE REGION





# ABOUT

ISSUE 2, AUGUST 2020

## REGIONAL BROADBAND



### WHAT IS THE REGIONAL BROADBAND SITUATION ANALYSIS?

As a priority of the Board, the Regional Broadband initiative will examine the state of broadband connectivity in the Region and create a compelling regional case for a focussed regional effort to improve broadband service.

The initiative will result in a Situation Analysis report which will identify critical service gaps, opportunities to improve economic competitiveness in the Region, and make the case for future work to improve connectivity through an analysis outlining the socio-economic benefits for the Region.

### WHY A REGIONAL BROADBAND SITUATION ANALYSIS?

The Edmonton Metropolitan Region Growth Plan and 2018-2023 Strategic Plan outlined the conditions needed for a competitive and sustainable Region. Connectivity continues to be a barrier to the growth, economic competitiveness, and sustainability of many municipalities in the Region.

Many communities in the Region lack sufficient connection speeds needed for everyday life in an increasingly digital economy. Improving digital infrastructure is a regional challenge that needs a regional solution. Municipalities have traditionally approached broadband network development independently and on an ad-hoc basis.

A regional approach to advocating for improved broadband infrastructure will help us connect and ensure the Region moves at the speed of life.

### WHAT'S AT STAKE WITH REGIONAL BROADBAND?

Simply put, connected communities and competitive businesses. From work and school, to health and entertainment, our lives are increasingly data dependent. Internet connectivity is no longer a luxury; it is a necessary utility for regional growth. Connectivity ensures families can stay connected to their community and services, students can learn, and businesses can take part in the digital economy.

Access to reliable high-speed internet is about accessing opportunity to grow and learn, and is vital for a globally competitive, attractive modern economy and a high quality of life for residents of the Region.

### MESSAGES FROM THE REGION

*"High speed, high capacity broadband is the information freeway required to compete in the global marketplace. It allows for more effective business operations, supports and leads to innovation and results in a better educated population and knowledgeable workforce."*

MAYOR ROD SHAIPEC, PARKLAND COUNTY

*"Access to high-speed broadband internet is no longer a luxury but a necessity for our day-to-day lives, for economic prosperity and for regional growth...It impacts commerce opportunities, access to education, health and public safety, cultural enrichment, government operations, and other countless conveniences and efficiencies in our lives."*

MAYOR ALANNA HNATIW, STURGEON COUNTY

### BROADBAND IN THE REGION

It is estimated that increasing download speeds to 100 mbps could produce a **\$1 billion lift** to real GDP in the Region.

Improving connectivity could generate benefits of over **\$1,100** per regional household per year.



RAMP



MRSP



SISB



RECAS



REGIONAL BROADBAND



IRTMP



KPIs/EMRGIS



Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board

[emrb.ca/regionalbroadband](http://emrb.ca/regionalbroadband)

@yegmetro

Our vision is that the Edmonton Metropolitan Region is the dominant hub for northern Alberta and is recognized globally for its economic diversity and excellent quality of life.