



# Connectivity in B.C.

## Electoral Area Directors Forum

### January 31, 2024

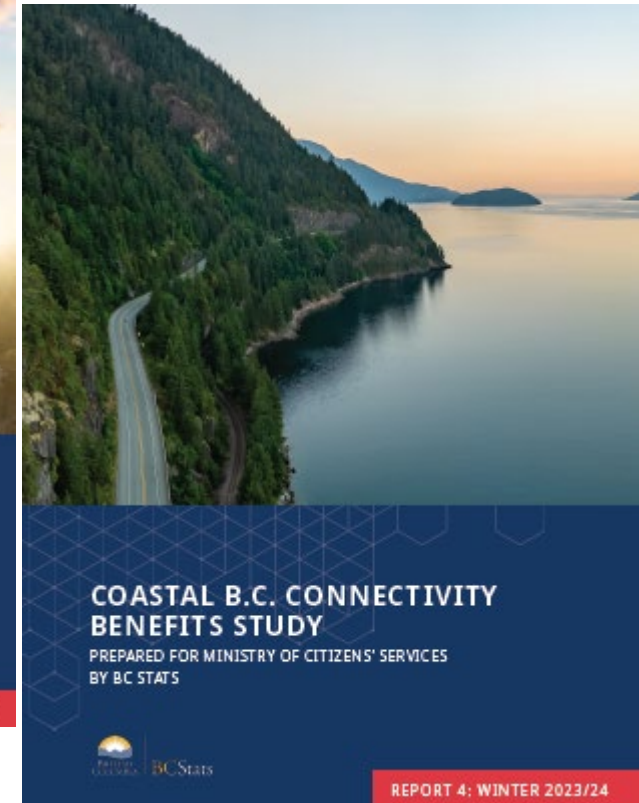
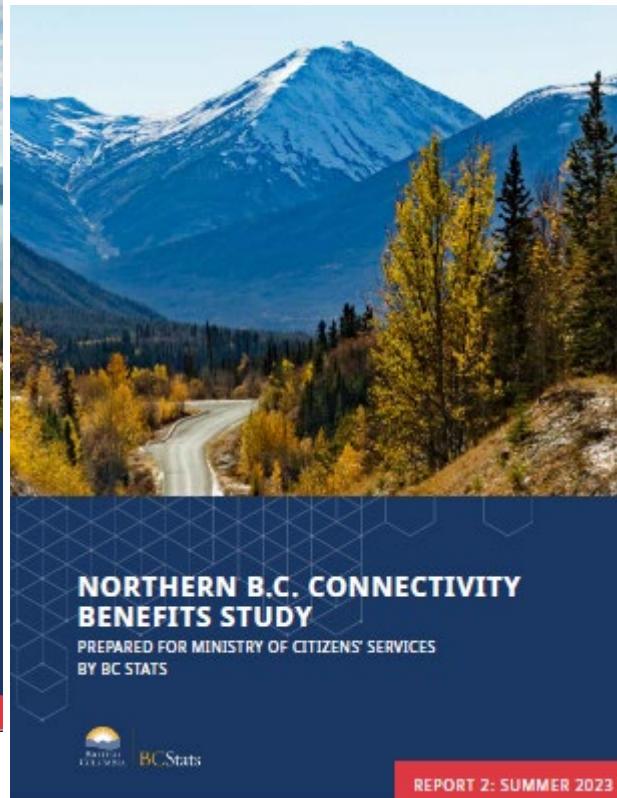
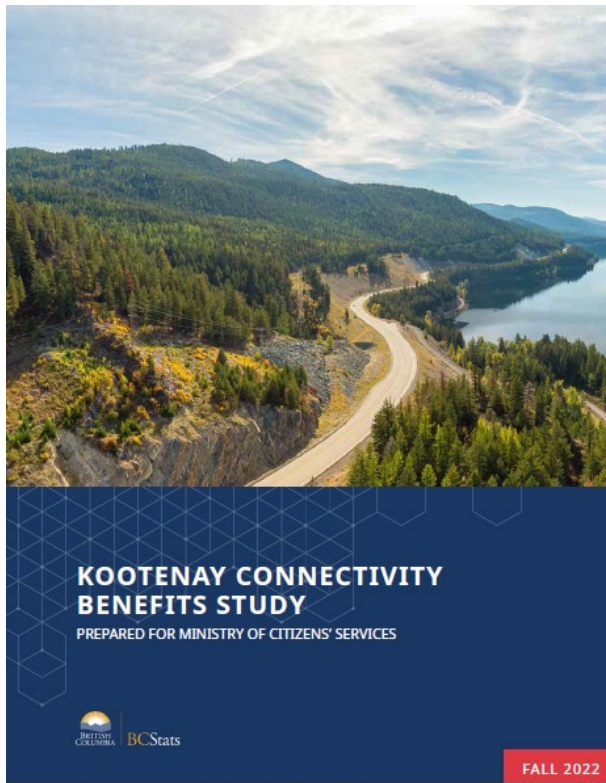


BRITISH  
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# Economic return from connectivity investments

The economic model developed by BC Stats analyzes the short- and long-term impacts of connectivity funding for rural regions of B.C.



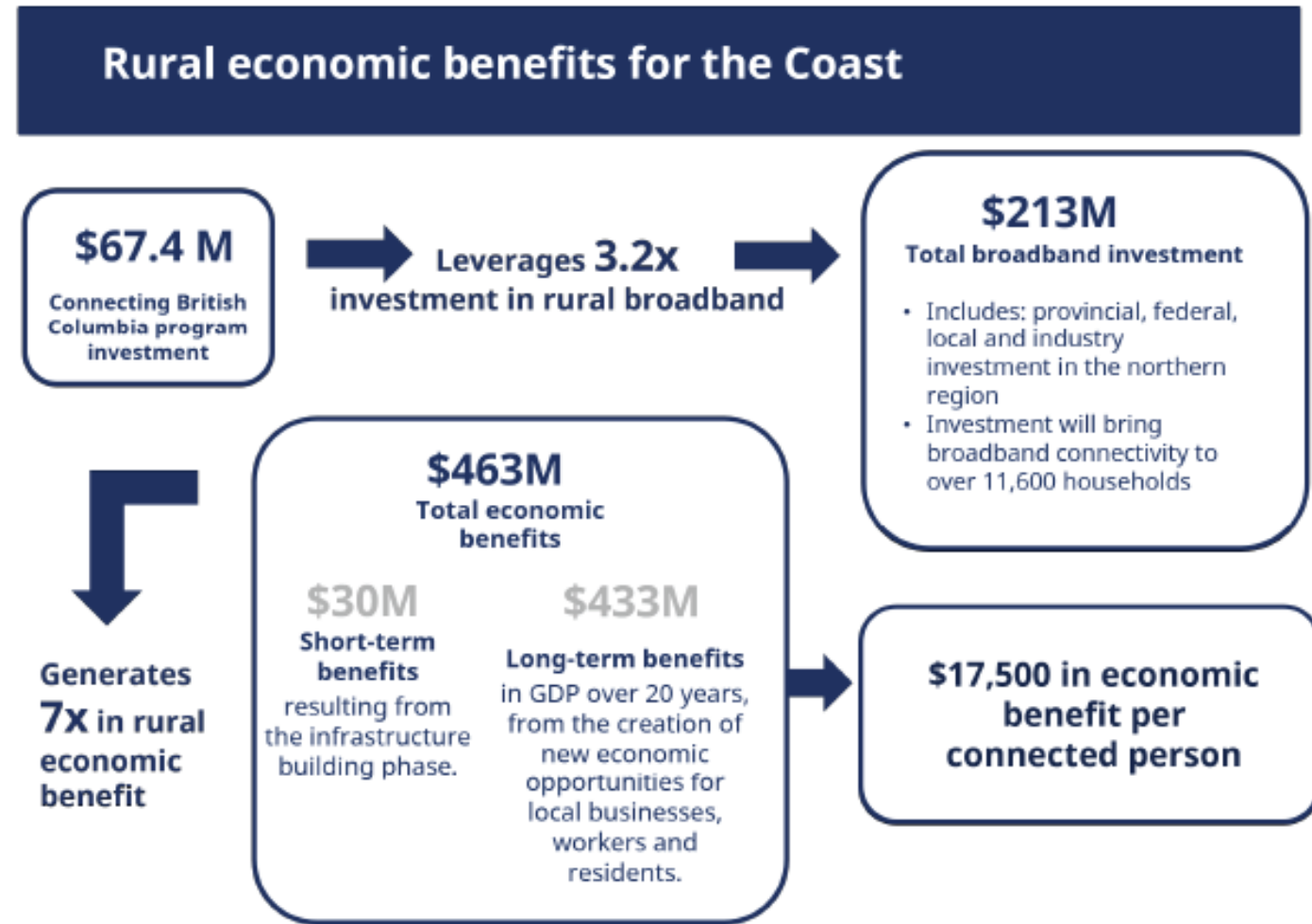
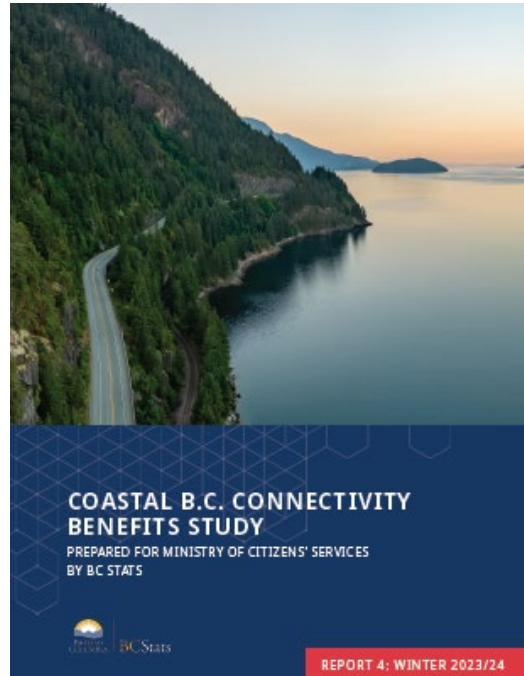
The final economic study for the province is under development and will be released in Spring 2024.

# Economic return from connectivity investments – B.C. coastal region

The economic model developed by BC Stats was used to analyze connectivity impacts in the coastal region of B.C. in the fourth report of the series. This study was released on January 15, 2024.

Connectivity investments along the coast were analyzed by BC Stats as delivering **seven times the economic benefit** from initial provincial funding over the longer term.

Previous reports on Northern B.C., the Kootenays and the Interior are available on the *Connectivity in B.C.* web pages.



<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/connectivity-in-bc/20534>

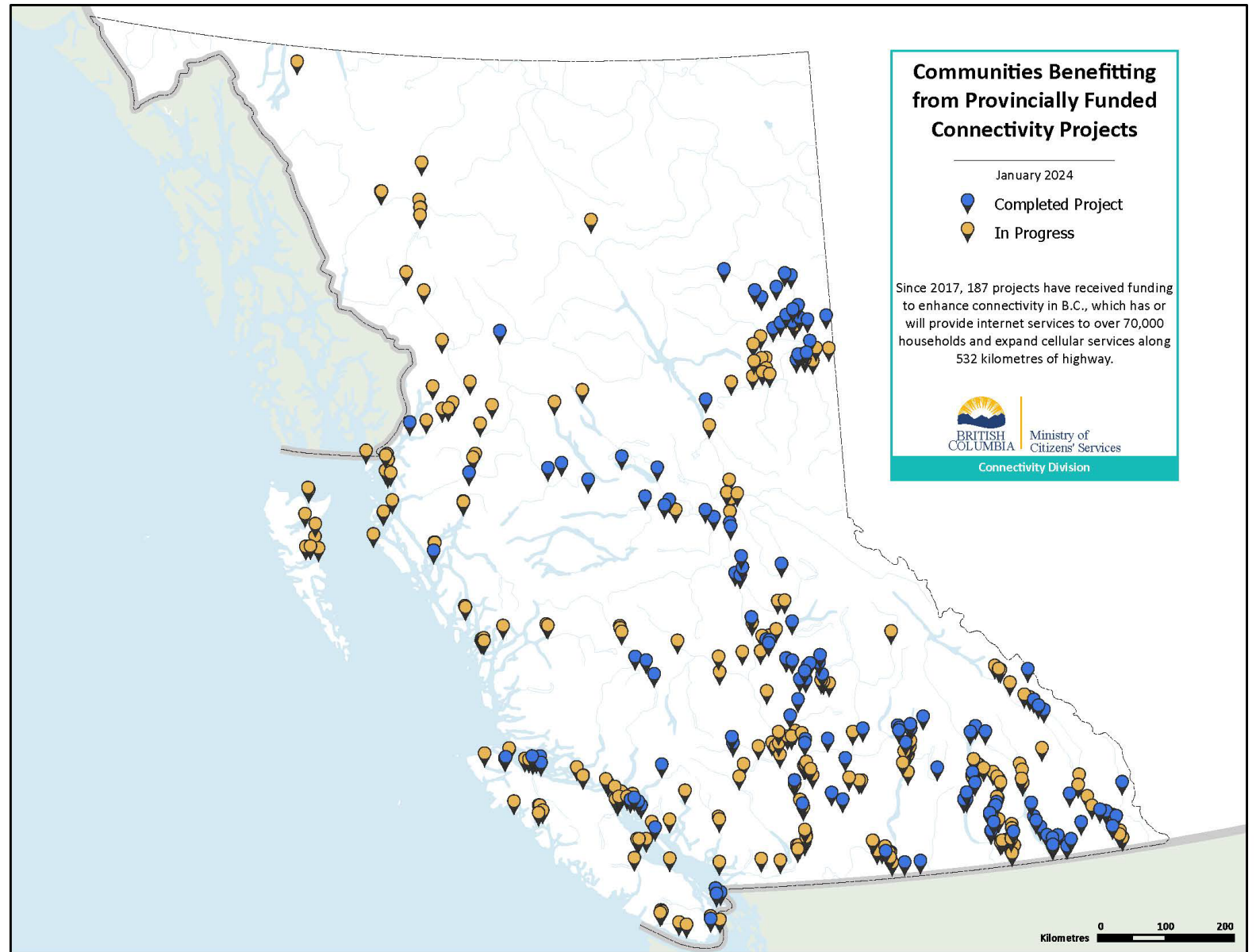
# Province-wide impact

Provincially funded projects are making an impact province-wide.

Since 2017 provincial connectivity programming has funded 187 projects and 104 are complete.

More than 70,000 households have benefited from provincial connectivity funding with 58,000 left to connect including 5,000 homes on First Nation reserves.

**In March 2022, CITZ and ISED entered into a joint funding MoU for \$830 million to complete connectivity to every home.**

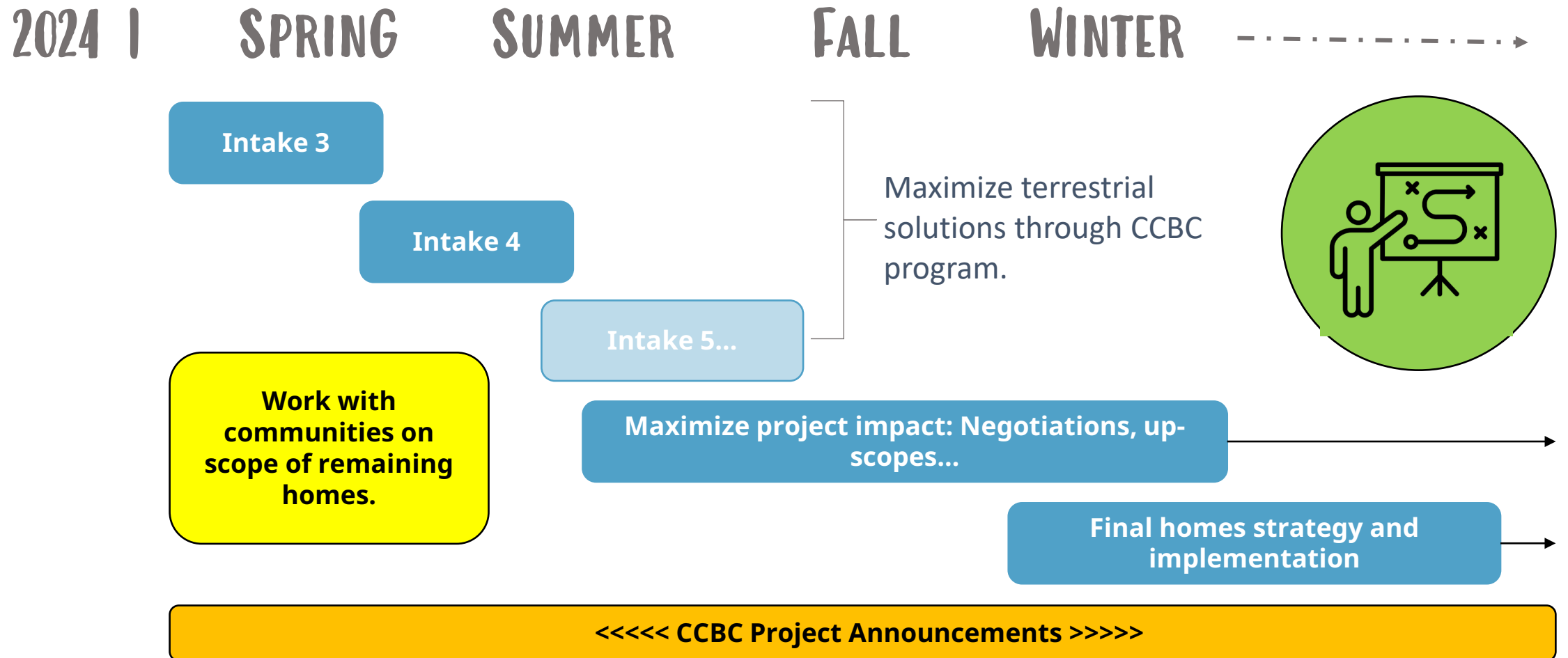


[Funded projects online](#)

# Funding & Project Landscape



# CCBC Program Outlook – Spring 2024

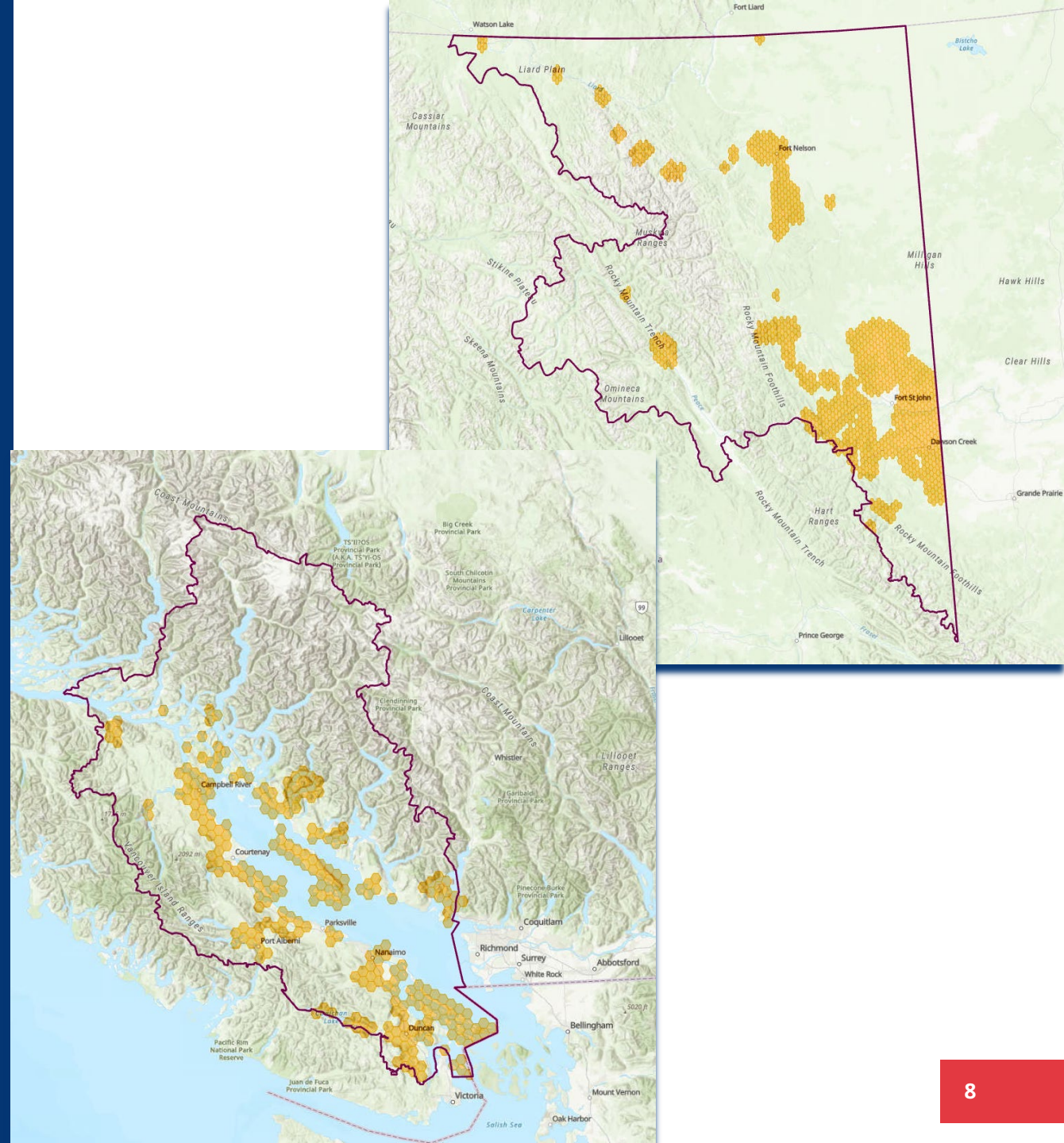


# The Zone Approach



# Intake 3

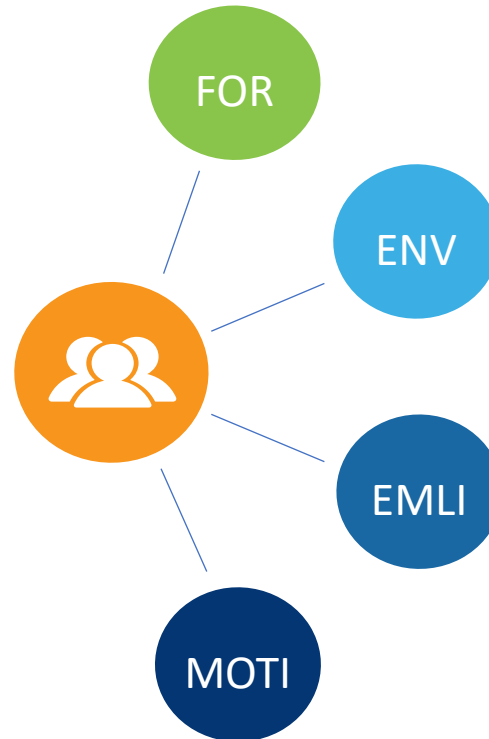
- The third intake of the Connecting Communities BC (CCBC) program will open on January 8, 2024 at 9am Pacific time and close at 2:00 pm Pacific time on March 14, 2024,
- There are two types of projects eligible for Intake 3:
  - Projects in certain areas of interest in the province that remain under-served as outlined in maps in the BC Data Catalogue (add link); and/or
  - Projects that are First Nations-led or First Nations-supported in any area of the province.
- All other eligibility criteria and steps to apply to the CCBC program remain the same and are outlined on the [Connecting Communities BC page](#).
- It is anticipated the program will run subsequent intakes until requirements are met.



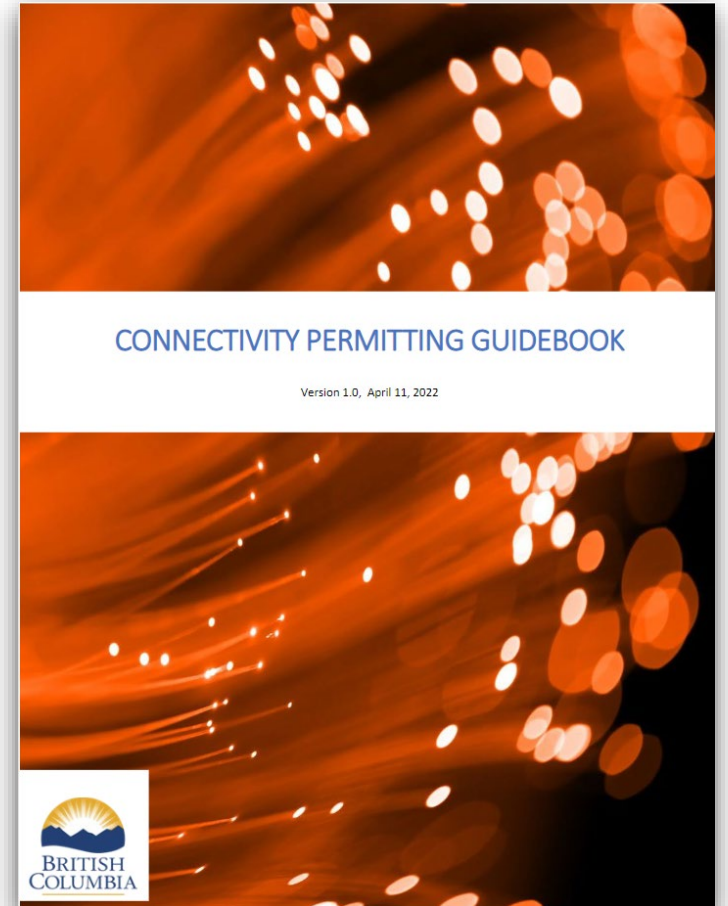


# Investments in Permitting

Dedicated team embedded in CITZ and WLRS facilitating connectivity-related permitting

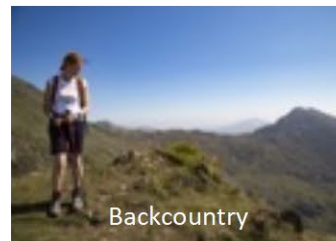
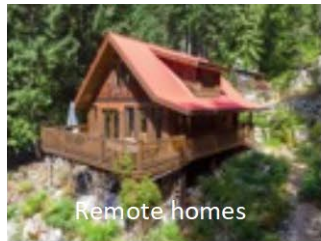


Email permitting questions to:  
[citz.networkbcpermitting@gov.bc.ca](mailto:citz.networkbcpermitting@gov.bc.ca)



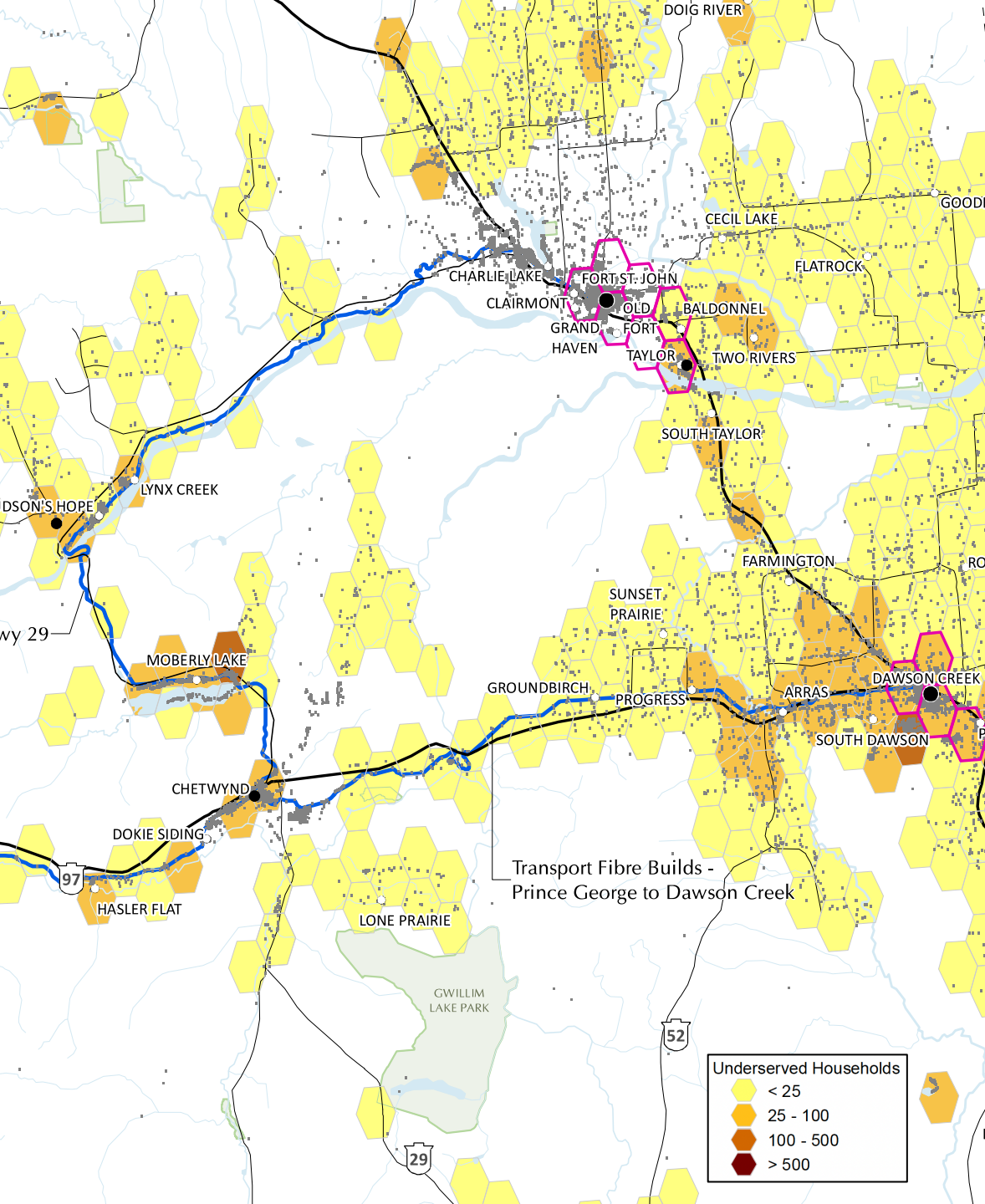
# Satellite Connectivity: Expanding opportunities

LEO internet services are anticipated to provide both fixed and mobile high speed internet services anywhere without last-mile terrestrial infrastructure. They enable digital opportunities where infrastructure doesn't currently exist or is not possible.



*Note: Regulatory approval for mobile use in Canada pending, offered in US since Dec 2022*

...and more

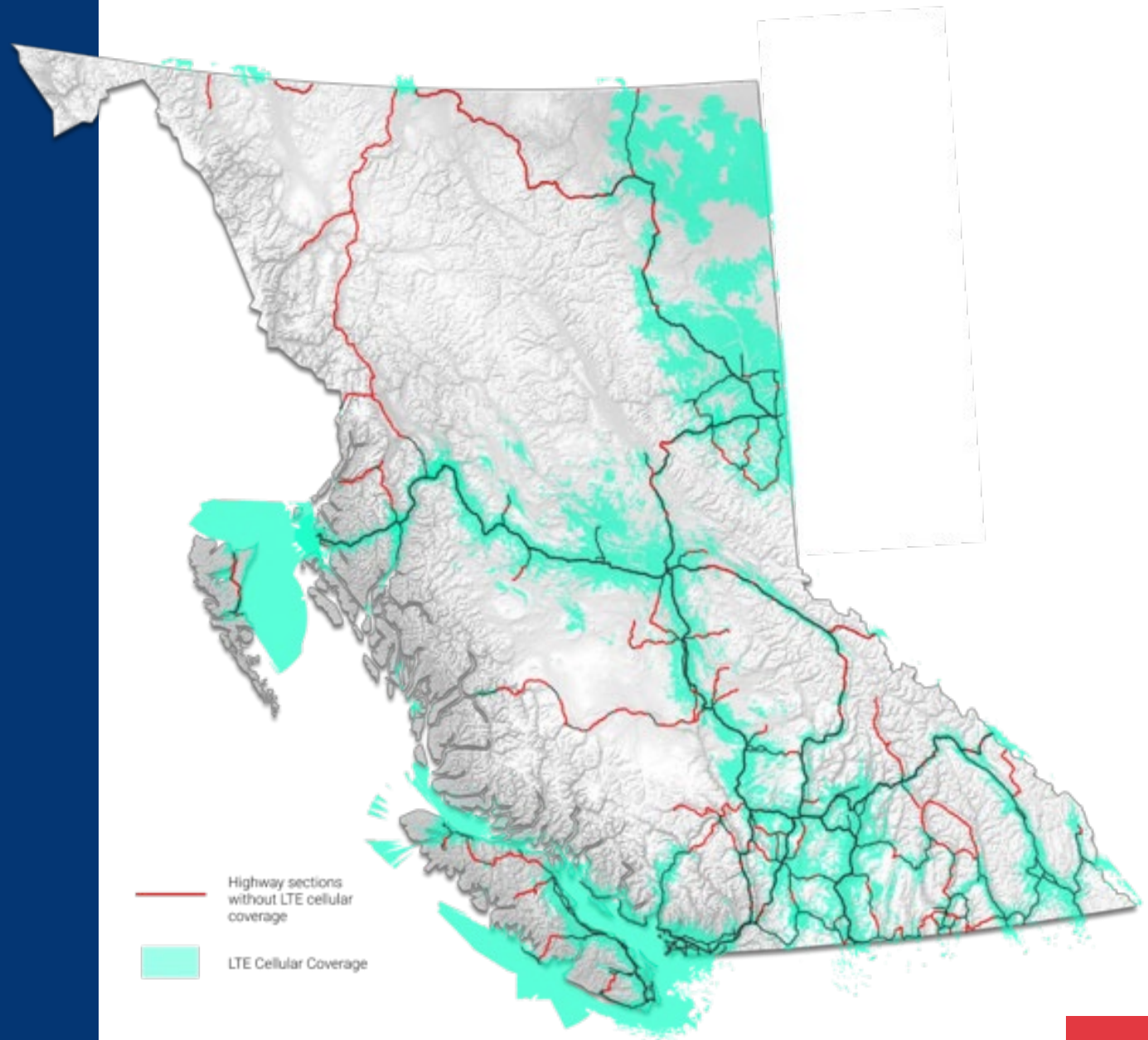


## Next steps for Satellite

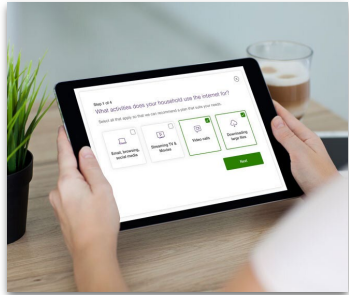
- Satellite solutions will be a component of reaching every provincial and territorial mandate (except PEI).
- Terrestrial options for infrastructure is increasing from an average of \$6,000 to more than \$50,000 per in very rural areas.
- The Province's goal is that less than 1% of all homes in BC will be cost prohibitive for a terrestrial solution and will require a satellite option.

# Highway cellular

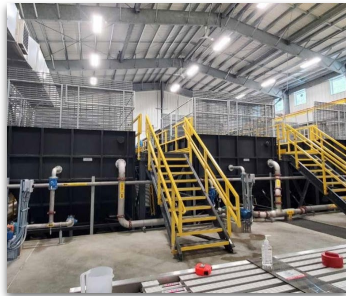
- There are 15,000 kms of highway in B.C.
- Currently there are 4,200 Kms of highway with no LTE cellular coverage, of which 3,100 has no access to commercial power.
- Budget 2023 approved \$75 million in new funding to expand cellular to another 550 kms.
- The Cellular Expansion Fund is now open, and details can be found on NDIT website.
- Targeted for service providers and program will close when all funds have been allocated.



# Emerging issues



Internet affordability



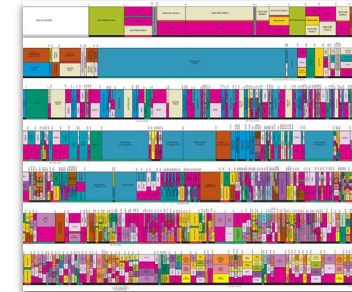
Infrastructure enablement



Mobile connectivity



FN community resettlement



Spectrum issues



Digital inclusion

**Enabling the right connectivity solution to meet a community's needs requires an understanding of community priorities from their perspective.**

Connectivity programming provides funding for the foundational infrastructure as the first step. Digital conversations are accelerating as more homes and communities are connected. There is a gap in government coordination and programming to help communities fully realize the benefits from digital infrastructure.



# How we work with communities



Bridge the information gap to **maximize transparency.**



Better understand **community planning** and **digital goals.**



Work with community to **understand connectivity gaps** holistically.



**Refine** and **improve data** sources.

# Improving data sources with community



Communities  
challenging areas  
deemed served by  
50/10 Mbps



Network BC is  
working on  
auditing available  
info to confirm  
situation



Review of sites  
requiring further  
investigation



Third-party  
assessments,  
possible next  
steps

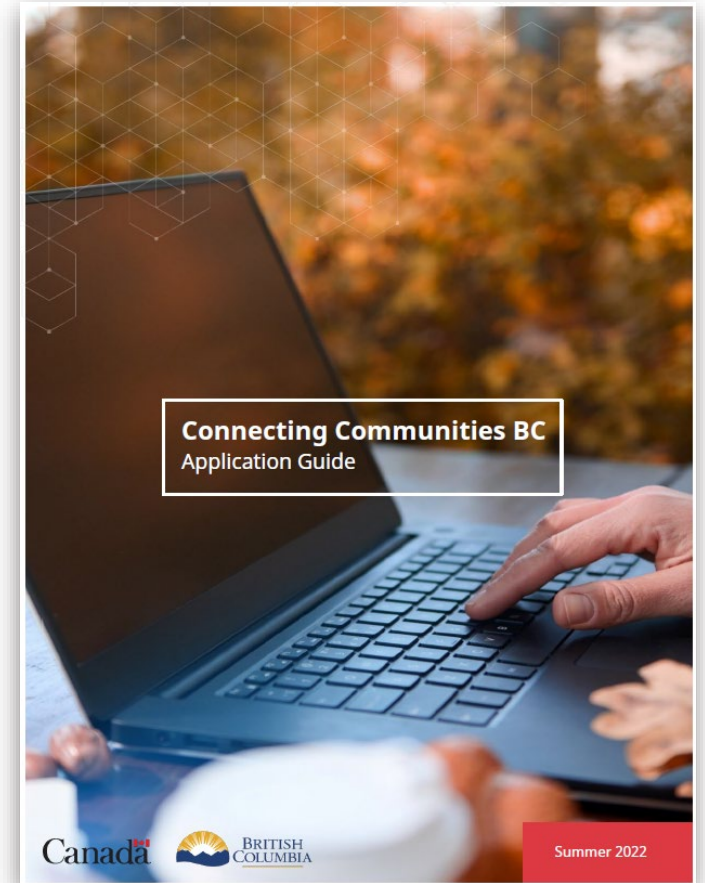


# What you can do

- Visit the [Program Website](#)
  - Application Guide
  - Draft Funding Agreement
- Review ISED's [National Broadband Service Availability Map](#)
- Look for information about Intake 3 (open now) and Intake 4 coming in Spring 2024



**Program email:** [connectingcommunities@gov.bc.ca](mailto:connectingcommunities@gov.bc.ca)







Thank you



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