

March 24, 2026

Re: Coordinated Municipal Advocacy for Improved Cellular Service in Rural Nova Scotia

We are writing on behalf of the Municipality of the County of Victoria, and we extend this correspondence as an invitation to municipalities across Cape Breton and Nova Scotia to join us in expressing serious and ongoing concerns regarding inadequate cellular service along the Cabot Trail, throughout rural areas of Victoria County, and across many regions of rural Nova Scotia.

Reliable cellular service is no longer a convenience; it is a critical public service. In many of our municipalities, residents, visitors, and first responders continue to experience inconsistent or nonexistent cellular coverage. This presents significant risks to public safety, particularly in emergency situations where the ability to call 911, receive alerts, or communicate during medical, fire, or weather-related emergencies is essential. Gaps in service along heavily traveled routes such as the Cabot Trail further compound these risks, especially during peak tourism seasons when traffic volumes increase substantially.

Poor cellular service also has a direct and negative impact on economic development and tourism. Cape Breton and rural Nova Scotia rely heavily on seasonal tourism and are increasingly positioned to benefit from remote work opportunities. Both sectors depend on reliable mobile connectivity. Without adequate service, our communities are at a clear disadvantage in attracting visitors, supporting local businesses, and retaining and growing our population base.

We recognize and appreciate the efforts made by both provincial and federal governments to expand broadband and cellular infrastructure; however, significant service gaps remain, particularly in rural and remote regions. There is a clear need for equitable telecommunications infrastructure that ensures rural communities have access to the same level of service as urban centres.

In light of these concerns, we respectfully request the following:

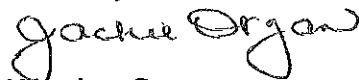
- A renewed commitment to prioritizing improved cellular coverage in rural Nova Scotia, including along the Cabot Trail and throughout Victoria County;
- Clear confirmation of timelines, deliverables, and funding commitments for announced and proposed cellular infrastructure projects;
- Consideration of advancing critical projects, including the Oregon Tower, to ensure improved coverage is in place prior to the 2026 tourism season;
- Enhanced collaboration with service providers and municipal partners to address longstanding service deficiencies through targeted investment and strategic planning.

As municipalities, we are committed to working collaboratively with the Province and relevant partners to support solutions that improve safety, connectivity, and quality of life for our residents.

This letter is intended to serve as a coordinated, province-wide advocacy effort. We respectfully invite municipalities across Nova Scotia to endorse and co-sign this letter, demonstrating a unified municipal voice on the urgent need for reliable cellular infrastructure in rural communities. We also encourage the support and engagement of key partners, including the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities, Destination Cape Breton, and the Cape Breton Partnership, in advancing this shared priority.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and would welcome the opportunity to discuss next steps at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



Warden Organ

Cc:

Provincial Government

- Build Nova Scotia – Cellular for Nova Scotia Program
- Department of Public Works
- Department of Municipal Affairs
- Innovation, Science and Economic Development Nova Scotia
- Office of the Premier
- Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM)

Federal Government

- Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED)
- Infrastructure Canada
- Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC)
- Member of Parliament (MP) for Victoria County
- Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) for Victoria County

Supporting Organizations

- Destination Cape Breton
- Cape Breton Partnership