

TO: Mayors/Wardens, Councillors, All Units

**CC: Chief Administrative Officers/Clerk-Treasurers, All Units
Village Commissioners, All Villages**

RE: WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT IS NOW DEVELOP NOVA SCOTIA

The Waterfront Development Corporation is becoming Develop Nova Scotia. Develop Nova Scotia will be responsible for strategic economic infrastructure in the Province. This work includes designing and managing the Provincial implementation strategy for Rural High Speed Internet, and will be performed in connection with the \$120-million Nova Scotia Internet Funding Trust announced earlier this year.

Municipalities will begin receiving invitations to engage with Develop Nova Scotia this week. Please see the attached E-blast for more information.



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July 13, 2018

Waterfront Development is becoming **Develop Nova Scotia**. We are pleased to announce that Develop Nova Scotia is now the crown corporation responsible for leading sustainable development of high potential property and infrastructure across Nova Scotia – all with the view to drive inclusive economic growth in our province.

As Waterfront Development, our mandate was to redevelop and revitalize lands surrounding Halifax Harbour and other lands designated by our shareholder – which led to our involvement in Lunenburg. While our commitment and love of our place at the water's edge remains steadfast, now, as Develop Nova Scotia, our mission is to support the creation of sustainable places right across Nova Scotia that attract and inspire people and investment.

We need to do things differently as a province if we expect to grow our economy and address our population challenges. Our experience, and lots of research too, shows that strong places are essential to economic development. Strong places support strategic sectors like tourism, and other oceans-related sectors, they contribute to successful innovation districts, and they contribute importantly to quality of life. Great places attract people and investment follows talent.

That's why Develop Nova Scotia will be focused on planning, development and management of land and infrastructure by and for and with people. When we make people the centre of our work, we develop strong places that are diverse and authentic and unique in character, not to mention environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive.

Connectivity and accessibility – including Internet connectivity – are important factors in building places where businesses and people flourish. That's why one of the first new projects the Province of Nova Scotia has asked us to take on is designing and managing the implementation strategy for Rural High Speed Internet across the province in connection with the Nova Scotia Internet Funding Trust.

Our job is to ensure we design and execute an implementation strategy that enables creative problem solving, competitive bids and, ultimately, reliable, high quality, sustainable service levels with maximum coverage. And we want to achieve this while minimizing public investment. We will develop the strategy through meaningful engagement with industry and communities, a transparent and competitive bid process and ongoing public communication, and diligent management of projects.

We understand the urgency when it comes to rural Internet. We expect to be in market with a competitive bid process this fall. At the same time, we must acknowledge this is a large, complex project, with rapidly evolving technology, and involves the investment of a significant amount of public funds. We must get it right now and for the future.

We will be engaging with industry, municipal and regional economic leaders in the next 30-60 days – invitations will begin going out next week. We'll be interested in learning what's important to your communities in terms of economic success, strategic infrastructure, and rural Internet connections. The sessions will help to finalize our Rural Internet implementation strategy as well as our 5-year strategic plan as Develop Nova Scotia.

This new mandate is an assignment we're ready for. Our small team of highly-skilled professionals regularly manages complex, multi-stakeholder projects that involve public funds while leveraging private sector investment in order to meet social, environmental and economic sustainability objectives for Nova Scotians. Our small team will grow over the next few months, however our focus on current priorities and projects underway will not waiver.

For more information:

Visit: developnovascotia.ca

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