

Changes in the Policy and Regulatory Landscape

Universal Broadband Fund

In its 2019 Budget, the federal government committed to the creation of a national connectivity strategy, in conjunction with additional funding for broadband projects in Canada. As well as topping up a number of existing broadband funding initiatives, including the Connect to Innovate program and the CRTC's Broadband Fund, the *High-Speed Access for All: Canada's Connectivity Strategy* also created the Universal Broadband Fund, with an initial investment of \$1.75 billion over six years¹⁵⁸. In subsequent federal budgets, investments in the Universal Broadband Fund were increased to \$2.75 billion. The strategy also set the goal of achieving 98% access to 50 Mbps download / 10 Mbps upload in Canada by 2026, and 100% by 2030.

Eligibility for the Universal Broadband Fund is determined using the National Broadband Internet Service Availability Map¹⁵⁹. Any project existing within a 250 m road segment that does not have access to 50/10 Mbps internet is deemed eligible for UBF funding — provided the project delivers a minimum 50/10 Mbps connection speed and provides open access to Points of Presence. As of June 2021, Alberta has received \$5,303,762 in funding for broadband projects from the Universal Broadband Fund, serving a total of 12,259 households¹⁶⁰.

CRTC Broadband Fund

CRTC Wholesale Rates Regulations

CRTC Regulatory Policy 2016-496: Universal Service Objective

References

¹⁵⁸Government of Canada. [High-Speed Access for All: Canada's Connectivity Strategy](#). Accessed 15 June 2021.

¹⁵⁹ISED. [National Broadband Internet Service Availability Map](#). Accessed 15 June 2021.

¹⁶⁰Government of Canada. [Selected Universal Broadband Fund Projects](#). Accessed 16 June 2021.