



**The Corporation of the Township Oro-Medonte
Request for Expression of Interest (REOI)
Rural Broadband Gap Fulfilment**

REOI # CS 2021-01

Issue Date: Tuesday, July 27, 2021

Closing Date: Friday, August 27, 2021 3:00 p.m.

Requirements for: Rural Broadband Gap Fulfilment

All submissions are subject to the terms and conditions of the Request for Expression of Interest (REOI), the accompanying specifications, and all other contract provisions or data that is incorporated.

If further information is required, contact:

Corporate Services; Jennifer Whitley
Coordinator, Economic Development/ Communications
(jwhitley@oro-medonte.ca)

The Corporation of the Township of Oro-Medonte reserves the right to accept or reject all or part of any submission, and to accept the submission that is in the best interest of the Township.

Table of Contents

Table of Contents 2

Introduction 3

Background 3

 Advocacy:..... 5

 Capacity Development: 5

 Research/Data Collection/Ground Truthing:..... 6

 Outcomes:..... 7

 Next Steps and Recommendations: 8

Objective 8

Submission Requirements 9

Invitation and Purpose..... 10

Submission Schedule & Instructions 11

Appendix A: Proponents Information Form 12

Appendix B: Funding Sources 16

Appendix C: Current Levels of Connectivity in Oro-Medonte 18

Appendix D: Existing Towers and Infrastructure in Oro-Medonte..... 19

Appendix E: Oro-Medonte Basic Service Objective, 2019-2020 20

Appendix F: Oro-Medonte Upload Speed (Mbps) 22

Appendix G: Oro-Medonte Download Speed (Mbps) 23

Introduction

The Township of Oro-Medonte is a diverse and beautiful community with a central location in Ontario, within the County of Simcoe. With a population of 21,500 full time residents, it covers a land area of 61,000 hectares, stretching from the westerly border with Barrie, the southerly border with Lake Simcoe, the easterly border with Orillia and Severn Township and the northerly border shared with Tay and Severn Townships. The Township is comprised of a number of smaller hamlets, with Craighurst containing some components of a traditional downtown including shopping and dining. The Township's prime location provides residents and visitors alike with the riches of rural life and the convenience of a short drive to Barrie, Orillia and the Greater Toronto Area.

The Township is accessible by:

- Provincial Highways 11, 12 and 400 and the County of Simcoe road systems;
- The Lake Simcoe Regional Airport operated by the City of Barrie and the County of Simcoe, which is located in the Township;
- The Canadian Pacific Rail line, which passes through the Township as it travels from Toronto to Vancouver;
- The Lake Country Oro-Medonte Rail Trail which links the Cities of Barrie and Orillia; and Lake Simcoe.

Background

The importance of internet connectivity has been recognized by all levels of government as critical for business transactions, educational requirements, personal needs and entertainment. Federal and Provincial governments have allocated significant funding to enable service providers to enhance opportunities for connectivity.

The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) has been mandated federally with the responsibility of “ensuring that Canadians have access to a world-class communication system that promotes innovation and enriches their lives.” With respect to internet connectivity, they have “established a universal service objective that Canadians – in rural and remote areas as well as in urban centres – have access to voice services and broadband Internet access services on fixed and mobile wireless networks.

The CRTC set targets for these services as its new Universal Service Objective :

- Speeds of 50 Mbps download/10 Mbps upload for fixed broadband services;
- an unlimited data option for fixed broadband services;
- the latest mobile wireless technology available not only to all homes and businesses, but also along major Canadian roads.

Given, the lower densities, often larger physical footprints and challenging terrain rural municipalities' face, there are many issues with respect to the provision of broadband and the ability to meet the targets identified above. Like others, Oro-Medonte Township is one of those rural municipalities that continues to have connectivity issues.

The Township's [2015-2018 Corporate Strategy](#) (currently being updated) as well as the [2018-2022 Economic Development Strategy](#) identified Internet as a municipal priority. The defined goal for the Township is to explore mechanisms and best practices of how to facilitate high-speed internet expansion and advocate to other levels of government for enhanced provision of high-speed internet. In support of this priority, Township staff have been engaged with various Internet Service Providers (ISP's) as well as other municipalities and regions that have had similar challenges with rural broadband connections. These exchanges were necessary to initiate an environmental scan and evaluation of best practices in other municipalities and better understand advocacy tactics. It has been an opportunity to establish a profile with locally available ISPs, and all levels of government including funding bodies to recognize the challenges faced in Oro-Medonte for residents and businesses.

Broadband challenges, most recently, were also identified clearly in a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analysis presented to Council, during the process for an [Employment Land Strategy](#). It was noted as a weakness; the need for improved broadband in the Township is key for economic expansions and was mentioned by multiple Stakeholders through surveys.

The goals from both strategies set the foundation for staff to focus on broadband expansion as a priority. This enabled staff to move quickly in 2020 when the COVID-19 pandemic arrived in Ontario. At that time, when many were forced to work and complete schooling online, the Township received an increased number of concerns expressed by residents and businesses as they struggled to participate in this elevated online world. The immediate need for higher speed Internet access was apparent and federal and provincial policies and programs, including funding, for better rural broadband were accelerated. (*See Appendix B for list of funding programs, University of Guelph, Regional & Rural Broadband Program, Draft Policy Paper*). Township Council and staff along with the Economic Development Roundtable, the municipality's economic development advisory body, discussed the immediate need for a dedicated group with expertise on how to expedite the next steps and look for opportunities for the Township.

As noted previously, Oro-Medonte Township Councils, have over the last few years responded to these issues and tasked staff with continuing to advocate on behalf of its residents and businesses with service providers encouraging them to apply for funding and improve connectivity within the municipality. Improvements have been made in some areas within the Township, however, as evidenced by the impact of COVID-19 and the increased needs, the municipality also had to increase its efforts in this regard.

At the June 10, 2020 Council Meeting, Council directed staff to strike a Task Force focused on internet connectivity to bring added focus and expertise to this critical infrastructure issue.

The Internet Connectivity Task Force (ICTF) was formalized in July 2020. The mandate and guidelines for the ICTF were approved by Council and are posted on the [Connect Oro-Medonte](#) dedicated webpage. The ICTF is comprised of two (2) Members of Council, one of which sits on the Economic Development Roundtable, to provide communication linkages back to this working group and one (1) with the responsibility of Chairing the Task Force and reporting back to Council when appropriate. Members of the public were recruited through an application and interview process. A key deliverable of this group is to provide technical input/advise to staff as strategies are developed and opportunities discussed. It was critical that public representation come with strong technical expertise. The Township was successful in recruiting five (5) members of the public that provide a range of expertise and knowledge across various wards in the Township.

In keeping with the strategic goals of both Corporate plans, the following is a summary of the activities and accomplishments of the ICTF over the past year, for the full report visit the [April 2021 Council Report](#).

Advocacy:

Taking an advocacy role, the ICTF, led by staff, continues to work directly with ISPs and various levels of government, to help the Township reach the overall goal of looking for opportunities to provide better broadband connections for Oro-Medonte residents and businesses. Continuous outreach and communication is necessary to keep the municipality top of mind and a high priority in the minds of ISPs when considering their future plans and opportunities.

The Township advocates and supports all ISPs to pursue available funding opportunities. The Federal & Provincial Governments launched new funding opportunities in 2020 where municipalities could be eligible applicants. However, a requirement for the funding was that the applicant must have the experience necessary to execute the project including the ability to design, build and run broadband infrastructure. As the Township did not meet this technical expertise requirement, rather than submit our own application, the Township supported applications submitted by ISP's through support letters and providing information about current servicing including quality of service and gaps in services available.

Capacity Development:

Township Council and staff receive regular communications from residents and businesses in the Township with regards to their internet connectivity. Staff frequently act as a liaison between the community member and the ISP, to encourage the ISP to work directly with the customer to resolve issues. Networking and building relationships is key with the ISP's and levels of government including the local surrounding

townships, to the upper tier municipal government to working directly with our local MP's and MPP's.

Research/Data Collection/Ground Truthing:

When the Federal & Provincial Governments identified new funding opportunities in 2020 the Township and the newly formed ICTF agreed that it was critical to accurately quantify and demonstrate the municipality's needs (gaps, current coverage, speeds, providers, concerns etc.). Mapping available federally that was being used to identify communities of need for funding purposes did not include the Township of Oro-Medonte. However, at the same time internet concerns were received regularly by the municipality from residents and the business community. The Township needed to demonstrate with quantifiable data that in fact that Township residents and businesses were not being served. Initially, staff relied on available tools such as the National Broadband Internet Service Availability Map - [ISED Maps](#), as well as ICTF and staff knowledge. An outreach to the community was initiated immediately. Utilizing survey tools to enable consistent data comparisons, staff launched a digital survey using Survey Monkey and an [internet performance test](#) (IPT) with CIRA. These data collection tools were promoted through the Township's communication network, including local media outlets, social channels and the Township's website, residents and businesses were given the opportunity to participate and provide detailed feedback. The initial survey was open from July to November, 2020.

Township staff began working closely with the University of Guelph's Regional & Rural Broadband Program (R2B2). R2B2 supports and works closely as a research partner with Southwestern Integrated Fiber Technology Inc. (SWIFT), a broadband initiative established in 2012 by municipalities represented by the Western Ontario Warden's Caucus (WOWC). The R2B2 program engages with a range of partners to conduct thematic studies and analyzes survey data and internet performance tests (IPT). The preliminary purpose of working with R2B2 was to analyze key findings, and examine areas had the lowest quality of service, and highest need for broadband support.

The R2B2 program provided a [Broadband Data Analysis report](#) of the Township of Oro-Medonte, based on surveys collected in real time. The original analysis was run in November 2020, the final report was posted to the Connect Oro-Medonte webpage. The purpose of this was to highlight the key findings from the surveys and internet performance tests and find the areas of highest need for better Quality of Service (QoS). Additionally, regional service levels can be used in comparison and against other metrics including other regions and communities and identified service level goals as noted above from the CRTC. It also provides a benchmark for QoS for future broadband improvements that can be assessed in comparison to the pre-improvement period. The analysis included recommendations and considerations for the Township clearly identifying the following:

- The vast majority of surveyed premises are below the federal "basic service" 50/10 mbps threshold and identified by the CRTC;
- Oro-Medonte has significant broadband and cellular connectivity challenges;
- The dominant ISPs are not meeting the QoS;

- Connectivity along major highways, regional roads and to settlement areas will be priorities for funding opportunities;
- Oro-Medonte has a strong case for the need for improved connectivity and results presented in the Data Analysis should be taken into consideration in discussion at the County and Regional level as well as with providers.

As a result of the work with University of Guelph's R2B2 Program, the Township's work with the ICTF is being featured in a Policy Paper "Rural Broadband Programs: A Capacity Development Approach in Lower-Tier Municipalities". This paper which is in final stages of completion by Helen Hambly & David Worden, Professors with the University of Guelph R2B2 program, includes the Township's work on capacity development for broadband expansion and the work of the ICTF as a model for rural community engagement and development.

Excerpt from the policy paper: *"When it comes to responding to the immense challenges of Internet service improvement in rural communities in Canada, smaller municipalities face limitations in their administrative capacity to respond to broadband programs and strategize long-term. As this paper explains, the role of collaborative local government and citizen task forces can make all the difference for readiness and strategic decision-making for improved Internet services in the community. We examine two lower tier municipalities that have developed their adaptive capacity to respond to broadband funding programs in order to enable communities to drive innovation that meets local needs"*

The Township continues to collect survey data with a rapid test option in coordination with the R2B2 Program that is linked to the IPT with CIRA. It is important to continue to collect this data, to better understand changes over time, including the QoS available and what improvements have been made and where the gaps continue to exist.

Based on information collected from residents, businesses and the ICTF, we know of areas in the Township that have recently received new connections to various types of internet, including Wireless to the Home (WTTH), LEO Satellite and Fibre. In most cases this has been a positive experience, however, with services such as WTTH there can still be on going or intermittent challenges that causes frustrations with customers and ongoing disconnections.

Outcomes:

In December, 2020, Southwestern Integrated Fibre Technology (SWIFT) [announced](#) \$41.1 Million in broadband upgrades in Simcoe County, including Oro-Medonte. The SWIFT website includes a [map](#) of expansion areas and a list of communities in the Township that will be serviced including: Edgar, Dalston, Craighurst, Horseshoe Valley, Sugar Bush, Coulson, Moonstone, and Hillsdale. This project in Oro-Medonte was awarded to Bell Canada, the projected started in spring 2021, with a goal of completion targeted for June 2022.

Rogers made an [announcement](#) within the same timeframe as SWIFT's announcement regarding a planned network expansion along Horseshoe Valley Road, representing a \$10 million investment. Rogers will expand existing fibre optic to connect 57.5 km of

underserved roads, servicing more than 2,900 homes and businesses. Construction is to begin in spring 2021. In June 2021 [Rogers announced](#) they would be extending their network, through UBF funding, to include the Bass Lake area in the Township of Oro-Medonte, at this time there is limited information available about this project.

Early in 2021 Starlink, a LEO (low and middle earth orbit) satellite company, became available for beta testing by some Oro-Medonte residents. A number of rural residents have reported they have been successful in participating in the Beta testing and look forward to Starlink becoming a commercial service supported by competitive service level agreements.

Next Steps and Recommendations:

Rural communities are challenging and changing the status quo of being unserved or underserved with respect to higher speed Internet access. They are focusing their efforts to build awareness of the digital divide issues in their communities and are engaging locally at the grass roots level in the analysis of broadband QoS. Utilizing a capacity development methodology is useful to frame how communities simultaneously can develop individual, organizational, and networking capacity. This creates the ongoing strategic readiness needed to interact with ISPs and respond to federal/provincial programs. (Hambly, Worden, 2021).

Building on expertise within the community and leveraging opportunity, Capacity development (CD), is a process whereby individuals, groups and organizations enhance their abilities to mobilize and use resources in order to achieve their objectives on a sustainable basis.

As the Township waits to hear results of pending funding applications, and the hopeful success of the local ISP's in accessing the Universal Broadband Fund (UBF) and Improving Connectivity for Ontario (ICON) programs, the ICTF continues to prepare and be ready for the next funding opportunity including the most recently announced [Ontario Connects](#). This new initiative has the same goal as the Township of Oro-Medonte, for everyone to have access to reliable high-speed internet and cellular connections at home, at work, in our communities.

Objective

The Corporation of the Township of Oro-Medonte is seeking a collaborator who is innovative and scalable with solutions to help our Township become a connected rural municipality, ie. one that meets or exceeds the CRTC's minimum Internet speed requirements, and provides reliable high-speed internet connections.

The corporation's vision is to have a set of state-of-the-art, continuously upgraded communications networks that include the capacity for reliable, affordable, high-speed internet access that will fill in the gaps and complete connectivity to meet at minimum provincial standards across the entire geographic area. The objective of this REOI is to enhance high-speed internet connectivity in underserved areas of the Township.

To realize this ambitious vision, the Township requires significant and immediate investment, in the expansion of existing commercially available fibre-optic and wireless assets or the installation of new systems that could involve an array of delivery options. Given the urgency of need and array of funding opportunities, ISP's with dedicated expertise are best positioned to design, build, and service this needed infrastructure. The Township is seeking the most cost effective technology that can be maximized using creative solutions.

Financial and in-kind investments of governments in network developments, which will be owned by private companies, must only be made with assurance of on-going economic and quality-of-life benefits for our residents and businesses. The Township, which has identified major improvements to rural broadband service as one of its top priorities, will review all opportunities that will move us closer to our vision of an optimally connected rural municipality.

The Township understands that a single project is unlikely to achieve the full vision, and that further research will need to be completed to completely understand where the gaps in connectivity extend. We are committed to support and obtain where possible, any resources available, including those able to be sourced from other levels of government. For these resources to be deployed via private companies in the communications sector, contribution recipients must understand and commit to our shared vision.

The solution from this REOI may involve more than one proponent and may require a proponent to make adjustments that are necessary based on the provisions in this REOI. By issuing this REOI we are hoping the Township will position itself to partner with an ISP to apply for future funding opportunities as they become available. Depending on the submissions received via this REOI, staff and the Task Force are to report back to Council with the results and finalize the next steps.

This REOI provides an opportunity for interested ISP's to respond with the requested information so they may be informed about future opportunities related to this project. This REOI is non-binding and hence no commitments are made by any party.

Submission Requirements

Submissions for the REOI should be informative and concise, no more than 15-20 pages and include a response to the following items;

- 1 **Company Overview & Project Team**
Identify the primary firm submitting the REOI, clearly identify any other firm or business involvement (sub-contract etc) and their legal/contractual relationship with primary firm. Outline the legal structure.
- 2 **Qualifications & Experience**

Provide a description for any recent projects that are similar sized to Oro-Medonte Township with other government entities. Outline the project scope, costs, timelines and magnitude. Examples must be in the last 5 years.

3 Project Understanding & Approach

Proponents are to confirm their understanding of the Scope of work and clearly explain their approach to addressing/filling the Township's internet gaps, the expertise that would be involved, the costs, the funding opportunities that would be considered and the expected timelines for each.

4 Municipal Expectations

Submissions need to clearly define the expected role of the municipality. Should that include a financial contribution, this should be detailed both in terms of quantum, timing etc.

Invitation and Purpose

The immediate purpose of this Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI) is to assist the Township in selecting a proponent(s), to officially endorse, and possibly commit contributions toward (subject to future negotiations) internet provision services within Oro-Medonte Township. Subsequent tendering processes may be required to facilitate additional projects.

Immediately following notification of the respondent, selected through this REOI process, that we deem is best suited for collaboration to realize our vision, an agreement will be required to negotiate any provision of internet services.

The final selection will be based on assessment of responses to a series of questions plus any additional and relevant information provided. Whether or not interviews or presentations will be required will be determined at the closure of the REOI process. For the purposes of this REOI, we will not be seeking detailed technical information about network technology and construction.

The Township is bound by the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c.25 to restrict financial or in-kind participation in the for-profit activities of businesses to transactions that acquire a good or service for the municipality at fair market value. We are prohibited to grant any tax concessions or other forms of direct financial assistance to a business or industry. By our own procurement policies, we are also committed to fair and open tender processes to select companies providing the good or service.

This REOI seeks to identify capable and compatible collaborators as well as to explore what goods and/or services and costs could be associated with a contribution transaction permissible for the Township.

Submission Schedule & Instructions

Release of REOI	July 27, 2021
Last day for questions & submission of intent to submit an Expression of Interest	August 11, 2021 3:00 p.m.
Deadline for Final Addenda	August 13, 2021
Deadline for Submission	August 27, 2021 3:00 p.m.
Anticipated date of notice of results	Middle of September 2021 (pending Council Meetings)

The REOI timetable is tentative. It may be changed by the Township at any time, and the Township may choose to waive or extend the Deadline for Questions and/or the Submission Deadline.

The Proponents Information Form (Appendix A) together with all supporting documentation is to be submitted attached in PDF format to an email. If the attachments total size is 10mb or more, please send an email, and include a Dropbox link for attachments. Please ensure that the name of the proponent and name of project is included in the email. The email will be responded to along with a date and time stamp according to the email address submitted to. The submissions should include a completed and signed form (Appendix A) that acknowledges, among other things, that this REOI and any respondent submissions will not create a legal relationship or obligation regarding the procurement of any good or service. In addition, any addenda issued as part of this REOI needs to be acknowledged and proponents are required to submit the Proponent/Addendum Form (Appendix A as part of their final submission.

Intent to submit Expression of Interest notification and questions submissions can be submitted electronically through the below email address and must meet the outlined schedule. Final submission be received by August 27, 2021, 3:00 p.m. EST

jwhitley@oro-medonte.ca

Attention: Jennifer Whitley

Township of Oro-Medonte 148 Line 7 S. Oro-Medonte ON L0L 2E0

Submissions received after 3:00 p.m. (15:00 hours) are late and shall be deemed non-compliant and shall be returned to the Proponent unopened.

All Submissions shall be irrevocable and shall remain open for acceptance, at the prices quoted, for up to ninety (90) calendar days from the closing date and time. In submitting a response, each Proponent agrees that, notwithstanding anything to the contrary, the Township may notify the successful Proponent at any time within the ninety (90) calendar days that its Submission has been accepted.

All inquiries concerning this REOI, including specifications, process and results are to be directed in writing (e-mail) through: Jennifer Whitley jwhitley@oro-medonte.ca

Appendix A: Proponents Information Form

Proponents must complete this form and include with their Submission.
Please ensure all information is legible.

1.	Company Name	
2.	Proponent's Main Contact Individual	
3.	Address (include postal address)	
4.	Office Phone #	
5.	Toll Free #	
6.	Cellular #	
7.	E-mail address	
8.	Website	
9.	HST Account #	
12.	Will you accept payment by Visa?	YES: <input type="checkbox"/> NO: <input type="checkbox"/>

Terms of Reference

In responding to this REOI, the respondent acknowledges its acceptance of the following REOI Terms of Reference:

1. Request for Expression of Interest Not a Formal Competitive Bidding Process

This REOI is issued for information-gathering purposes and is not intended to be a formal legally binding "Contract A" bidding process. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, this REOI will not necessarily result in any subsequent negotiations, direct contract award, invitational tendering process or open tendering process, and does not constitute a commitment by the Township to procure any goods or services.

2. REOI Not to Limit the Township's Pre-existing Rights

This REOI will not limit any of the Township's pre-existing rights. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the Township expressly reserves the right, at its discretion, to:

- i seek subsequent information or initiate discussions with any potential supplier, including potential suppliers that did not respond to this REOI;
- ii initiate direct negotiations for the procurement of any good or service with any potential supplier or suppliers, regardless of whether the potential supplier or suppliers responded to this REOI;
- iii contact a limited number of potential suppliers, which may include only those that responded to this REOI or may include potential suppliers that did not respond to this REOI, for the purpose of a competitive process for the procurement of any good or service;
- iv elect to proceed by way of open tender call where all potential respondents, including those that did not respond to this REOI, are eligible to compete for the award of a contract for the supply of any good or service; and
- v elect not to procure the good or service that is the subject of this REOI.

These expressly reserved rights are in addition to any and all other rights of the Township that existed prior to the issuance of this REOI.

3. Pricing Information for General Information Purposes Only

Any pricing information provided by respondents is for general information purposes and is not intended to be binding on respondents. Any legally binding pricing or purchasing commitments will be established only where specified by the express terms of a subsequent tender call process or where established through the execution of a written agreement.

4. Information in REOI Only an Estimate

The Township and its advisers make no representation, warranty or guarantee as to the accuracy of the information contained in the REOI or issued by way of addenda. Any quantities shown or data contained in this REOI, or provided by way of addenda, are estimates provided only as general background information.

5. Parties to Bear Their Own Costs

The Township will not be liable for any expenses incurred by a respondent, including the expenses associated with the cost of preparing responses to this REOI. The parties will bear their own costs associated with or incurred through this REOI process, including any costs arising out of, or incurred in, (i) the preparation and issuance of this

REOI; (ii) the preparation and making of a submission; or (iii) any other activities related to this REOI process.

6. Accuracy of Responses

The respondent acknowledges that the information provided is, to the best of its knowledge, complete and accurate.

7. Submissions Will Not Be Returned

Except where set out to the contrary in this REOI or expressly requested in the respondent's submission, the submission and any accompanying documentation provided by a respondent will not be returned.

8. Confidential Information of the Owner

All information provided by or obtained from the Township in any form in connection with this REOI either before or after the issuance of this REOI (i) is the sole property of the Township and must be treated as confidential; (ii) is not to be used for any purpose other than replying to this REOI; (iii) must not be disclosed without prior written authorization from the Township; and (iv) must be returned by the respondent to the Township immediately upon the request of the Township.

The respondent may not at any time directly or indirectly communicate with the media in relation to this REOI without first obtaining the written permission of the Township.

9. Disclosure of Information

The respondent consents to the Townships's collection of information as contemplated under the REOI for the uses contemplated under the REOI. Respondents should not include information in their response that is proprietary or confidential. Information provided by a respondent may be released in accordance with governing laws. To the extent that a respondent does include confidential or proprietary information, the respondent should identify any information in its submission or any accompanying documentation supplied in confidence for which confidentiality is to be maintained by the Township. The confidentiality of such information will be maintained by the Township, except where an order by a tribunal or court requires the Township to do otherwise. The respondent consents to the disclosure, on a confidential basis, of this submission by the Township to advisers retained by the Township for the purpose of reviewing this submission.

The respondent acknowledges that the Township may make public the name of any and all respondents.

The submission may contain personal information collected under the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and will be used for the purpose of gathering information from potential interested Internet Service Providers. Any

questions about this collection should be directed to the Records Management Clerk, Township of Oro-Medonte, 148 Line 7 South, Oro-Medonte, ON L0L 2E0 or by calling 705-487-2171 ext 2140.

10. Governing Law

This REOI process will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the province of Ontario and the federal laws of Canada applicable therein.

Signature of Respondent
Representative

Name of Respondent Representative

Title of Respondent Representative

Appendix B: Funding Sources

Broadband Programs in Canada and Ontario (2019-2021) Relevant to Municipalities

Government	Agency/ Program	Funding (\$CAD)	Detail
Federal	Innovation, Science & Economic Development (ISED) – <i>Universal Broadband Fund + top up on Connect to Innovate (C2I)</i>	\$1.75 billion (total over six years) of which \$500 million was previously committed in C2I; in ON this includes SWIFT and EORN	UBF closed March 15, 2021. UBF will announce all projects by August 2021. All projects to be completed by March 31, 2027. Allocations earmarked as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$750 million for large impact projects (incl. \$600 million for Next Generation Access/ low Earth orbit (LEO) capacity \$50 million for mobile/cellular projects primarily benefit Indigenous communities \$150 million for the “Rapid Response Stream” due Jan. 15, 2021 and to be completed by Nov. 15, 2021 UBF included a new communications strategy with a helpdesk (1-800-328-6189) and monthly “e-blast” updates UBF included two new StatsCan surveys to measure broadband usage
Federal ⁱ	Canada Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) - <i>Broadband Fund</i>	\$750 million total	Projects announced annually. Second call for applications announced on March 19, 2021 issued \$57.7 million for 1,400 km of transport network in BC, Que, & ON. Allocated in SW ON: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$279,428 allocated to Cogeco service in Jerseyville, ON (Hamilton) Telecom Decision CRTC 2021-108 \$569,518 in Florence, ON (Lambton County) Telecom Decision CRTC 2021-109
Provincial ⁱⁱ	Ministry of Infrastructure – <i>Improving Connectivity for Ontario (ICON)</i>	\$4 billion over six years beginning 2019-20	ICON launched July 2020 with Intake 1 (August 2020) and Intake 2 (January 8 2021) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> June 2020: \$1 billion investment; this allocation includes 2019 commitments for existing investments in SWIFT Phase 1 and EORN Nov. 2020: additional \$690 million including another \$250 for ICON Additional allocation in the 2021 Budget: \$2.8 billion
Provincial	Ministry of Infrastructure – Ontario Connects	\$4 billion until end of 2025	Ontario Connects was announced July 2021
Federal/Provincial	CENGN – Centre of Excellence in Next Generation Networked Services	As of Apr. 2021, four rural residential projects underway in SW ON	CENGN has a rural residential broadband program, a northern community program, smart agriculture program, etc.
Federal/Provincial	ENCQOR – Evolution of Networked Services	\$400 million partnership with Ericsson, Ciena Canada, Thales Canada, IBM Canada and CGI	Pre-commercial technology access and 5G low latency, high-bandwidth innovation testbed for small- and medium-sized enterprises in ON and Que.

Sources: ISED (2020; 2021), Government of Ontario (2020); CENGN (2021); ENQOR (2021).

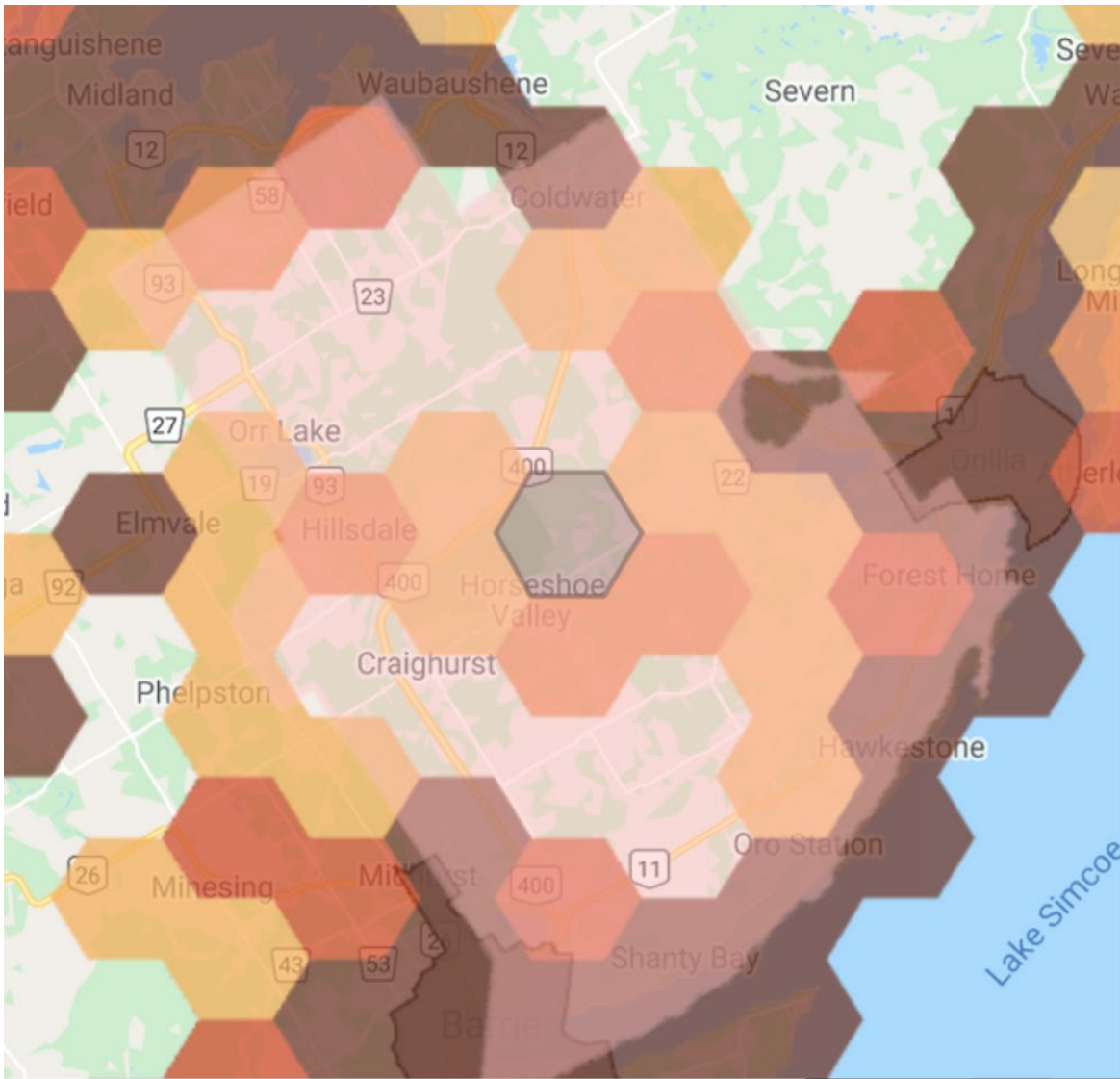
Notes: EORN (2021a; 2021b) Phase 1 2010-2015 was \$175 million, in April 2021 EORN's Cell Project with Rogers partnership (\$300 million of which provincial and federal funding provided \$71 million each and \$10 million from municipalities). EORN also has a Municipal Fibre Project and proposes a Phase 2 Gig Project. SWIFT Phase 1 is \$209m under the Small Communities Fund (2016) with 84 projects underway or completed. SWIFT Phase 2 Gig Project is proposed.

Key Metrics of Internet Quality of Service: Oro-Medonte Township (2020-2021)

Metric	Measure	Source
Median download Internet speeds	5.2-5.93 Mbps	Survey123/SWIFT/CIRA (n=1494)
Median upload Internet speeds	0.96-1 Mbps	Survey123/SWIFT/CIRA (n=1494)
Mean latency	29.24 ms	Survey123/SWIFT/CIRA (n=1494)
Primary Internet connection types	fixed wireless (20.4%) DSL (18.4%) satellite (18.2%) cable modem (14.9%) mobile wireless (12%) fibre (3.4%) dial up (1.2%) don't know/unspecified (11.5%)	Survey Monkey (n=848)
Internet service providers	Bell (41%) Xplornet (21%) Rogers 16% others (n=38; 22%)	CIRA (n=1494)
Average monthly cost of service per subscription plan	\$98.67-101.93/month	Survey123/SWIFT/CIRA (n=827)
Number of respondents with data caps	75%	SWIFT (n=117)
Number of respondents indicating data overages	59%	SWIFT (n=80)





Note: Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Appendix C: Current Levels of Connectivity in Oro-Medonte

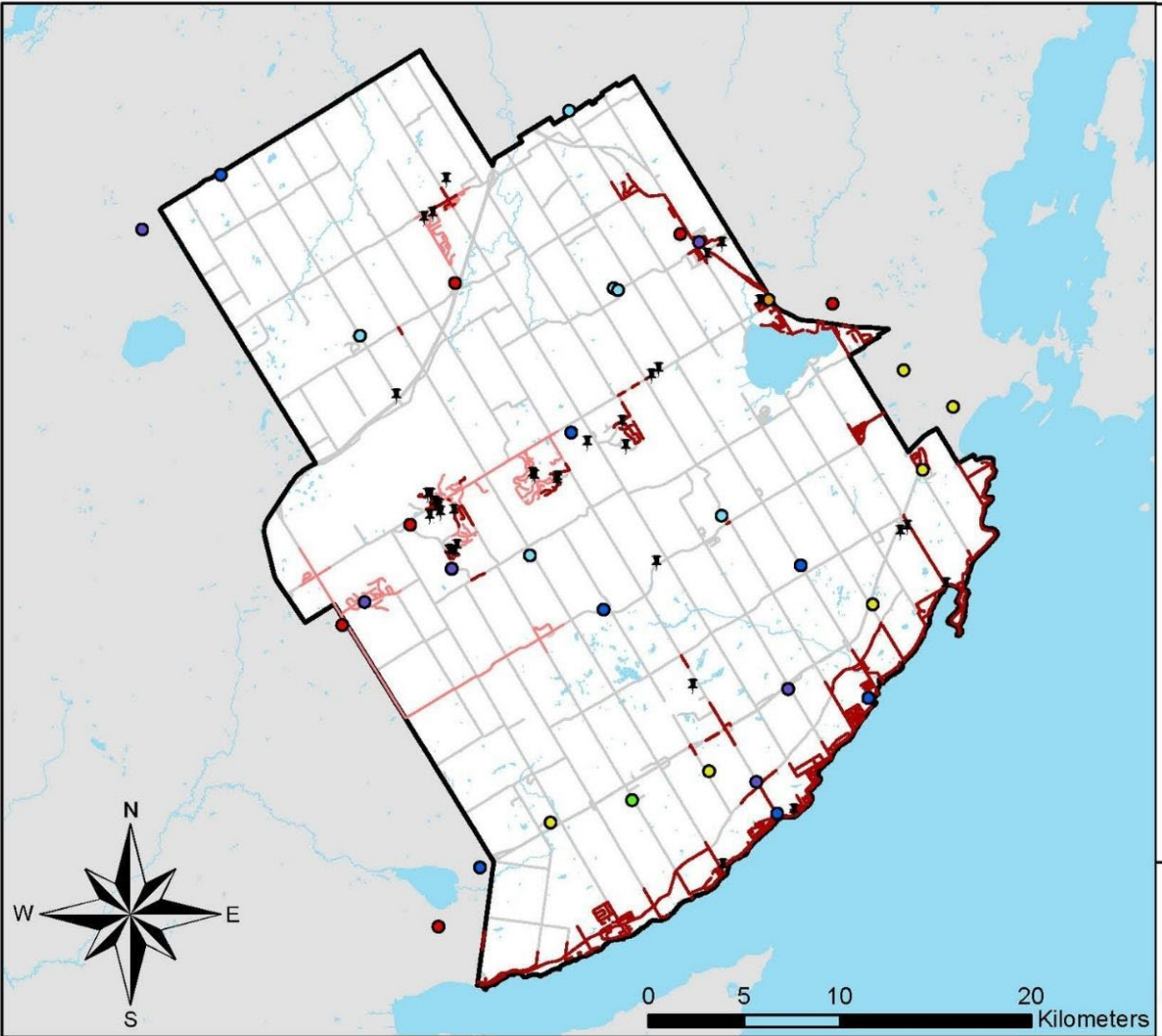


Current Levels of Connectivity Across Oro-Medonte

Current 50/10 Mbps

-  >75% to 100%
-  >50% to 75%
-  >25% to 50%
-  >0% to 25%

Appendix D: Existing Towers and Infrastructure in Oro-Medonte



Map of Highspeed Internet Access in Oro-Medonte

Disclaimer: Areas identified to be connected with high-speed internet are done so through projects led by independent Internet Service Providers, external to the Township of Oro-Medonte. To determine how these projects may affect your high-speed internet access, please contact the respective Internet Service Providers.

Appendix E: Oro-Medonte Basic Service Objective, 2019-2020

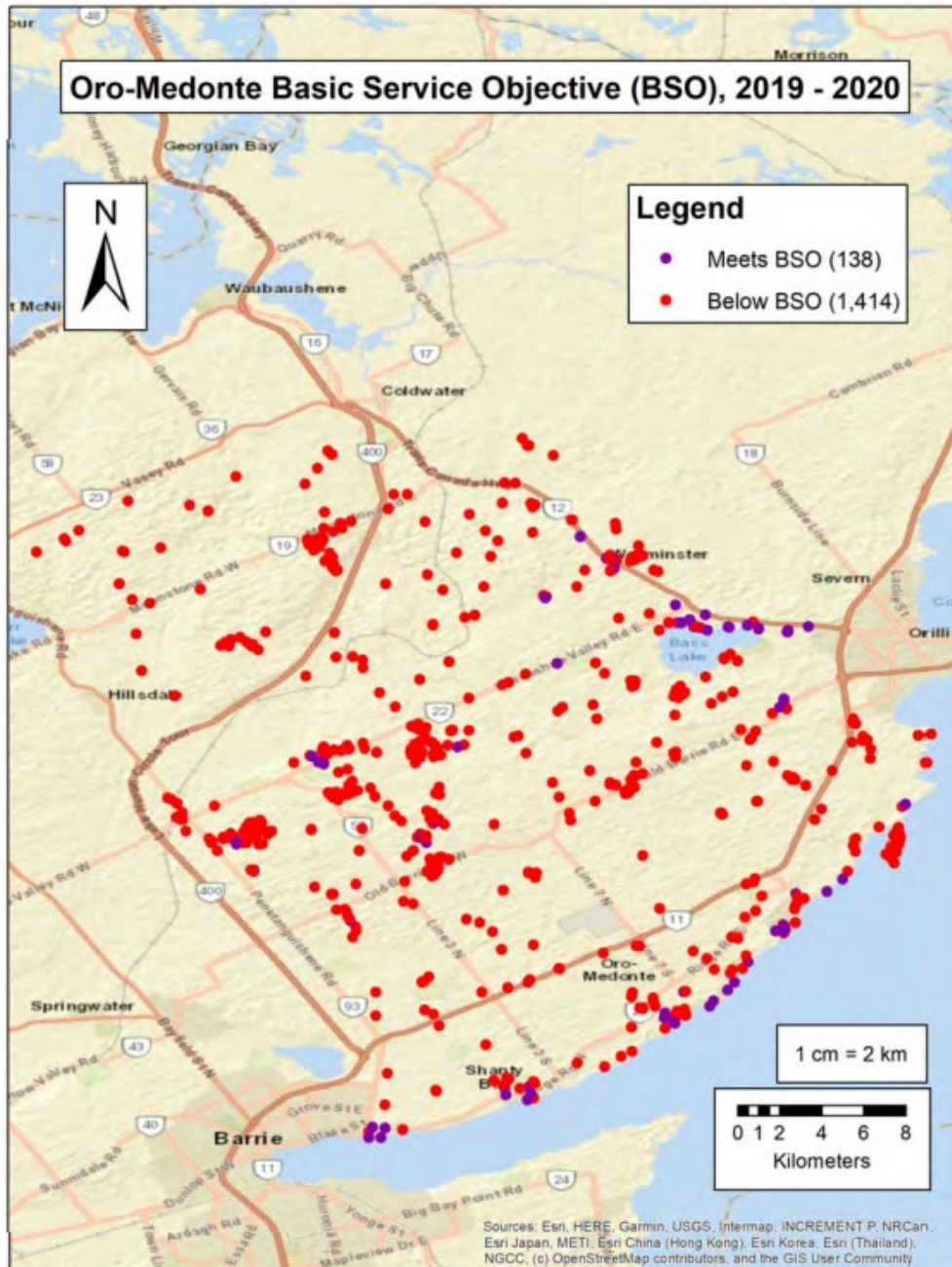


Figure #1: Oro-Medonte Basic Service Objectives (BSO), 2019-2020

The majority of areas throughout Oro-Medonte are below the 50/10 Mbps BSO set by the federal government. This qualifies these under-served areas for funding from the Universal Broadband Fund (UBF) and ICON for improved broadband and cellular connectivity (R2B2, 2020).

Quality of Service (n=1,454)	Median value
Download speed (Mbps)	5.93
Upload speed (Mbps)	0.96
Latency (ms)	29.24

Figure #2: Quality of Service (Download/Upload/Latency)

The download and upload speeds experienced by residents and local businesses are significantly lower than the 50/10 Mbps set by the federal government as the Basic Service Objectives. See Figures 3 and 4 to view the geographical dispersion of the experienced upload and download speeds. Findings made available from Canadian Internet Registration Authority (CIRA) and SWIFT Survey data.

Appendix F: Oro-Medonte Upload Speed (Mbps)

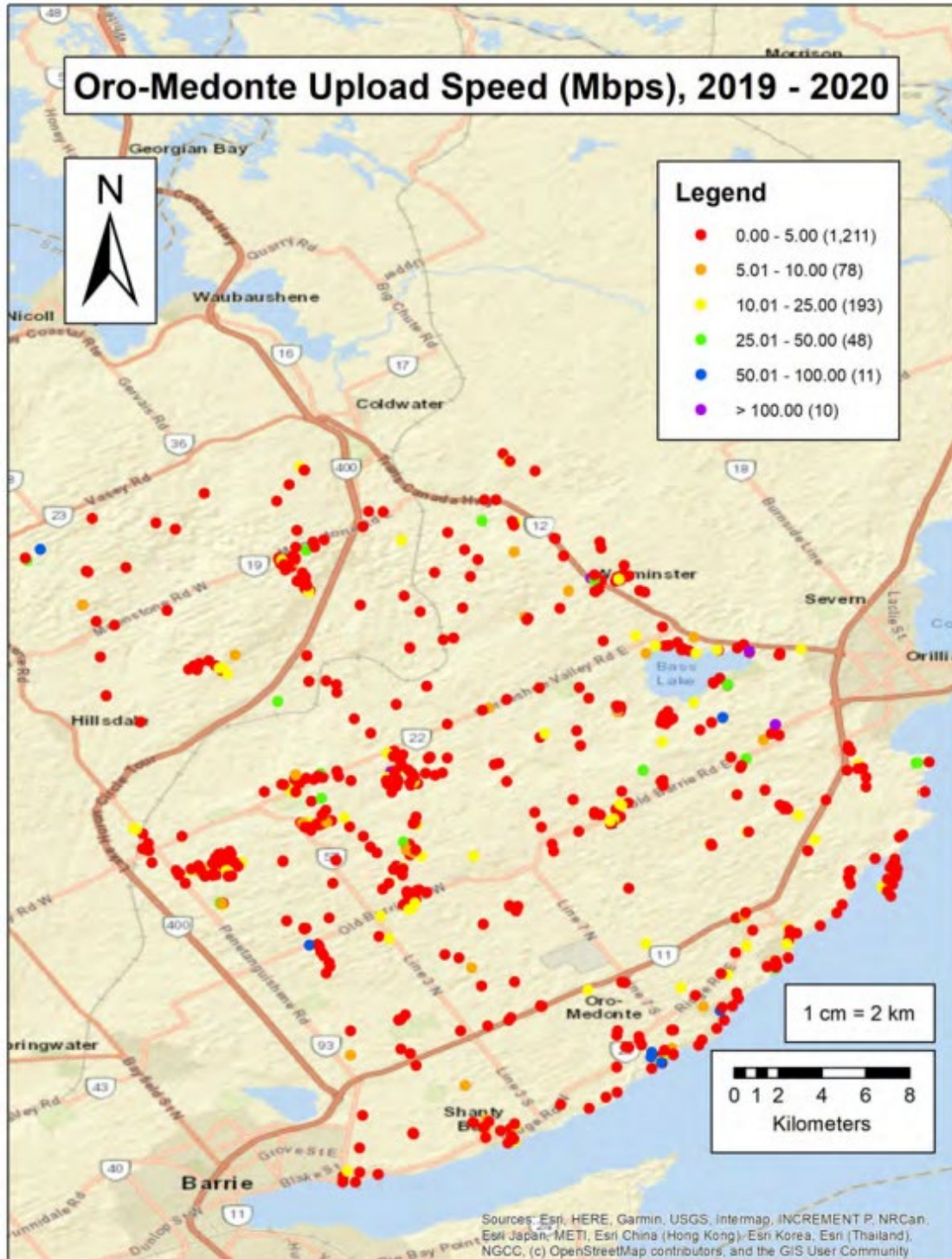


Figure #3: Oro-Medonte Upload Speed (Mbps) 2019-2020

Appendix G: Oro-Medonte Download Speed (Mbps)

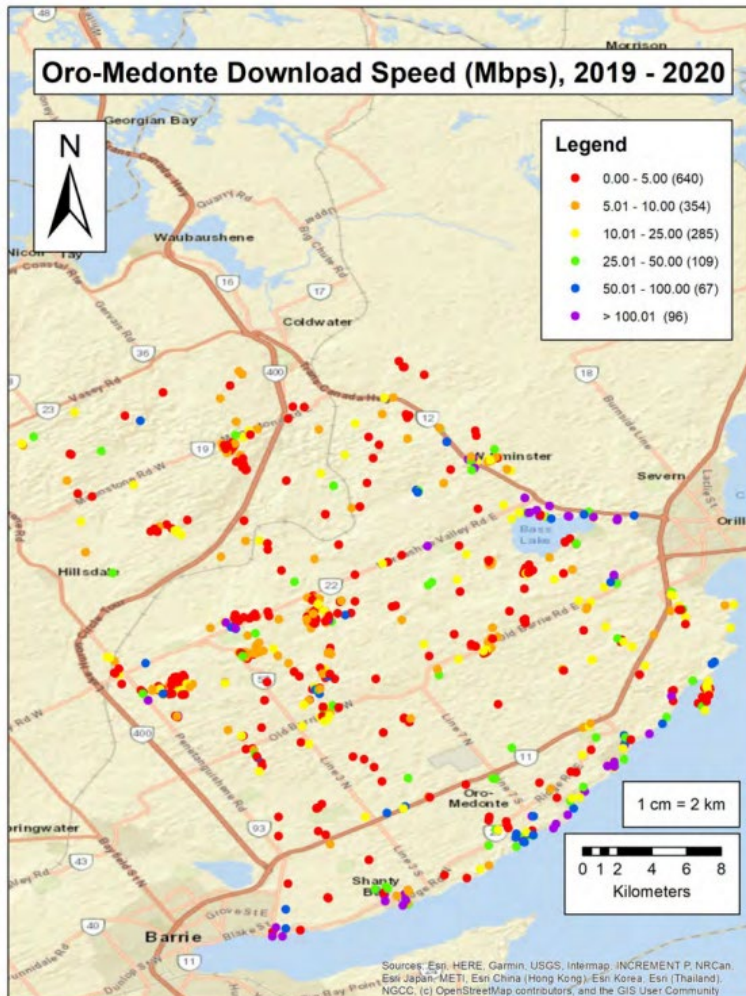


Figure #4: Oro-Medonte Download Speed (Mbps) 2019-2020

i Additional elements of Canada's High-Speed Access for All: Canada's Connectivity Strategy (ISED, 2019) relevant to rural broadband are the \$2 billion rural and northern stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program, Canadian Infrastructure Bank (\$1 billion over 10 years) and Accelerate Investment Incentive to ISPs. subsidized Internet devices and subscriptions under the Connecting Families program (ISED, n.d.).

ii In the Province's strategy other relevant investments are in the modernization of the Ontario Energy Board that integrate broadband and cellular access; review of provincial assets including utility poles, towers, buildings etc. to optimize connectivity and encourage private sector investment. Other related programs include the Ontario Community Infrastructure Program (OCIF), Broadband Modernization Program and Learn at Home COVID-19 child benefit, educational infrastructure, subsidized devices or Internet access available through school boards.