



Digital Futures Symposium 2016

March 9 – 10, 2016, Medicine Hat Lodge, 1051 Ross Glen Drive S.E., Medicine Hat, Alberta

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About the Symposium

The Van Horne Institute is pleased to announce that its next Digital Futures symposium will be held March 9 and 10, 2016 in Medicine Hat, Alberta. Launched in the fall of 2013, Digital Future meetings and symposia have become must-attend events in Canada for rural municipal leaders and decision makers responsible for broadband enablement in their communities.

This event will be held in conjunction with the Local to Global Forum that is hosted by the Eastern Alberta Trade Corridor, which will be held on March 10 & 11, 2016.

You are invited to register to attend both the Symposium and the Forum or to attend the two events separately.

Pre-Symposium Agenda

Tuesday, March 8

Pre-symposium Mixer

6:00 pm – 9:00 Medicine Hat College with the Palliser Economic Partnership will be hosting a Pre-event Networking Session at the Medicine Hat College Library from 6 – 9 on March 8. Hors d'oeuvres and cash bar will provided. Arrangements are being made to provide a shuttle between the Lodge and the College.

Digital Futures Symposium 2016 Agenda

Wednesday, March 9

8:30 am– 9:10 Welcome, opening remarks and Introductions

- 9:10 – 10:20 Bringing everyone up to speed: broadband basics and backgrounders and policy updates
- Dr. Michael McNally and Dr. Rob McMahon from the University of Alberta will provide broadband basics and backgrounders. As well as, policy updates on the CRTC's Basic Service Objective, wireless policy, and other topics.
- 10:20 – 10:50 Break
- 10:50 – 12:10 Five Broadband Business Models – Which is Best for Your Community?
- This session will be led by Bob Dyrda from Alberta SouthWest, which will provide an overview of Five Community Broadband Strategic Business Models concepts and provide details for attendees
- 12:10 – 1:20 Lunch
- 1:20 – 2:30 Group Discussions on Five Community Broadband Strategic Business Models
- Participants will be divided into small groups to more thoroughly investigate the Five Community Broadband Strategic Business Models. Facilitated discussion will include the positive and negative aspects of each model, including perceived challenges and benefits. These discussions will inform a research project on community broadband.
- 2:30 – 3:00 Break
- 3:30 – 4:30 Roundtable Discussion on the Digital Communities – portal and research project

Thursday, March 10

- 9:00 am – 9:15 Opening remarks
- 9:15 – 9:45 The importance of broadband and wireless for communities – Community Updates
- Rural broadband is changing quickly, especially in Alberta. This period of time will allow attendees to provide updates on initiatives occurring in their communities.
- 9:45 – 10:15 Broadband Communities Canada – what is possible?
- 10:15 – 10:30 Break
- 10:30 – 11:00 Building the Business Case for a Connected City
- This session will be led by David Basto and Monique Nessel from the City of Calgary. The 21st Century City is a highly connected City that will rely on a backbone of well planned and sustainable communications infrastructure, in advance of any technology. This connectivity is the foundation to Intelligent Traffic Systems, Machine to Machine Communication, Remote Sensing and everything that makes up a "Smart City". Yet there are many issues that create barriers to the deployment of this infrastructure.
- For Municipalities, building the business case for establishing this foundational infrastructure is challenging and complex. This presentation will reveal how The City of Calgary presented its case for sustainable communications infrastructure resulting in unanimous Council approval and why it's NOT about Broadband.
- 11:00 – 12:00 Next steps and Symposium closing remarks