Digital Futures: Alberta 2017

March 16 – 17, 2017, Cochrane RancheHouse, Cochrane, Alberta

About the Symposium

2017 promises to be a busy year in broadband across Alberta. Provincially work continues on a diverse range of local and regional broadband projects, the new SuperNet 2.0 framework continues to take shape, and a new broadband toolkit for Albertans has been developed. At the same time Innovation, Science and Economic Development (ISED) will roll out its new $500 million "Connect to Innovate" program, while the CRTC has recently declared broadband a basic telecommunication service and will develop a new fund worth $750 million over five years.

How best to stay abreast of these developments – join the conversation at Van Horne Institute's Digital Futures 2017 symposium this March in Cochrane, Alberta. Building on the momentum from both previous Digital Futures events and the wide range of broadband projects across the province, Digital Futures offers a forum that brings together community leaders, government officials, industry, academics and broadband champions to discuss important issues related to community, regional, rural and remote broadband.

This two day event, March 16 and 17, will cover all the bases and is an ideal venue for both those with experience in the broadband community of practice, and those new to the topic hoping to gain more knowledge and further discussions in their own community. The event will include presentations from both provincial and federal officials, panels providing municipal, regional and industry perspectives and sessions designed for those just orienting themselves to the topic or those interested in discussing emerging issues.   The symposium will be held in the beautiful town of Cochrane at the Cochrane RancheHouse. We look forward to seeing you in mid-March.

Hosted with the partnership of the Calgary Regional Partnership, the University of Alberta – School of Library and Information Studies, and the University of Alberta – Master of Arts in Communications and Technology (MACT) Program.

Register

http://www.vanhorneinstitute.com/event/digital-futures-alberta-2017/

Pre-Symposium Agenda

Wednesday, March 15

6:00 pm – 9:00
TBA

Digital Futures: Alberta 2017 Symposium Agenda

Thursday, March 16, 2017

8:45   Welcome and Introductions

9:00   Why are we here? Who are we?

9:45   Break

10:00   Broadband 101 / CRTC Basic Services Decision

The first break out session of the symposium offers a choice of two sessions. For those new to the topic of broadband, Broadband 101 will provide an orientation to the topic including highlights from *Understanding Community Broadband: The Alberta Broadband Toolkit*.

Alternatively, find out more about the CRTC's Basic Services Decision from late December 2016 including what the decision entails and what is known about the new $750 million broadband fund.

11:45   Lunch

1:15   SuperNet - Michael Stephen Bull

Digital Futures is pleased to have Service Alberta's Assistant Deputy Minister for the SuperNet Secretariat, Michael Stephen Bull, present and answer questions on SuperNet. This presentation will offer insights on developments regarding this important piece of broadband infrastructure in Alberta.

2:45   Break

3:00   What are Regions doing?

Bob Miller, Calgary Regional Partnership
Walter Valentini, Palliser Economic Partnership
Bob Bezpalko, Northeast Alberta Information HUB
Barb Sculley, Parkland County

North, south, east and west – all across Alberta a variety of regional broadband approaches and projects are underway. This panel will provide insights on how different regions are approaching broadband, and will underscore the importance of regional thinking and collaboration in broadband planning and development.

4:30   Wrap up

5:00   Reception

Friday, March 17, 2017

8:30   Welcome

8:45   Connect to Innovate

David Migadel, Executive Director, Strategic Policy Sector – Prairie and Northern Region, Innovation, Science and Economic Development's (ISED) will lead off the second day with a focus on ISED's new "Connect to Innovate." Find out more about this program and the efforts of the federal government to improve connectivity in Canada.

9:45   Break

10:00   Broadband 102 / CIRA Presentation

The second breakout session offers attendees a choice of two sessions. Broadband 102 will pick up the discussion from Broadband 101 informing attendees about what they need to know and how they can contribute to local broadband solutions.

Alternative, Richard Schreier from the Canadian Internet Registration Authority (CIRA) will present a number of building blocks essential to establishing a strong smart city internet infrastructure. He will also demonstrate the Canadian Internet Performance Test, a tool available to communities across Canada to analyze and better understand broadband availability for their citizens.

11:00   Internet Service Provider Panel

> AXIA
> TELUS
> CCI Wireless
> DataHive

The second panel discussion will give industry representatives a chance to provide their perspective on broadband in Alberta. Hear about the opportunities and challenges facing service providers in working with communities and improving connectivity across the province.

12:30   Lunch

1:15   Municipalities

> Kevin Miller, Nanton
> Lloyd Kearl, Cardston
> Taber
> Cochrane
> TBA

The final panel brings the discussion right down to the municipal level for the final mile discussion. Find out how municipalities are developing their own local broadband solutions from this panel of local diverse perspectives from across the province.

2:45   Wrap-up

3:00   Safe Travels! Happy St. Patrick's Day!