

DIGITAL FUTURES (DF)

VAN HORNE
INSTITUTE

Digital Futures: Alberta 2018

April 25 – 27, 2018

Heritage Inn, 919 Waterton Ave, Pincher Creek, Alberta T0K 1W0

Sponsored by:



About the Symposium

Over the last ten years the community broadband environment in Alberta has seen great disruption and innovation. Alberta has established itself as a provincial leader with diverse, bottom up driven solutions to local and regional connectivity problem. One contributing factor has been Digital Future symposia, and with the arrival of spring it is time for our 8th Digital Futures Symposium to discuss progress to date and see what disruptions and innovations lie ahead in the future of community broadband in Alberta.

Digital Futures Spring 2018 will be hosted in idyllic Pincher Creek. The day and half symposium will be hosted at the Heritage Inn, and include opportunities for trips to see both the Waterton Community Broadband Network and the TransAlta Operations Centre. Join us in late April 2018 in Pincher Creek to discuss the future of community broadband in Alberta.

Hosted with the partnership of [Alberta SouthWest](#), [SouthGrow](#) [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 and Contact

<http://www.vanhorneinstitute.com/event/digital-futures-alberta-2018/>

For more information, please call Bryndis Whitson at 587-430-0292 or email at bwhitson@vanhorneinstitute.com.

Pre-Symposium Agenda

Wednesday, April 25, 2018

Pre-symposium Mixer

6:00 pm – 9:00 Pre-event Networking Session at the Heritage Inn from 6 – 9 on April 25. Hors d'oeuvres and cash bar will provided.

Symposium Agenda

Thursday, April 26, 2018

8:30 am Registration and Breakfast

9:00 – 9:30 Welcome, Opening Remarks and Introductions

9:30 – 10:00 Policy Updates and Backgrounders

Dr. Michael McNally and Dr. Rob McMahon from the University of Alberta will provide policy updates on Budget 2018, Connect to Innovate, CRTC's Broadband Funding Mechanism, House of Commons Industry Committee on Study on Rural Broadband, 2018 – 2022 Spectrum Outlook and other topics.

10:00 – 10:30 Networking Break

10:30 – 11:30 Broadband in Southern Alberta

Barney Reeves and Bob Dyrda, Alberta SouthWest Regional Alliance (AlbertaSW) and Peter Casurella, Manager, SouthGrow Regional Initiative will showcase new and exciting initiatives happening in Southern Alberta.

11:30 – 12:30 Why is Canada Falling Behind?

This panel will discuss the state of Canada's broadband performance – is Canada falling behind, and if so, then how much ground needs to be made up. Who is to blame? More importantly what needs to be done to remedy the situation?

Panelists include James van Leeuwen, Michael McNally, University of Alberta and Alyssa Moore, Cybera.

12:30 – 1:30 Lunch

1:30 – 2:30 The Future of Connected Agriculture.

Broadband holds great potential for a new digitally green revolution on the farm. This presentation will discuss the various needs and applications for broadband in agriculture, highlighting that in the 21st century connectivity is an essential piece of agriculture.

2:30 – 2:45 Load Buses to Optional Tour of the Waterton Community Broadband Network

2:45 – 6:30 Waterton Community Broadband Network

Barney Reeves and Kris Jensen from the Waterton Community Broadband Network will showcase the Innovations of the Waterton Community Broadband Network. Robin Harder from O-Net will also be hosting the Waterton Community Broadband Network tour.

6:30 Wrap-up Day one

Friday, April 27, 2018

8:30 am Breakfast

9:00 am – 9:05 Opening remarks

9:05 – 10:00 Demystifying 5G

Increasingly 5G is being portrayed as a key component of connectivity for 2020 and beyond. However, what are the prospects for 5G in rural Alberta. Craig Dobson, of Taylor Warwick, will examine the issue and clarify if for rural Alberta 5G is ripe or hype.

10:00 – 10:20 Break

10:20 – 11:20 Youth Connecting and Creating for Digital Futures

Youth and Teachers from Pincher Creek and Piikani First Nation talk about digital projects in the area. Students from the Piikani Nation will discuss the digital literacy camp and the use of technology to record and preserve precious cultural traditions.

11:20 – 12:20 Next Steps for Enabling Connectivity Access in Rural and Remote Alberta

MLA Karen McPherson will be leading a discussion about next steps for enabling 5G access in rural and remote Alberta. The need for increased infrastructure related to wireless internet requires regulation and legislation be modernized to allow stakeholders more flexibility. MLA McPherson is planning is drafting a bill to address the issue, and feedback from the discussion will be considered in the drafting of legislation. Join MLA McPherson to share your concerns and ideas for the future of rural and remote 5G access.

12:20 – 12:35 Wrap-up and Next Steps

12:40 – 2:30 Optional Tour of TransAlta Operations Centre

2:30 Safe Drive Home!

Hotel Information

Heritage Inn, 919 Waterton Ave, Pincher Creek, Alberta T0K 1W0; Call the hotel (403) 627-5000 and reserve the rate of \$92 + tax. Group confirmation number is: 129726. Booking is under Van Horne Institute. <http://heritageinn.net/locations/pincher-creek-ab/home>