



## Motion

Subject: Establishment of a Broadband Connectivity Support Fund for Unconnected Residents

Member of Council: Councillor D. Maskell

Meeting Motion Considered At: September 16, 2025 Planning and Development Committee Meeting

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### PROCEDURAL PROCESS:

In accordance with Section 8.10.1 of the Procedure By-law, as amended, the Clerk shall place deemed completed notices of motions on the specified relevant meeting agenda as a motion for Council or Committee consideration.

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### MOTION:

Whereas access to reliable high-speed internet is essential for education, employment, health care, civic engagement, and economic development; and

Whereas the Town has made significant investments and progress in expanding broadband infrastructure in underserved and rural areas, including the creation of the Broadband Levy; and

Whereas the completed Southwestern Integrated Fibre Technology (SWIFT) 1.0 projects in Caledon placed fibre-optic cable within reach of 1146 Caledon premises,

Whereas despite these efforts, some residents remain unconnected due to financial barriers or incomplete last-mile infrastructure, preventing them from benefiting from available broadband services; and

Whereas municipalities across Canada are taking action to bridge the digital divide by supporting connectivity for vulnerable and underserved populations;

Now therefore be it resolved that staff develop and bring forward a report outlining the creation of a Broadband Connectivity Support Fund, designed to assist eligible residents in obtaining access to high-speed internet;

- That the Fund be used to support final connection ("last mile") costs from the roadway or node to the home; and
- That staff include in the report:
  - Proposed eligibility criteria (e.g., income thresholds, geographic priority areas);
  - Estimated funding requirements and potential sources of funding (e.g., municipal reserve funds, provincial/federal grants, partnerships);
  - Options for program delivery and application process; and

That staff be further directed to consult with relevant stakeholders, including internet service providers, social service agencies, and community organizations, to inform the program's design and implementation; and

That the staff report be presented to Council no later than November 2026, for consideration and approval.