

ConnectIN: Testing the gaps in First Nations' Internet connectivity

Getting adequate Internet access continues to be an issue for First Nation communities across Canada. But the extent of this problem is still not fully known.

ConnectIN is evaluating the Internet connectivity of First Nation communities in British Columbia, Alberta, and Manitoba. Led by three First Nations regional technology organizations, its goal is to better assess gaps in telecommunications infrastructure and services. The results will inform policy that aims to address this challenge.

HOW WILL ConnectIN TEST INTERNET SPEEDS?

Small computing devices will be installed in participating public buildings to measure their Internet speeds. (Because this project will focus on public organizations, the connectivity results may vary from what internet service providers make available to residential homes.)

WILL THE DEVICES MONITOR HOW WE USE THE INTERNET?

The devices will only be able to collect Internet speed data (see the example data on the back). They will not be able to view any personal information, or what websites are being visited.

WHAT WILL BE THE OUTCOME OF ConnectIN?

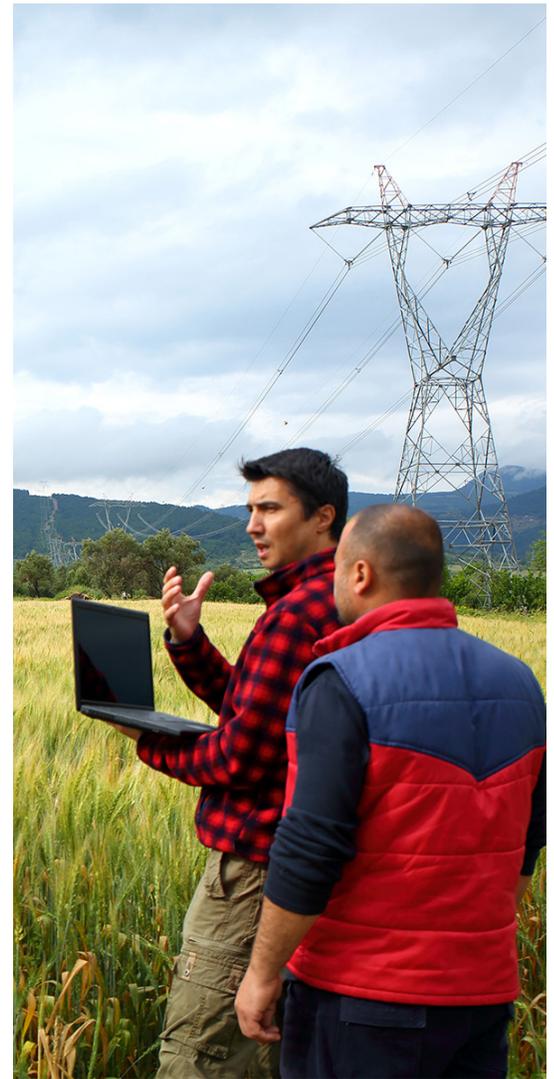
The project will run until February 28, 2019, and the results will be made available in a CIRA report. The methods and guidelines developed will also be shared with other communities wishing to deploy their own inexpensive Internet measurement platforms.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THESE TESTS?

Several government and non-profit initiatives are now looking to improve broadband access in underserved areas, including First Nation communities. But little data exists on the actual Internet gaps in these communities. Without this data, it is difficult to make the case for specific broadband support, such as through the CRTC's upcoming broadband fund.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

We are looking for public/education organizations to host our Internet speed testing devices. If you are willing to participate, please contact fntc@connectin.ca.



ABOUT ConnectIN

ConnectIN is supported by a grant from the Canadian Internet Registration Authority (CIRA) through its Community Investment Program. The project is led by representatives from the Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre, the First Nations Technology Council, and the First Nations Technical Services Advisory Group, with support from Cybera (Alberta's not-for-profit technology accelerator), and the University of Alberta.



Data that will be collected by ConnectIN

The following lists the exact data (and examples of datasets) that will be collected.

GPS:

The location being recorded.

Example:

Latitude	Longitude
51.083710	-114.133390

Latency to services (ping values):

Indicates any delays that happen in communicating data over a network. A fast ping means a more responsive connection.

Example:

Date and Time	Ping Value
1534947571.051	37.417000
1534947575.051	159.489000
1534947581.051	38.020000

Speedtest Results (upload and download speeds):

The speeds achieved when sending or receiving data.

Example:

Date and Time	Speed Value
1534907782.575	5.000000
1534907784.575	25.000000
1534947569.046	26.000000

Network utilization (Usage):

The amount of traffic on the network at any given time.

Example:

Date and Time	Packets Received	Packets Sent
1534907782.625	0	3
1534907784.625	0	9
1534947569.047	0	9

