



Dear Resident,

Important Information Regarding Internet Connectivity in Yellowhead County

This letter provides important updates on a project that will extend high speed internet services throughout the underserved areas of Yellowhead County. As a result of recent funding, your community is eligible to receive fibre internet. As work on the project begins, the County asks that you review the following information. If you are interested in receiving fibre to your home, please sign and return the enclosed document.

Project Background

In 2014, the County started work on the municipality's Rural Communications Strategy. It was part of a multi-year plan to develop and build a Yellowhead County Tower Network System to bring fibre internet connectivity to underserved areas in the County. The project will result in a reliable fibre backbone for cell service, broadband internet service, Protective Services communications connectivity, and wildland fire detection. The project is designed to bring high-speed fibre connections to as many households as possible in Yellowhead County.

Project Update

The County has been awarded funding for this project from both the Federal Government and the Province of Alberta. With this funding, there are a number of communities in which fibre optic infrastructure will be built, and other communities where wireless technologies will be used to deliver services.

Landowners in the fibre optic communities have the option to get fibre lines installed directly to their residences. This will be a one-time opportunity with no cost to the property owner for the installation of the fibre connection, provided the landowners provide us with written approval to work on their property before we complete activities in the area. **If we do not receive that approval in time and are requested to return at a later date to install fiber to a home, there will be a cost that the homeowner will need to accept (so please contact us to approve construction on your property as soon as possible).**

Next Steps

To receive internet service, the County and its partners will need access to your property to lay the necessary fibre cable. Without permission to access your property, you will be unable to receive fibre internet service. If you choose not to receive fibre, installation may still occur along the road in front of your property. If you do not want to grant access to your property, you will need to indicate so online or via the enclosed form. Please note that acceptance of construction does not require a commitment to sign up for internet services.

If you are interested in a fibre line on your property and you have utilities that you installed yourself, you will need to inform the County and clearly mark them on your property. The County will not be held liable for any damages to utilities that landowners have installed themselves. All other utilities will be located as a part of the construction process (so please do not submit the locate request yourself, this will only serve to congest the locate system).

To grant permission for access to your property to install the fibre lines, please complete the attached form and send it to:

3CIS

Attention: YHC Fiber Project Team
8235 Wagner Road
Edmonton, AB, T6E 4N6

Alternatively, please visit <https://www.3cis.com/yhcfibre> and fill in your information – someone will contact you with next steps to make sure you are included when construction begins.

If you have questions about this project, we will be happy to speak to you about them, please call us at (780) 433 3752 and ask for the YHC Fiber Optic Project Team.

On behalf of Yellowhead County, thank you for your cooperation in bringing this project to fruition.

Get Started Today

<https://www.3cis.com/yhcfibre>

Have Questions About the Build Process? We Have Answers

What is the Schedule?

- Construction crews will begin in the summer of 2024 and wrap up by the end of 2026
- Exact dates for each community are not yet determined, but residents that sign up will be provided with progress updates as the work progresses.

What are the Construction Impacts?

Road closures: Roads where crews are working, will be reduced to one lane to provide a safe area for crews to work and space for the necessary equipment. Locations where the fibre crosses the road, will be bored under the road surface to minimize impacts. Short road closures (up to 15 minutes) may be required to complete this work safely. Proper signs and barricades will be put up during temporary lane closures and road closures.

Construction equipment: This type of work may use a combination of vibratory ploughs, trenchers, directional drills, excavators, hydrovac trucks, fleet vehicles, reel trailers, cable winches, dump trailers, and picker trucks.

Construction noise: The noise should be what would typically be associated with medium construction activities and less than the noise typically associated with road construction. Construction activities will typically be scheduled between 7 AM and 10 PM.

What is a Trunk Alignment?

- The trunk alignment refers to the backbone of the network. Individual houses branch off of this trunk. Where a landowner chooses not to receive fibre, the trunk may still run in front of their property.
- The majority of the trunk alignment will be on road shoulder or ditch, on County land.

- Alignments were selected in collaboration with the County to minimize impacts to roads, other utilities, landowners, and the environment.
- Trenching activities can be expected to disturb a footprint roughly 0.2m wide.
- At locations where fibre is being installed to a home, an area of approximately 1m² will be disturbed for splicing.
- Where necessary to directionally drill under an obstacle, such as a road or pipeline, a work area of approximately 15m² will be needed to complete the work safely. The ground disturbance within this area will typically be only 1m². For a handful of locations where a larger area may be required, we will work with the County to minimize impacts.
- Effort will be made to return the ground to previous conditions.

How does alignment on individual properties work?

Your input is needed to select the alignment on your property. Trenching activities can be expected to disturb a footprint roughly 0.2m wide. Where possible, an alignment through grass or gravel is preferred.

Consideration must also be given to:

- Power lines
- Gas lines
- Communications lines
- Water - Water lines, wells, cisterns
- Sprinklers, irrigation lines
- Any other features that may pose a hazard to workers or the public
- Any features that may damage equipment or the environment

Effort will be made to return the ground to previous conditions. This may include soil compaction and reseeding grass. This will not include replacing trees, perennials, or asphalt. If you have specific landscaping concerns, please discuss this during the consultation prior to construction. If you choose not to receive fibre, your property will not be accessed.