

King Township Fibre Optic Broadband Expansion

King – November 3rd, 2017 marked the official first connection of the “King Township Fibre Optic Broadband Expansion” project as the first customer was connected to this state of the art broadband network.

Deb Schulte, Member of Parliament for King-Vaughan, on behalf of the Honourable Amarjeet Sohi, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities, Brian McCullagh, Director of Business Development at Vianet, Debbie Schaefer on behalf of Steve Pellegrini, Mayor of King Township, and Bob and Joan, the first customers to be hooked up were on hand to make that fibre optic connection.

This project is the start of a continued rural fibre optic build initiative to reach home and business owners that do not presently have access to wired broadband. The new Internet service will give these customers access to gigabit speeds without data caps and finally close the broadband gap that presently exists between urban and rural Ontario.

Construction began at the beginning of 2017 and is expected to be completed by the spring of 2019. This project will bring fibre-optic internet to more than 1000 homes, farms and businesses, providing speeds up to 1 Gigabit per second. This telecommunications infrastructure build was made possible with funding from the federal and provincial governments through the Small Communities Fund. Both the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario contributed \$825,000 towards completion of the project. Vianet Inc. contributed an additional \$1.65 million dollars.

Video Link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ac4vGVI--EU>

Quotes

Federal Quote:

"The Government of Canada is committed to investing in infrastructure that strengthens the middle class, promotes economic prosperity and provides municipalities with the building blocks they need to support a high standard of living for Canadians and their families. Access to better, more reliable broadband connections will provide the residents and businesses in King Township with new opportunities to participate in the digital economy and to take advantage of advances in telehealth, e-learning and remote access to government services."

- *Deb Schulte, Member of Parliament for King-Vaughan, on behalf of the Honourable Amarjeet Sohi, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities*

Provincial Quote:

Our government is pleased to be helping expand broadband access for residents of King Township. Thanks to our partnership with the federal government through the Small Communities Fund, we are helping rural residents and businesses access the online resources they need to compete, grow and boost economic growth in York Region."

- *Jeff Leal, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Minister Responsible for Small Business*

Mayor Pellegrini Quote:

"This is a great example of the provincial and federal levels of government working with the private sector to connect more residents and businesses to high-speed internet," said King Township mayor Steve Pellegrini. "It means students can finish their homework assignments at home and home-based businesses will be able to better serve their customers. It's a tremendous benefit for King Township."

Will Gasteiger Quote:

"All of us at Vianet are proud to be an integral part of this milestone event. This initial end user fibre optic connection is a product of the efforts of many parties – the visionary support of the mayor and council of King Township, the financial support of the Ontario and Canadian governments and the hard work of Vianet staff and contractors. A special thank you to King Township municipal staff who have helped us throughout the startup process. This may be the first connection, but many others will follow. The project is on time and on budget – Vianet looks forward to bringing the ultimate in fibre optic connectivity to as many rural King Township residents as possible over the two years of this project."

Photos

