

# News Release

## Ministry of Northern Development and Mines

**Ontario**Northern Ontario  
Heritage FundFonds du patrimoine  
du Nord de l'Ontario

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### Telecommunications And Tourism Expand In Northeastern Ontario - #24071, 45033

*Ontario Government Invests In Broadband Internet and Multi-use Trails*

KAPUSKASING — The Ontario government is establishing modern telecommunications infrastructure in the Northeast and developing new tourism trails in the Kapuskasing area, Northern Development and Mines Minister and Chair of the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC) Rick Bartolucci announced today.

"The McGuinty government is pleased to support the expansion of broadband Internet service in many small communities in the Highway 11 corridor, from Elk Lake to Val Côté," said Bartolucci. "This initiative will help boost local business services, support a prosperous local economy and promote youth retention through distance education."

"I am very pleased that our government is helping bring leading edge telecommunications technology to many small communities in our region," said Timiskaming-Cochrane MPP David Ramsay. "This project will bring many new services to our area and support new economic development opportunities for our residents and businesses."

The NOHFC will provide \$1,060,000 to the North Eastern Ontario Communications Network (NEOnet), in partnership with northern municipalities, NorthernTel and the federal government, to establish broadband Internet service in 22 communities in the Northeast. This will stimulate new services such as telehealth, distance education, and e-commerce.