

News Release Communiqué



Ministry of
Northern Development
and Mines

Ministère du
Développement du Nord
et des Mines

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MCGUINTY GOVERNMENT INVESTS IN CELLULAR SERVICE IN NORTHEAST *More Opportunities For Business, Better Access To Emergency Services For Travelers*

SUDBURY – The McGuinty government is investing in a project to improve cellular coverage for business and highway travelers in two areas of Northeastern Ontario, Northern Development and Mines Minister Rick Bartolucci announced today.

“Northerners in remote communities have an even greater need for the communications services that are available in urban centres,” said Bartolucci. “Our government is committed to providing and improving information and communications technology infrastructure across the North.”

The Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC) is investing \$2,478,068 in a project managed by Timmins-based Northeastern Ontario Communications Network (NEOnet) to provide cellular coverage in the Town of Moosonee as well as along the Highway 101 corridor from the junction of Highway 144 to Chapleau.

“Our government recognizes that northerners need reliable access to technology that can help create jobs and business opportunities and improve public safety and security,” said Bartolucci, who is also chair of the NOHFC.

This is just one more example of how, working together, Ontarians have achieved results in expanding the North’s telecommunications infrastructure. Other examples include:

- Providing a total of \$5,759,022 to NEOnet for projects to enhance cellular service on northern highways (improving safety and economic development), and to provide broadband Internet services in 38 communities, (stimulating telehealth, distance education, e-commerce and other new services)
- Making changes to NOHFC programs to encourage investment in telecommunications infrastructure projects to bring broadband Internet and cellular service to most of the North within three years.

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This initiative is part of the government's Northern Prosperity Plan. It has four pillars: Strengthening the North and its Communities; Listening to and Serving Northerners Better; Competing Globally; and Providing Opportunities for All.

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