

**Five regulatory principles considered as essential in the promotion of low cost broadband and Internet connectivity**

1. Joint funding by public and private sectors: Matching contributions provided by the community itself, federal departments, other levels of government, the private sector, foundations, non-profit organizations, individuals and volunteers within the community ensures leverage of federal program funds to deliver broadband, and provides an incentive to keep costs to a reasonable level.
2. Open access: Open access refers to the ability of third parties to access the telecommunications facilities of a service provider. Open access allows all Canadian communities to enjoy the benefits of broadband, and ensures that the benefits of government-funded broadband infrastructure are shared to the greatest extent possible, thereby maximizing the connectivity achieved through the broadband infrastructure investment.
3. Competitive and transparent bidding process: A competitive and transparent bidding process conducted by the community champion is essential in soliciting bids to bring broadband connectivity to the intended unserved communities. This process should identify the most suitable match between community needs and resources, and identify a service provider capable of delivering those services in a sustainable manner.
4. Technological neutrality: In the selection of a service provider to deliver the broadband connectivity, a technologically neutral request for proposal is critical to ensuring that all technologies are eligible for consideration, which ensures that no cost-efficient technology is excluded from consideration for the projects.
5. Financially sustainable: Complete, detailed and realistic estimates of total project costs are necessary for assessing whether costs are reasonable and sustainable over the long term.