



Alberta SuperNet in Rural Alberta

How do Albertans access the network?

Alberta SuperNet connects the province's schools, hospitals, libraries, municipalities, and provincial government offices to a shared broadband highway. This helps facilities deliver improved programs and services to Albertans across the province.

Through Internet service providers (ISPs), Alberta SuperNet brings high-speed access to more Albertans than ever before. ISPs can connect to the network in over 400 rural communities. Many of these communities had limited or no high-speed access before.

ISPs can purchase Alberta SuperNet bandwidth at uniform rates throughout the rural portion of the network. This helps address the distance and cost factors the private sector faces in delivering high-speed service to homes and businesses in SuperNet communities.

ISPs determine the best way to reach their customers. Some options may include working with the local telephone or cable company to use existing lines, or putting in place new infrastructure, such as fixed wireless links.

The government has arranged for Bell to ensure Internet services are provided, if a request is made. More details will be available soon.

It is expected that some of the ISPs that serve Alberta SuperNet rural communities will also see the potential for serving residences and businesses outside the municipal boundaries of the communities.

Axia manages ISP access to the Alberta SuperNet and ensures quality of service for schools, hospitals, libraries and health facilities.

How can I get high-speed Internet?

Axia maintains a list of ISPs who are interested in serving Alberta SuperNet communities. To find out which ISP might be coming to your area, view the list at www.axia.com/documents/networks/SuperNet/ISPs.pdf or contact Axia at customer.care@axia.com or 1-866-773-3348.

It's important to remember that it takes some time for ISPs to determine their market areas, obtain the appropriate approvals, and set up and test their equipment. Axia works closely with service providers to get them connected and using the network.

What is the cost?

Schools, hospitals, libraries and government offices pay a capped government rate to connect to Alberta SuperNet. For homes and businesses, it is up to the consumer to evaluate Internet cost and service delivery in a competitive market environment.

For more information, visit www.albertasupernet.ca.



Benefits of Alberta SuperNet

What does Alberta SuperNet do?

Alberta SuperNet connects over 4,200 schools, hospitals, libraries and government offices to a province-wide broadband network in 429 communities.

Learning and health facilities have better access to information and shared resources, helping to improve education and health care for Albertans.

Libraries connect Albertans to more information than ever. They can now provide enhanced digital collections, improved inter-library loaning and search capabilities, and research and collaboration opportunities. In some cases, the local library provides the only public access to high-speed Internet.

Alberta SuperNet also connects Internet service providers, making it easier for them to bring high-speed access to homes and businesses in rural SuperNet communities.

What kind of economic opportunities will arise out of this initiative?

High speed Internet and all its benefits help put rural Alberta on an even footing with the big cities, especially from a business perspective. SuperNet makes it easier to do business in rural communities, by encouraging entrepreneurs to start up businesses in rural areas, and making it easier for existing companies to grow their markets.

How do I benefit from Alberta SuperNet?

Alberta SuperNet provides Albertans with better access to improved programs and services.

- Students have better access to learning opportunities from distant campuses.
- Medical specialists in rural communities can consult easily and faster with other practitioners throughout the province using video-conferencing and other applications.
- Albertans have better access to information through their local libraries.
- More government services are available online.
- Workers have more opportunities to upgrade their skills without leaving their communities, through real-time on-line courses with leading experts from around the world.
- Rural business owners can stay in their communities, and market their products, services and ideas to previously unavailable markets.
- Through Internet service providers, Alberta SuperNet now has the capacity to bring high-speed access to approximately 86 per cent of Alberta's population, making SuperNet a key factor in rural Alberta's social and economic development.

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