



## Township of North Kawartha

280 Burleigh Street, PO Box 550, Apsley, ON K0L 1A0  
Tel: 705-656-4445 | 1-800-755-6931 | Fax: 705-656-4446  
[www.northkawartha.ca](http://www.northkawartha.ca)

### Report to Council

To: Mayor and Council Members  
From: Edward Hilton, Economic Development Officer  
Date: July 31, 2025  
Subject: Update on Accelerated High Speed Internet Program (AHSIP)

---

#### Recommendation:

That Council receive this report for information.

#### Background:

The Accelerated High Speed Internet Program (AHSIP) is a provincial initiative aimed at connecting unserved and underserved areas across Ontario with high-speed internet. Within this program, Lot 10, awarded to Rogers Communications, covers the majority of the Township of North Kawartha.

Lot 35, awarded to Bell Canada, covers parts of Haliburton County, including the Eels Lake area. Connectivity for properties in Highlands East along Eels Lake is provided through the Apsley Bell Central Office. As part of the original plan for Lot 35, Bell had intended to extend service to properties in North Kawartha, from Apsley northward, leveraging the existing central office infrastructure.

As of Fall 2024, Rogers had indicated to Staff that permitting for Lot 10 could potentially begin in Q1 or Q2 of 2025. The target completion date for all AHSIP projects is December 30, 2025.

#### Analysis:

As of July 30, 2025, the official status of Lot 10 remains listed as “Planning” on publicly available tracking platforms. To date, no permit applications have been submitted to the Township, and no distribution or transport fibre infrastructure work has been observed in North Kawartha or adjacent municipalities under this project.

In contrast, Lot 35 (more specifically the Eels Lake portion) is currently “Under Construction”, with fibre connectivity supported by the Apsley Bell Central Office. However, in 2025, Bell Canada announced a reduction in its fibre expansion targets, citing regulatory and federal policy changes related to wholesale access. Specifically,



## **Township of North Kawartha**

280 Burleigh Street, PO Box 550, Apsley, ON K0L 1A0  
Tel: 705-656-4445 | 1-800-755-6931 | Fax: 705-656-4446  
[www.northkawartha.ca](http://www.northkawartha.ca)

Bell indicated it would reduce its fibre build by 1.5 million locations and cut \$500 million in capital expenditures for 2025.

It remains uncertain whether Bell's decision to scale back its fibre build-out has affected any properties in North Kawartha. However, minimal construction activity has been observed in 2025.

Staff are hopeful that the province may consider extending funding timelines or allocating additional resources to ensure the completion of these critical broadband projects.

Recent events, including a severe ice storm and multiple telecommunications outages, have further highlighted the importance of redundant and reliable broadband infrastructure in the Township, not only for critical municipal operations, but also for the business community, healthcare providers, and local organizations that rely on consistent connectivity to serve residents and visitors.

Staff continue to monitor the progress of both Lot 10 and Lot 35 and are working with Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN) and government relations contacts to obtain updates and explore advocacy strategies to support the timely delivery of this critical infrastructure.

### **Financial Implications:**

There is currently no financial impact to the Township.

There is a potential opportunity for the North Kawartha Municipal Office to be connected to fibre infrastructure as a result of the Lot 35 project through Bell. Additionally, future connectivity through Rogers under the Lot 10 project may also be possible, depending on project implementation and routing.

### **Strategic and/or Other Plans:**

Strategic Plan, Governance 1. Maintain policies and processes that enable effective governance

Economic Development Strategic Plan, Infrastructure. 3.0 Internet & Cell Service

### **In Consultation With:**

Mackenzie Sykes, Finance Assistant \ IT Coordinator



**Township of North Kawartha**

280 Burleigh Street, PO Box 550, Apsley, ON K0L 1A0  
Tel: 705-656-4445 | 1-800-755-6931 | Fax: 705-656-4446  
[www.northkawartha.ca](http://www.northkawartha.ca)

**Attachment:**

None