



**EH!tel Networks Inc**

392058 Grey Road 109

Holstein, ON, N0G 2A0

Tel: 519-594-0946

Fax: 519-594-0142

**PRESS RELEASE**

February 26, 2020

**Big Loss for Broadband Internet**

It is not often that I bring forth concerns or issues of any kind. However, it appears significant parts of Southgate, Grey Highlands and Melancthon rural residents may have lost an opportunity to see fibre optic broadband services brought closer to their communities, businesses and homes.

There are 5 common technologies utilized to provision Internet service:

- 1) Fibre Optic – Best reliability, low latency, virtually unlimited capacity and future proofed.
- 2) Cable – Good with some capacity and distance limitations, typical in urban networks.
- 3) DSL – Good close to main distribution centres, quality and speed diminish with distance.
- 4) Wireless – Fair due to Spectrum limitations, capacity limitations, penetration limitations, and subject to environmental factors.
- 5) Satellite – Poor due to high latency, expensive, capacity limitations and subject to environmental factors.

It has long been recognized by local, provincial and federal governments that Ontario's rural communities lack the ability to operate efficiently & competitively in today's global market due to a lack of economically priced, highspeed Internet services. Notably there is an absence of infrastructure needed to bring these services into rural communities since the cost to do so is often seen as prohibitive.

SWIFT, which stands for Southwestern Integrated Fibre Technologies, is a nonprofit municipally-led broadband expansion project, created to improve Internet connectivity by funding internet infrastructure development in "underserved" communities and rural areas across Southwestern Ontario (<https://swiftruralbroadband.ca>).

Service providers, funded through SWIFT, are required to offer a minimum of 50/10 services (50Mb.s download & 10Mb.s upload) at \$115/month or less, allow for future growth in their network design, and allow open access to the network so that competition in the area is fostered.

A "served" area, which is excluded from SWIFT funding, is based on the availability of the minimum 50/10 service. SWIFT relies on the public and existing service providers for metrics to determine if the area is "served". SWIFT maintains a map of "served" vs "underserved" areas. This map was recently updated rendering the bulk of Southgate, Grey Highland and Melancthon as "served" and thus ineligible for SWIFT funding. The map can be viewed through this link: <https://swiftruralbroadband.ca/resources/our-service-map/>.

Due to confidentiality, SWIFT is not permitted to share which service provider(s) claimed the area as "served". EH!tel wishes to advise the public, we did not claim these areas as "served" (with the exception of minor sections of road served by EH!tel fibre optics). These communities have lost an opportunity for service providers to construct new fibre infrastructure through an application to SWIFT. EH!tel's fibre optic provisioned unlimited 50/10 Internet is at \$80/month, less than half of the traditional wireless pricing.

EH!tel is committed to provision quality and affordable Internet to the rural communities in which we live.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Antonius Peeters', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Antonius Peeters  
CEO/President  
EH!tel Networks Inc.