

Elliot Lake and St Joseph and Manitoulin Islands. Once the network is constructed and operating, consumers, home, and business owners will buy Internet services from Internet Service Providers (ISPs) using the H&M COFI network. ISPs will pay a wholesale or floor rate to H&M COFI for the Internet access they sell. The model allows for a large number of ISPs to offer various services to you, the customer. The intent is that profits generated in the operation of H&M COFI, and dependent on the financing model used, could be returned to the community.

Is the network wireless or fibre?

The backbone will be fibre, offering excellent Internet speeds across the region. To the home or the last kilometre, our options are both Fibre to the Home (FTTH) as well as Fixed Wireless Access (FWA); each area could be different. The intent is to bring FTTH to as many homes and businesses as possible. Many factors play a role in determining what type of network will be in your community. Making the decision is the H&M COFI board, who has your best interests in mind, and not an ISPs.

What speeds will the network allow?

The completed network will meet or exceed the CRTC guidelines of wired speeds: 50 Mbps down and 10 Mbps up (50/10) and wireless/satellite speeds: 25 Mbps down and 5 Mbps up (25/5) (Mbps = Megabits per second). Our goal is to enable symmetrical 1Gbps speeds (1G/1G) and higher for fibre connections, available in suburban and urban Canada, and exceed the wireless requirements for anyone requiring FWA.

What will we be billed?

You will not be getting a bill from the H&M COFI for internet service. We are not your ISP, so we cannot tell you what your monthly Internet rate will be. The ISP will determine the monthly Internet charge, and we expect costs will be comparable to rates in other rural areas of Ontario.

Who will be my service provider?

That is dependent upon which providers choose to use our network and supply service. As the customer, we expect you to have many ISP choices, which allows you to select one that meets your budget and Internet requirements.

Will cellular service be available?

There will be opportunities on our network for cellular carriers to use our infrastructure. Like internet service providers, this will depend on the company providing the service.

What are the benefits of having 100 percent coverage across the Huron Shore and Manitoulin Island Region?

Since H&M COFI started this project, we have heard from many people who want improved internet service, and they support the project and the community-owned concept. We believe more people will purchase homes and set up businesses in your beautiful and popular region if the best internet service is available. We are also confident that better Internet and cellular service will improve our regional economy in ways beyond the initial impact on homes and businesses.

How can I keep updated on the project?

Please check out our website at <https://huronshores.ca/government/council/boards-and-committees/hm-cofi-project/> for the latest news on the project. You can also register for more information at www.hmcofi.ca, which will allow for direct emails to be sent to you when an update is available.