

ICANN
POLICY FORUM

77

WASHINGTON, D.C.

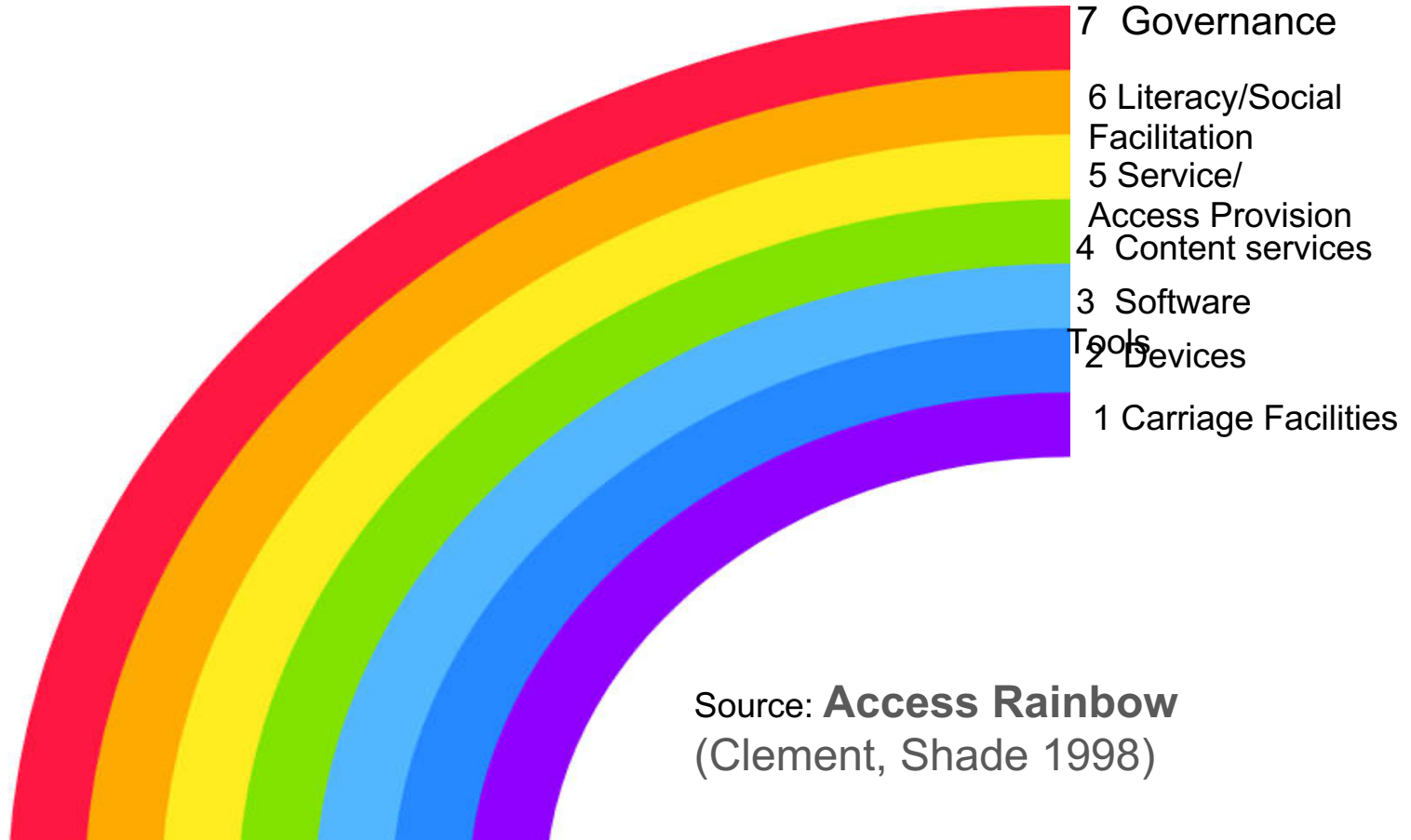
12-15 June 2023

NASIG BROADBAND PANEL

Canadian Broadband Strategy



Issues to consider in a National Access Strategy



Source: **Access Rainbow**
(Clement, Shade 1998)

The goal is universal access

Full spectrum of concerns re: universal access to communications infrastructure

1. Carriage facilities – broadband, wireless, satellite, fibre, etc.
2. Devices – mobile phones, personal computers, tablets, etc. - up to date, accessible, secure
3. Software tools - user interfaces, privacy, browsers, platforms, apps, etc. - open, interoperable, accessible
4. Content and services - diversity, culturally and age appropriate, authentic, online safety,....
5. Service/access providers - varying from large for profit to small, municipal/community owned corps.
6. Literacy/Social Facilitation – digital literacy, social/educational strategies to reach all levels
7. Governance – public interest, human rights, democratic participation, accountability, affordability - complex social/technical issues

Clement/Shade. 1998. The Access Rainbow: Conceptualizing Universal Access to the Information/ Communications Infrastructure [\(PDF\) The Access Rainbow 1 The Access Rainbow: Conceptualizing Universal Access to the Information/ Communications Infrastructure \(researchgate.net\)](#)

Canadian Federal Government Broadband Program

Carriage Facilities: High Speed Internet For All (Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada)

Government of Canada is connecting 98% of Canadians to high-speed Internet by 2026 and 100% of Canadians by 2030.

This new strategy features two main objectives: that all Canadians have access to broadband at speeds of at least 50 Megabits per second (Mbps) download / 10 Mbps upload, and mobile wireless coverage is available where Canadians live and work, and along major road corridors.

Specific Federal initiatives

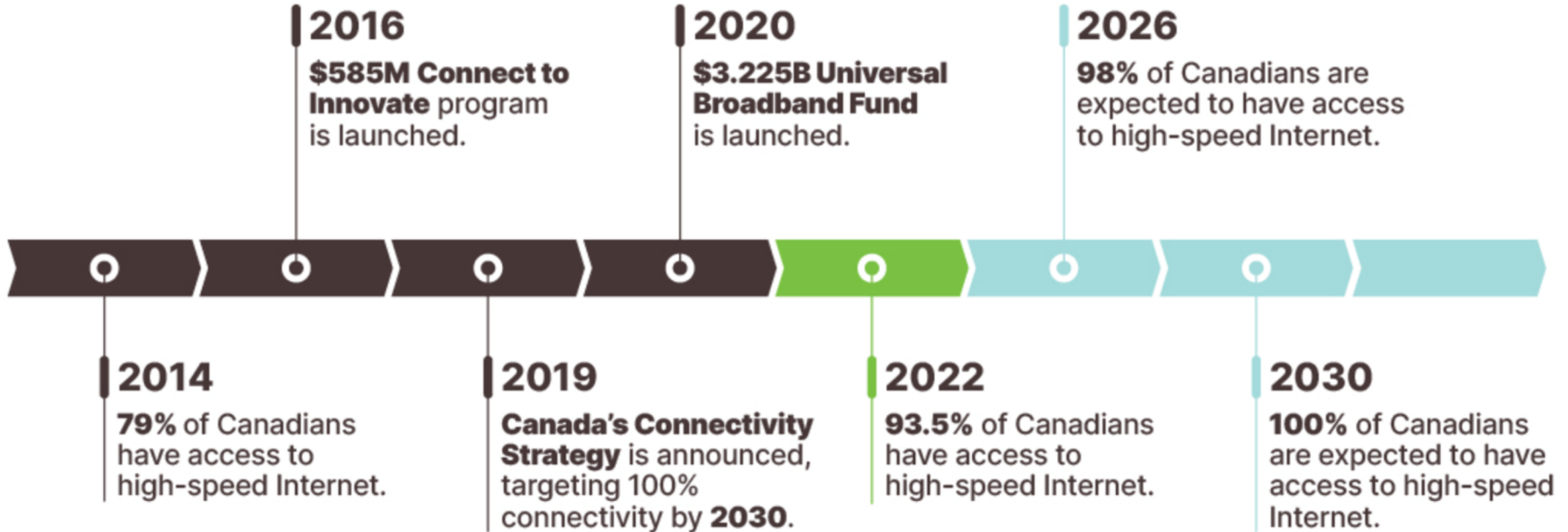
Carriage

Connect to Innovate: \$585M last mile infrastructure incl. 975 rural comm. incl. 190 indigenous communities **

Universal Broadband Fund – \$3.225B for large infrastructure projects targeting rural and underserved comm.

First Nations – on and off reserve infrastructure projects for Indigenous communities

Broadband Timelines



Other Federal Projects

Carriage

\$600 million with Canadian satellite company Telesat to improve connectivity and expand high-speed Internet coverage to the far north, rural, and remote regions across Canada, through low-earth-orbit satellite capacity.

Software tools:

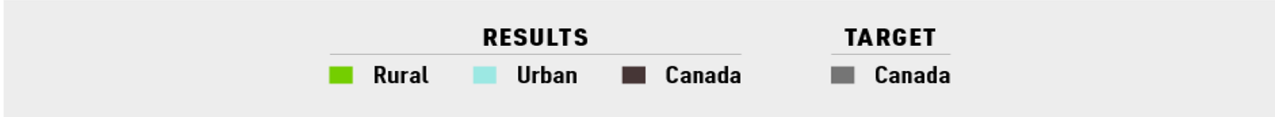
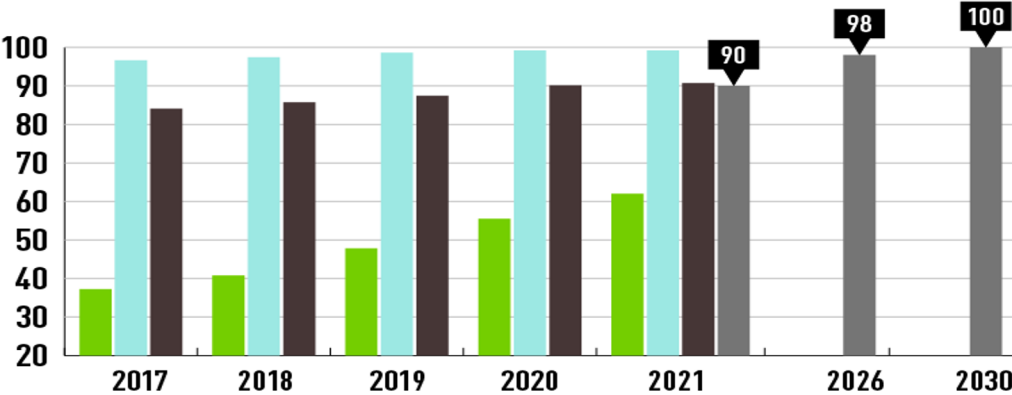
\$4-billion federal program to help small businesses upgrade their digital technology. The Canada Digital Adoption Program (CDAP) has spent just \$131-million on grants and loans in its first year, about 3 per cent of its budget, with some entrepreneurs and business groups saying it is complicated and poorly promoted.

Content and Services + Governance

Legislation re: online safety, Canadian content on streaming platforms

Households with access to min.speeds (50/10 mbps)

% of households



Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC)

Carriage Facilities:

The CRTC's Broadband Fund will provide up to \$750 million over its first 5 years. These funds will support projects to build or upgrade access and transport infrastructure to provide fixed and mobile wireless broadband Internet access services in eligible underserved areas across Canada. *This funding comes directly from contributions made by large Canadian teleco. service providers whose total annual Canadian revenues amount to at least \$10 million.*

Governance:

CRTC is a regulator so also dealing with affordability issues and content

Connectivity gap – Auditor General’s report (March 2023)

Carriage Facilities:

While nearly 91 per cent of Canadian households had access to high-speed internet in 2021, just 59.5 per cent of those in rural and remote areas enjoyed the same access. That number drops to 42.9 per cent for households on First Nations reserves.

Governance:

At the level of families, the government needs to assess affordability in the context of household incomes when rolling out access programs

Infographic: [Report 2—Connectivity in Rural and Remote Areas \(oag-bvg.gc.ca\)](https://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/en/infographic-report-2-connectivity-in-rural-and-remote-areas)

Digital literacy/accessibility

Literacy/Social facilitation

Organizations at all levels:

Media Access Canada (Accessibility)

Media Smarts

Future Skills Canada

Community Access Fund (CIRA)

Libraries

Many others

Provincial programs: Connecting British Columbia

Carriage Facilities:

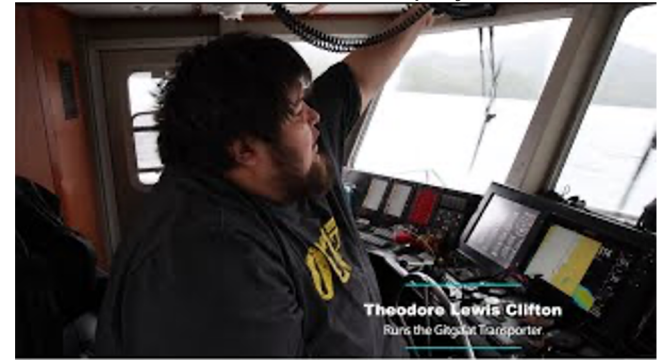
On March 8, 2022, [an agreement was announced between the provincial and federal governments](#) to provide up to \$830 million to support the expansion of high-speed internet services to the remaining rural and Indigenous communities who are underserved in the province. This funding supports a target to provide access to internet services for all households in B.C. with a minimum 50/10 Mbps by 2027, as well as a key item in the Declaration Act Action Plan to connect all First Nations communities to high-speed internet services by 2027.

Connected Coast: project: 139 rural and remote communities, including 48 First Nations Communities \$45.4M project now 60% complete [Connected Coast | Bringing High-Speed Internet To Coastal BC](#)

Connecting Communities BC:

[Connecting Communities BC - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](#)

Community stories [Community stories - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](#)



Other sources of funding for BC communities

Various gov't and non-governmental sources

- [CRTC Broadband Fund](#)
- [Union of BC Municipalities \(Community Building Fund\)](#)
- [Pathways to Technology – specifically covering the needs of First Nations Communities](#)
- [Infrastructure Canada: Investing in Rural and Northern Communities Infrastructure](#)
- [Coastal Community Credit Union \(Building Healthier Communities Fund\)](#)

Local, municipal, community initiatives

Service/Access Provision + Literacy and Social Functions:

National Capital Freenet

Literacy /Social Facilitation:

Vancouver Freenet

Libraries

Carriage + Service/Access Provision + Literacy and Social Functions

Community owned broadband – various examples

First Nations Communities – K-Net

Advocacy networks/ research networks

Governance:

Public Interest Advocacy Center

Open Media

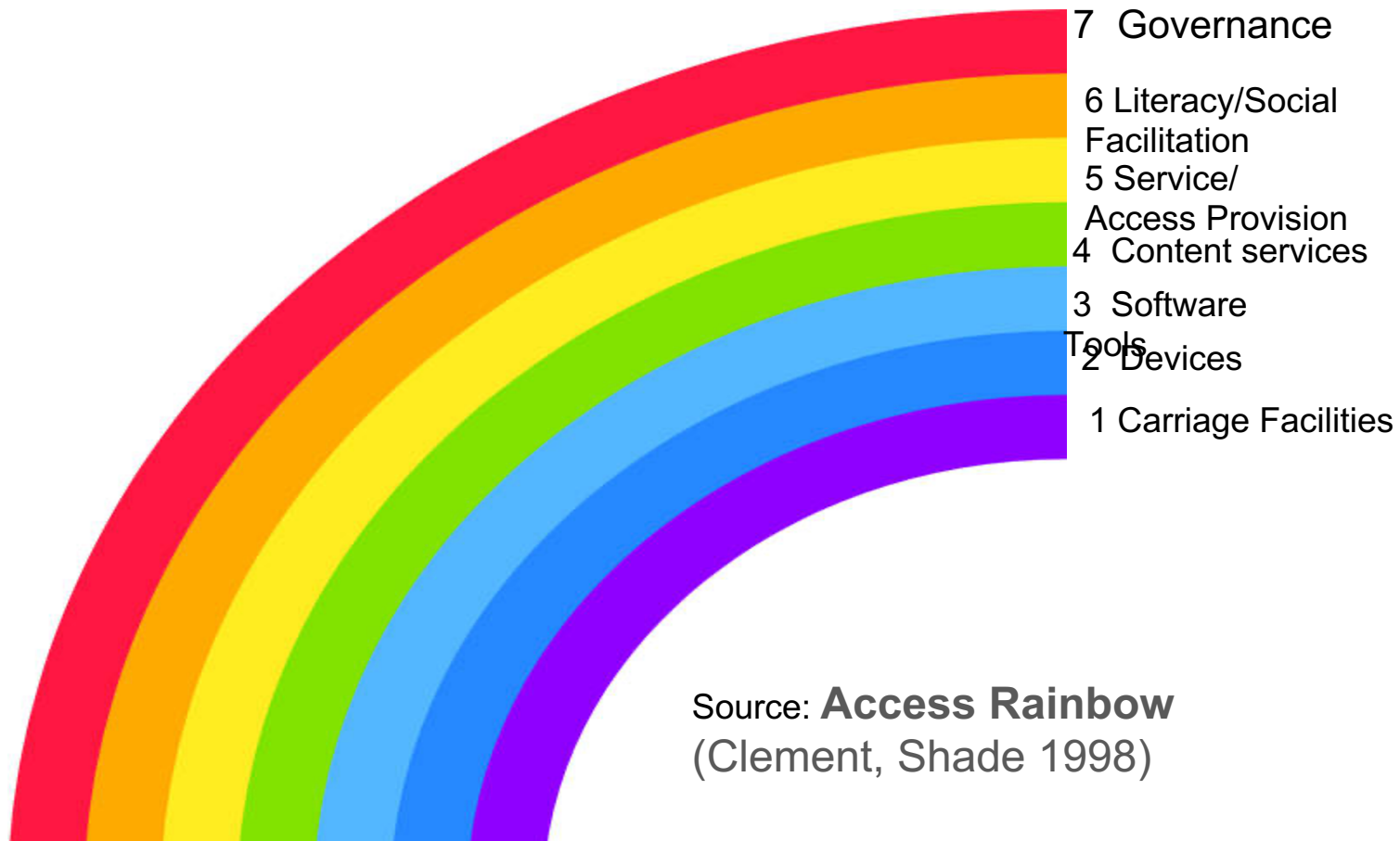
ACORN

Telecommunities Canada

ISOC Canada

ISOC Quebec

Various research networks in university departments



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Resources

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<https://ised-isde.canada.ca/site/high-speed-internet-canada/en>

Canadian Connectivity Strategy

<https://ised-isde.canada.ca/site/high-speed-internet-canada/en/canadas-connectivity-strategy>

Rural Opportunity, National Prosperity: An Economic Development Strategy for Rural Canada

<https://ised-isde.canada.ca/site/rural/en/rural-opportunity-national-prosperity-economic-development-strategy-rural-canada>

Update on strategy

<https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2023/03/government-of-canada-reports-on-progress-in-connecting-all-canadians-to-high-speed-internet-highlights-online-tool.html>