

Broadband Access Strategic Research



Community Fora



Office of the Corporate
Chief Strategist



Broadband Strategic Research: Background

- Province exploring future trends that will have impact across ministry business areas
- Engaging in focused discussion and research where required to support long-term strategic thinking
- Broadband access and utilization identified by Deputy Ministers as cross-cutting issue with multi-level impacts



Broadband Strategic Research Goals and Objectives

- Optimally, research must engage all sectors (economic, government, civil society) in “imagining” how they can utilize connectivity for social and economic development.
- **Goal:**
 - Articulate a long-term vision of Ontario as leader in harnessing access to promote and realize economic development and social well-being.
- **Objectives:**
 - Fully understand the potential of ubiquitous provincial access to support businesses and individuals to participate in the digital economy and the information society;
 - Identify related current and emerging public policy issues; and
 - Establish the appropriate context in which to foster future-oriented, province-wide access for all sectors of Ontario society.

Capacity-Building & Knowledge Mobilization



Approach:

- Discussion and research activities to build knowledge and identify specific strategies for each theme area, along two lines of inquiry:
 - I. Access uptake and utilization promotion to support sustainability and innovation.
 - II. Implications of access for public policy and government service delivery.

- Knowledge mobilization through:
 - Engagement of academic, community-based experts, private sector providers.
 - Knowledge sharing and government/community research dissemination activities.



Activities and Timeline

- Identify knowledge gaps through:
 - Academic Workshop (Dec 06) – identification of theme areas for further exploration
 - Commissioned discussion papers from Ontario academics
 - Call for Papers issued – nine papers selected to identify and capture trends in the critical and emerging areas (available May 2007)
- Further knowledge sharing and development of research questions through discussions with community practitioners (Brockville and Ingersoll fora); private sector engagement
- Analysis of venue/report input and development of consolidated report (May – August 07)
- Conference in fall with broader community of knowledge/practice – community practitioners/NGOs/academia/government/private sector (concurrent with TORC annual conference)
- Establishment of shared ongoing research agenda