

PN

PAPINEAU NUMÉRIQUE

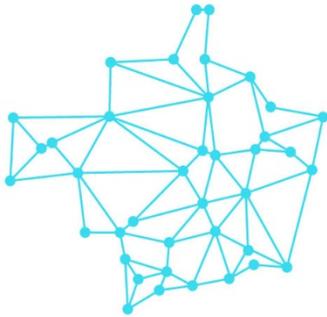
PRESS KIT

PAPINEAU NUMÉRIQUE PROJECT LAUNCH

November 25 2019



1. PRESS RELEASE



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PAPINEAU
NUMÉRIQUE

HIGHSPEED INTERNET IN OUR RCM, IT'S ALMOST HERE!

Papineau Numérique Project Launch

Montpellier, November 25, 2019 –The Papineau Numérique project launched today; it represents a concrete step forward for the Papineau RCM to provide high-speed Internet to residents who are not yet connected or partially connected and who are looking for a more reliable connection.

Following a long-term effort by the RCM team to prepare and submit grant applications, the federal and provincial governments have officially granted a total of \$6.5 M in financial assistance to improve the capacity, availability, speed, and reliability of high-speed Internet in the region.

These subsidies, equally provided by the Government of Canada program Connect to Innovate and the Government of Quebec program Connect Quebec, were granted to accomplish the \$9.7 M project; the \$3.2 M difference will be assumed by the Papineau RCM.

Ultimately, over 195 km of optical fibre will be installed to connect 3,153 households or businesses located in remote locations.

PAPINEAU RCM: A DIGITAL TERRITORY

In the coming months, a communication campaign for the general public will be launched. The goal is to keep people informed about the progression of the launch in the region and to highlight the opportunities afforded by high-performance Internet. Papineau Numérique is looking to develop an inspiring signature that will represent a connected and dynamic Papineau RCM, where growth opportunities are generated due to the arrival of high-speed Internet. A transparent website will be launched, providing the latest news for every phase of the project. An interactive map will also be available for consultation to verify the availability status of high-speed Internet in each sector. Postal mailings of educational content will also be sent out.

A CONSTANTLY EVOLVING PROJECT

Following the review of the governments' contribution agreements, the RCM team worked to clarify each aspect of the project. The network design was reviewed and further developed by an engineering firm. The analytical work made it possible to improve the project by adding, among other things, a resiliency and redundancy component. The additions made to the network's resilience will benefit the entire RCM network.

Moreover, the financial framework was also established. In tandem with the awarding of the grants, the RCM worked to complete the financing required for the project.

More recently, a call for proposals was issued to select the project office that will be responsible for, among other things, carrying out the detailed engineering project, managing future calls for proposals, and monitoring and supervising tasks. The construction of the network is scheduled to begin in spring 2020 and to be completed by March 31, 2021.

Until the Papineau Numérique's website is launched, residents and businesses wishing to subscribe to Internet Papineau's high-speed, fibre Internet service can confirm their interest by filling out the following form. They will be the first to be notified when the connection is available in their sector.

www.ipapineau.net/papineanumerique

“Launching high-speed Internet in our territory is a long marathon that consists of several stages. We are doing all we can to get the job done within the tight deadlines imposed by the program. The call for proposals to hire a project office marks an important step forward in the implementation of the Papineau Numérique project,” says David Pineault, Project Manager for the Papineau RCM.

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Interviews

Benoit Lauzon, Papineau RCM Prefect

David Pineault, Project Manager for Papineau Numérique with the Papineau RCM

Stéphane Séguin, Chairperson of the Management Board, Internet Papineau

2. INTERNET PAPINEAU: 100% LOCAL, HIGH-SPEED INTERNET



To maximize local benefits, the RCM mandated Internet Papineau to operate the fibre optic network once it was built. The 100% local, high-speed Internet service provider is already working on developing the most affordable Internet packages, for which they will provide both customer service and technical support.

BENEFITS FOR THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY

By mandating the operation of the network to a local Internet service provider, instead of a major telecommunications firm, the RCM is ensuring that the project will have a significant and long-lasting economic impact on the region. All profits generated by Internet Papineau will be reinvested in the community's infrastructures. Moreover, 15 quality technological jobs will be created in the region. By subscribing to Internet Papineau services, residents are investing in the financial viability of their region.

“Internet Papineau was created by the RCM’s public institutions 15 years ago with social development in mind. Since then, it has made every effort to stand out with its proximity to the region, making it a source of regional pride. The scope of the Internet Papineau project and its future benefits for the region will only increase the public’s sense of pride,” says Stéphane Séguin, Chairperson of the Management Board, Internet Papineau.

SUBSCRIPTION

Businesses and residents will be notified once the connection to Internet through fibre will be available in their sector. They will then be able to contact Internet Papineau to proceed with the installation of services at their premises. More details on rates and service availability will be available online soon. In the meantime, RCM residents wishing to subscribe to Internet Papineau's high-speed, fibre Internet service can confirm their interest by filling out the following form:

www.ipapineau.net/papineaunumerique

CONNECTING VAL-DES-BOIS AND BOWMAN

Following the announcement made by the Ministère de l'Économie et de l'Innovation du Québec about the launching of its Régions branchées program, Internet Papineau immediately confirmed its intention to submit a project that would connect the municipalities of Val-des-bois and Bowman to the fibre network, as these municipalities were ineligible for the initial project prepared by the RCM following the governments' review of the project.

WHO IS INTERNET PAPINEAU?

In 2005, faced with the challenge of securing service agreements from large telecommunications companies, the Papineau RCM took action and created its own high-speed Internet network and founded its own non-profit organization, which soon became a pioneer model in Quebec.

For the past 15 years, Internet Papineau has been a 100% local Internet service provider, serving 26 municipalities; 24 in the Papineau RCM and 2 in the Collines-de-l'Outaouais RCM (Ange-Gardien and Notre Dame-de-la-Salette). Internet Papineau's main goal is to reduce the negative impact of the digital divide associated with rural living. To do so, Internet Papineau wishes to provide residents, shops, and businesses in the region with a low-cost, high-speed Internet access.

www.ipapineau.net

3. PAPINEAU NUMÉRIQUE EN CHIFFRES



\$9.7 M

Total cost of the project: \$6.5 M funded by the governments and \$3.2 M invested by the Papineau RCM



3,153

Targeted households on the RCM territory



12

Municipalities that will have access to high-speed Internet: Montpellier, Chénéville, Duhamel, Ripon, Namur, Lac-des-Plages, Boileau, Saint-Émile-de-Suffolk, Notre-Dame-de-la-Paix, Mayo, Lac Simon, and Saint-Sixte



195

Km of fiber in total (looping, basic networking, and last kilometre)



15-20

Quality technological jobs created in the region

4. IMPORTANT STEPS AND MILESTONES



5. MORE OPPORTUNITIES ON A DAILY BASIS

IMPROVED QUALITY OF LIFE

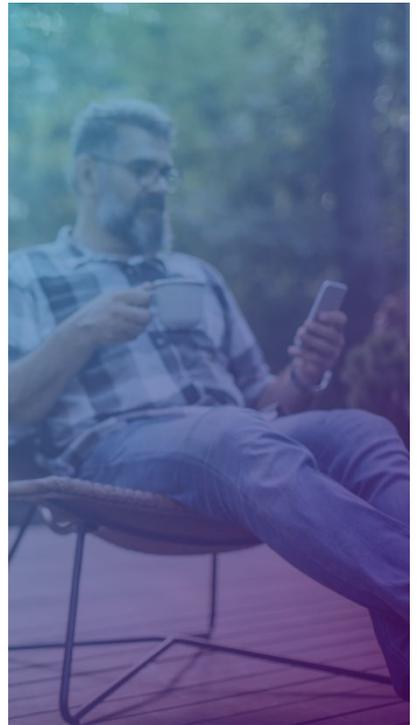
High-speed Internet has become a necessity for multiple and simultaneous digital use in the home and to improve the comfort of all. Data sharing, the increase in the number of connected devices, and teleconferencing are all technologies that require a high-speed connection for simultaneous use. Teleworking, online training, access to health records, and numerous at-home leisure activities, such as on demand television, online games, music downloads, and streaming, are all parts of daily life that can benefit from a high-speed connection.

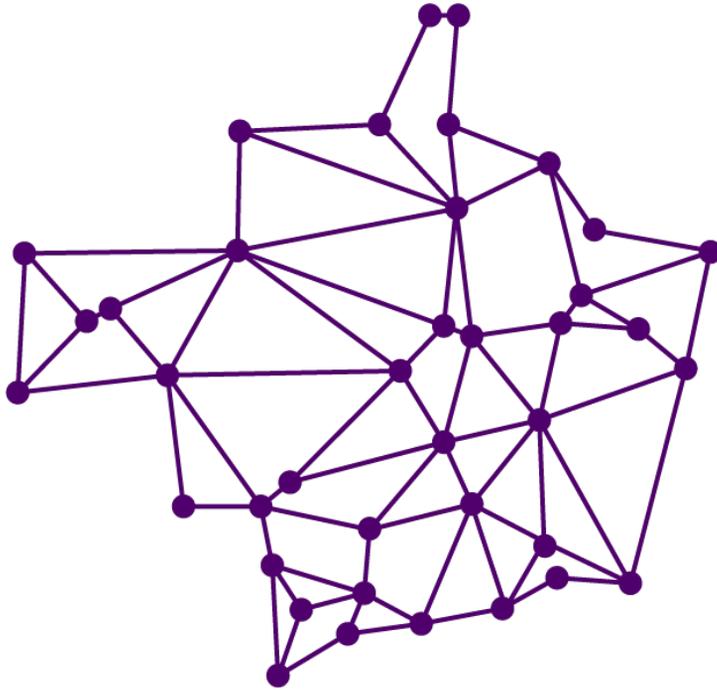
COMPETITIVE LOCAL ECONOMY

The launch of high-speed Internet is necessary to boost the local economy, foster innovation, and meet the ever-increasing needs of our businesses. With advanced digital infrastructures, self-employed and salaried workers can work remotely and have access to co-working and instant data sharing. This allows businesses to be more competitive and develop new products and services.

REINFORCED REGIONAL ATTRACTIVENESS

By transporting data over long distances without signal loss, optical fibre can provide the same speed in rural areas as in the city. Distance and remoteness are no longer obstacles to development. Territorial integration is simplified, with new families and businesses able to move to the RCM, while the cultural and touristic offers are enriched.





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