

Development of the CRTC's Broadband Funding Regime

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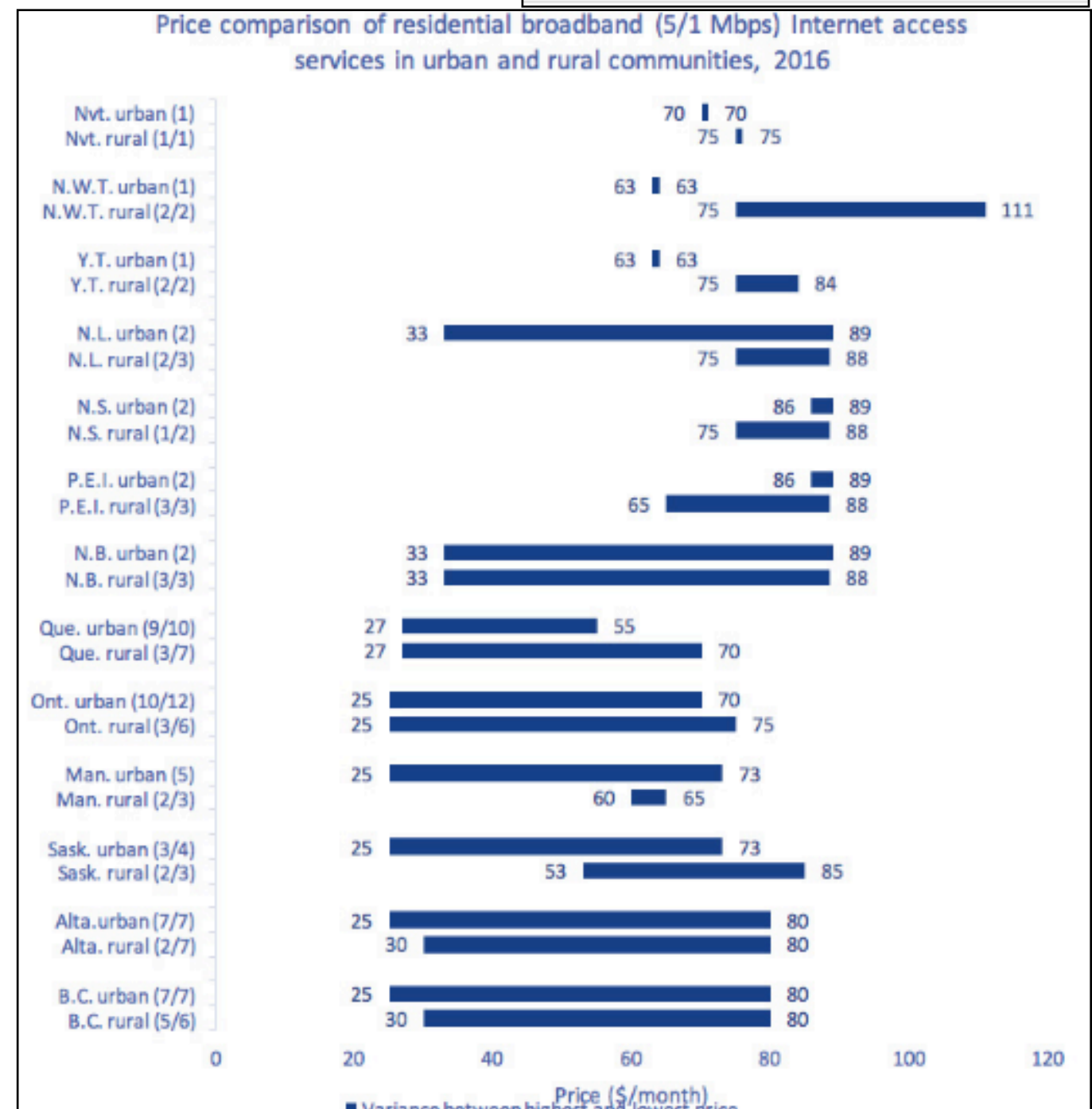
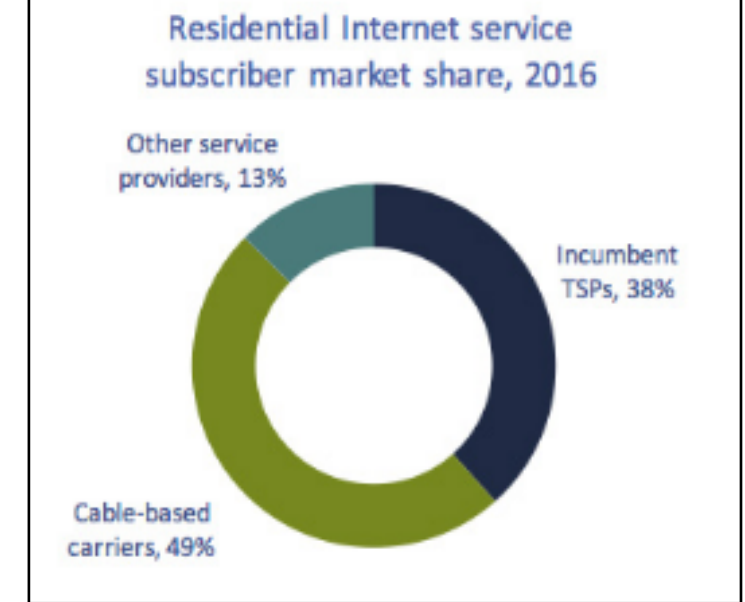
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Overview

1. **Background:** State of Broadband Internet in Canada
2. **The Proceeding:** Telecom Notice of Consultation CRTC 2017-112:
Development of the CRTC's Broadband Funding Regime
3. **Intervention and Campaign:** “Community Broadband First”
(OpenMedia)
4. **A Tale of Two Funding Models:** What did everyone else say?
5. **Observations & Takeaways:** Looking ahead

Background: Canadian Context

- **Market Concentration**
 - Vertical and diagonal integration
 - Territorial divisions
 - Wholesale policies
 - Competitor quality of service
- **Geography**
 - Rural and remote communities
 - Northern Canada
 - “No business case”
- **National Broadband Strategy**
 - Still don’t have a clear one
 - Connecting Canadians and Connect to Innovate
 - Federal Budgets






The Proceeding

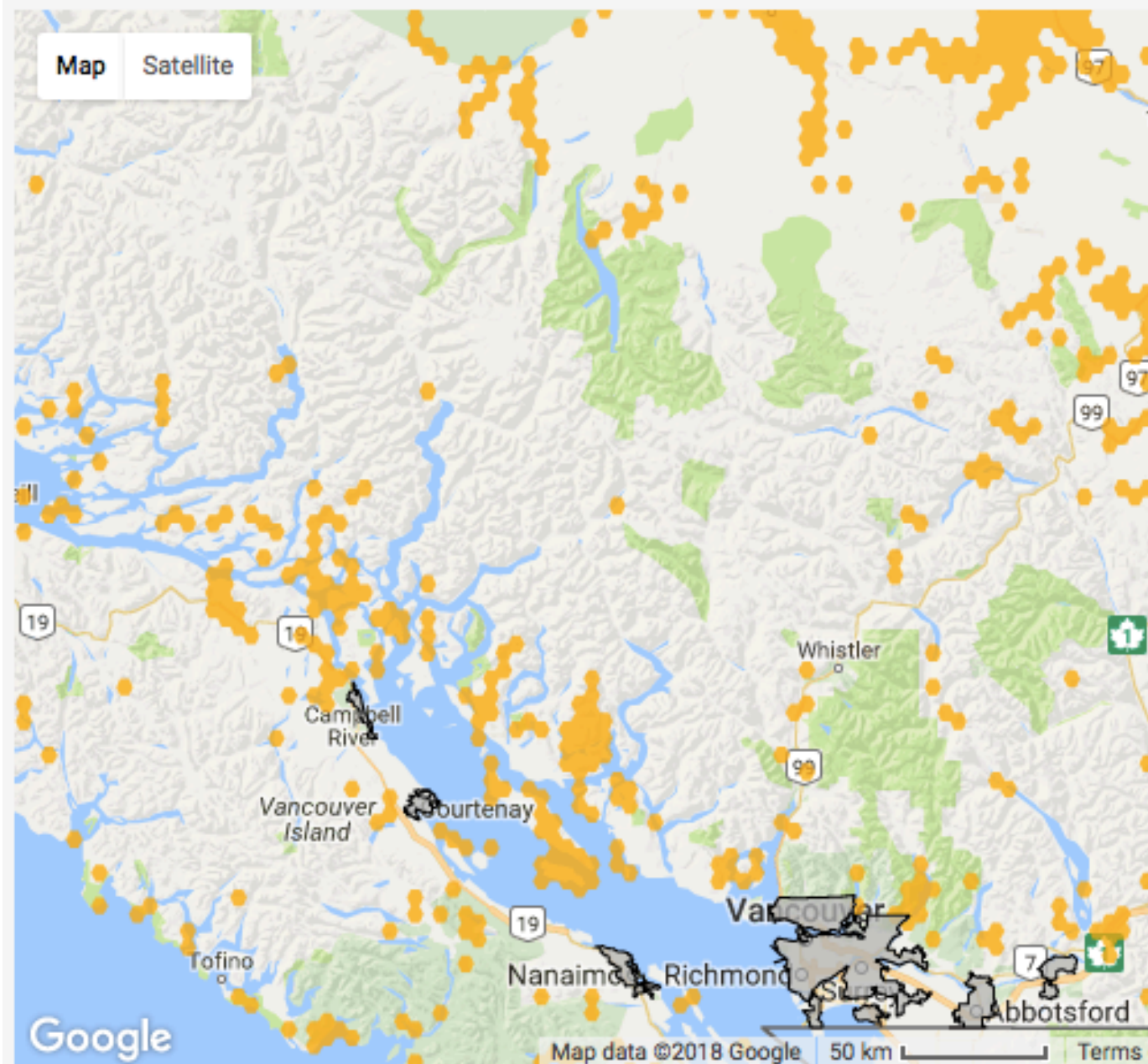
- Telecom Notice of Consultation CRTC 2017-112: *Development of the Commission's Broadband Funding Regime*
- Result of earlier proceeding on basic telecommunications services
- Objective: design application process, eligibility criteria, and implementing how to allocate \$750 million
- National consultation: 5 months, multiple written rounds, 90 submissions, wide range of stakeholders

Areas eligible for funding to enhance broadband access

▶ [Third-party information liability disclaimer](#)

Please enter a location to determine project eligibility and to find providers operating in this vicinity

Legend:  Eligible for new backbone  Eligible for last-mile  Ineligible areas



Community Broadband First

- Campaign and intervention by OpenMedia Engagement Network (“OpenMedia”)
- Objective: Ensure that funding process prioritized non-profit, local, independent, community-driven broadband initiatives
- **Main Points:**
 1. Prioritize the public interest and Internet access as a public good
 2. Cannot rely on market forces & large commercial players
 3. Benefits of community broadband: civic accountability, responsiveness to citizens, competition
 4. Procedural inclusion of small, community, non-profit ISPs
 5. Representative, consultative governance model
 6. Mandated open access, subscriber privacy, knowledge sharing



The graphic features a blue header with the 'OPEN media' logo and Facebook/Twitter icons. The background is a light blue geometric pattern with icons of houses, sailboats, and Wi-Fi signals. A central logo shows two stylized figures with Wi-Fi symbols above them, with the text 'COMMUNITY BROADBAND FIRST!' below. The bottom section is a solid blue banner with white text and input fields.

Community Broadband First

Last December, the CRTC ruled that **high-quality Internet should be a basic service for all Canadians** and created a \$750 million fund to support broadband projects in rural, underserved, and unserved areas.¹

Now, the CRTC is asking Canadians how that \$750 million should be spent: should we invest it in innovative community-driven initiatives, or just hand it to Big Telecom giants who have failed time and time again to deliver affordable, reliable Internet to Canadians who need it?

If enough of us show there is real desire for community, municipal, and non-profit broadband — for the public, by the public — we can convince the CRTC to make this new fund a game-changer.

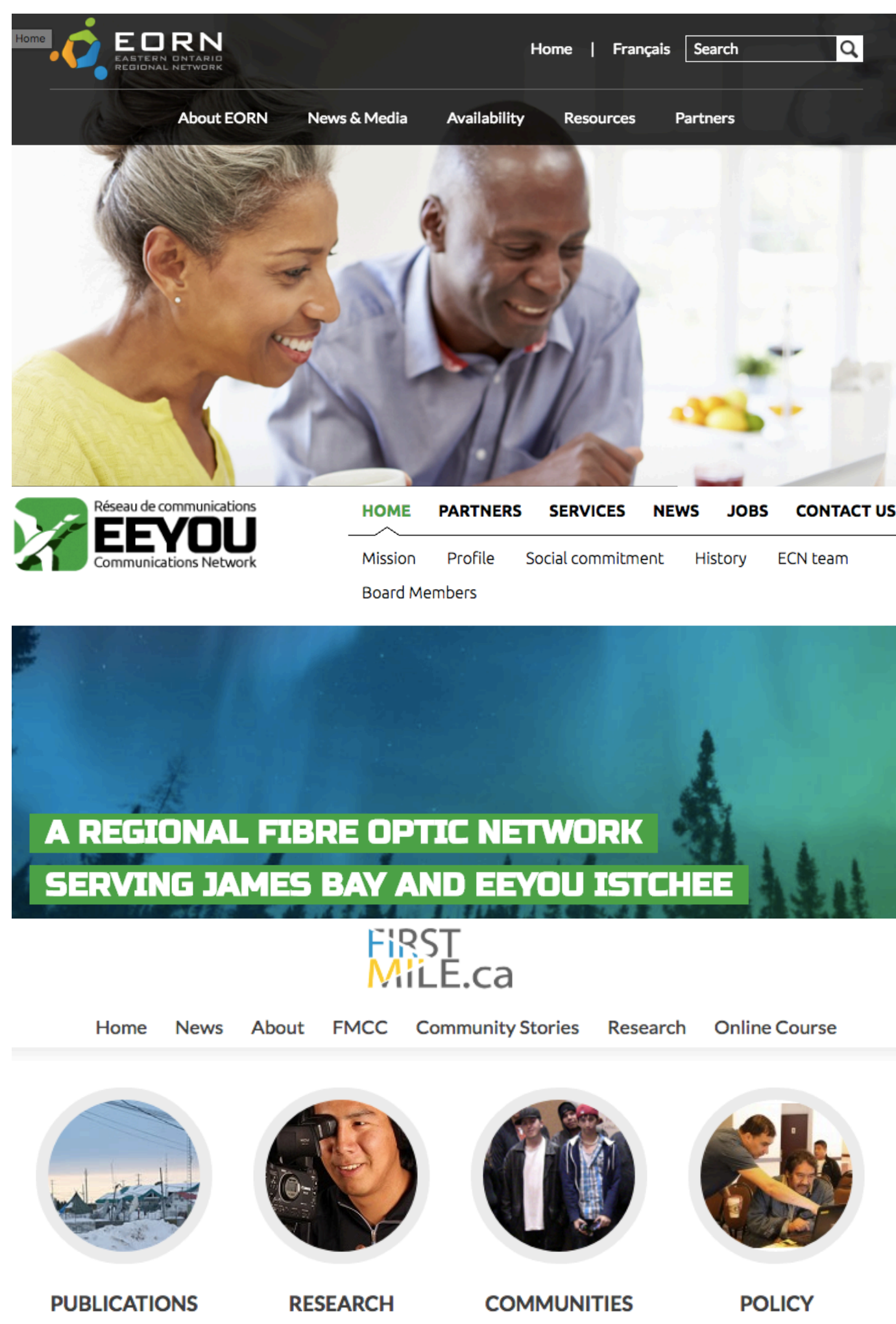
Tell the CRTC: Ensure broadband funding goes to community-driven initiatives instead of filling Big Telecom’s deep pockets.

First Name

Last Name

A Tale of Two Funding Models

- Wide range of stakeholders: municipal, provincial, territorial, Indigenous governments; civil society organizations; community ISPs; academics
- Many of the largest and most involved non-profit organizations submitted a joint statement of principles for the broadband funding regime, calling for: affordability, open access, community consultation
- Only a handful of telecommunications companies, and one non-profit, called for a reverse auction model based on FCC: strict criteria, no community consultation
- Vast majority of interveners, including governments, emphasized importance of community involvement and consultation
- Still waiting for decision--expected in next 1-2 months



The screenshot displays the EORN (Eastern Ontario Regional Network) website. The top navigation bar includes links for Home, Français, and a search function. Below this, a secondary menu lists About EORN, News & Media, Availability, Resources, and Partners. The main content area features a large photograph of a smiling couple. Below the photo is the Eeyou Communications Network logo, which includes the text 'Réseau de communications EEOYOU Communications Network'. To the right of the logo is a navigation menu with links for HOME, PARTNERS, SERVICES, NEWS, JOBS, and CONTACT US. Below this menu are links for Mission, Profile, Social commitment, History, and ECN team, with Board Members listed further down. A large banner image with a green and blue background contains the text 'A REGIONAL FIBRE OPTIC NETWORK' and 'SERVING JAMES BAY AND EEOYOU ISTCHEE'. Below the banner is the FIRST MILE.ca logo. The bottom navigation bar includes links for Home, News, About, FMCC, Community Stories, Research, and Online Course. The footer section consists of four circular images, each with a corresponding label: PUBLICATIONS (image of a snowy landscape), RESEARCH (image of a person using a camera), COMMUNITIES (image of a group of people), and POLICY (image of people working at a computer).

Home | Français | Search

About EORN | News & Media | Availability | Resources | Partners

Réseau de communications
EEOYOU
Communications Network

HOME | PARTNERS | SERVICES | NEWS | JOBS | CONTACT US

Mission | Profile | Social commitment | History | ECN team
Board Members

A REGIONAL FIBRE OPTIC NETWORK
SERVING JAMES BAY AND EEOYOU ISTCHEE

FIRST MILE.ca

Home | News | About | FMCC | Community Stories | Research | Online Course

PUBLICATIONS | RESEARCH | COMMUNITIES | POLICY

Observations & Takeaways

- Most effective solutions we've seen have been at a regional or local level, with communities taking matters into own hands, or more attuned governments
- Still necessary to keep up pressure on federal government and push for more aggressive action in rolling out connectivity
- May not mean one-size-fits-all, across-the-board solution, but across-the-board funding and enabling communities and local governments to build networks that meet their specific needs and local contexts

