



Upgrading to a Fibre Optic Network

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide information about a planned upgrade to EIDNet's network.

EIDNet has been providing internet services throughout this area for more than 24 years. We are proud to count more than 1,800 local farms, ranches, businesses and individuals as our customers, serving both community hubs and outlying rural areas, many of whom would not have affordable internet service without EIDNet.

The internet and how we use it have changed and are continuing to change. Most basic communication is now being done using voice over internet protocol (VOIP) phones, email, skype, or tele-conferencing. Children are using online classrooms. Personal banking no longer requires driving into town and waiting in lines. Security cameras now let us monitor our homes, property, and livestock on the farm in real time. Pivots and other farm machinery can be controlled from anywhere via automation and we can participate in auctions online from home instead of having to travel. We buy and sell goods and services online.

The way we receive and view video content has also changed. Where once there was only YouTube and Facebook, there are now numerous video services arriving online. Netflix has been joined by Crave, Hulu, and the latest services, Amazon Prime's Starz and StackTV, Apple TV, and Disney+. This has

dramatically increased the bandwidth required by our customers. To give an example of the evolving bandwidth requirements, back in 2008 the highest speed internet account we offered was a 1.5 Mbps / 0.5 Mbps (Download / Upload) plan, and today we offer a 20.0 Mbps / 4.0 Mbps plan. We are also rolling out a 50.0 Mbps / 10.0 Mbps plan on our Brooks tower this coming year.

In addition, the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) announced that internet service providers, such as EIDNet, should be able to provide internet accounts capable of providing 50.0 Mbps / 10.0 Mbps by the end of 2021. Being able to supply this service throughout the District requires additional bandwidth (throughput speed and capacity) at each of EIDNet's towers.

All of these changes and new uses require more bandwidth. The radios that communicate between EIDNet's towers (backhaul radios) have a throughput limit. The backhaul radios on 2 of EIDNet's towers (Rosemary and Duchess) have reached their limit, while the backhaul radios on 12 more of EIDNet's towers are projected to reach their limit at various times over the next 7 years. In order for EIDNet to continue to meet our customers' requirements, now and into the future, EIDNet is investigating a plan to

Article continues on page 2

EIDNet Update

replace the backhaul radios with fibre on 14 of EIDNet's 18 towers. Fibre can deliver the bandwidth we require. The Brooks tower is already connected to fibre and bandwidth requirements on the remaining towers can be met with backhaul radios.

The fibre network will be built with the future in mind, it has been designed to allow for expansion. The costs of these upgrades will be recouped when amortized over 25 years.

Installation of the fibre to each tower is planned to coincide with the time when the backhaul radios on the tower will reach their throughput limit. Accordingly, the fibre will be installed in phases, beginning in 2020 and continuing over the next 7 years, at a total estimated cost of \$15,000,000.00.

This project was reviewed at the Joint Meeting held on November 21, 2019 between the County of Newell Council and the EID Board of Directors. The County has provided the following statement for the project: "The County commits, at their Joint Meeting with the Board, to working in partnership

with the EID for providing industry leading internet services to water users, residents, and businesses."

The internet has become an integral part of our businesses and everyday lives and will continue to play an important role in the future.

Estimated Fibre Phase Costs

Phase 1	\$3,000,000
Phase 2	\$1,800,000
Phase 3	\$3,100,000
Phase 4	\$1,000,000
Phase 5	\$3,300,000
Phase 6	\$850,000
Phase 7	\$950,000
Phase 8	\$1,000,000
Total	\$15,000,000

We value your feedback!

Please contact us if you have questions or comments:

- any member of the EID Board of Directors, or
- EIDNet at 403-362-1401 or at eidnet@eidnet.org

Rate Plans and Services

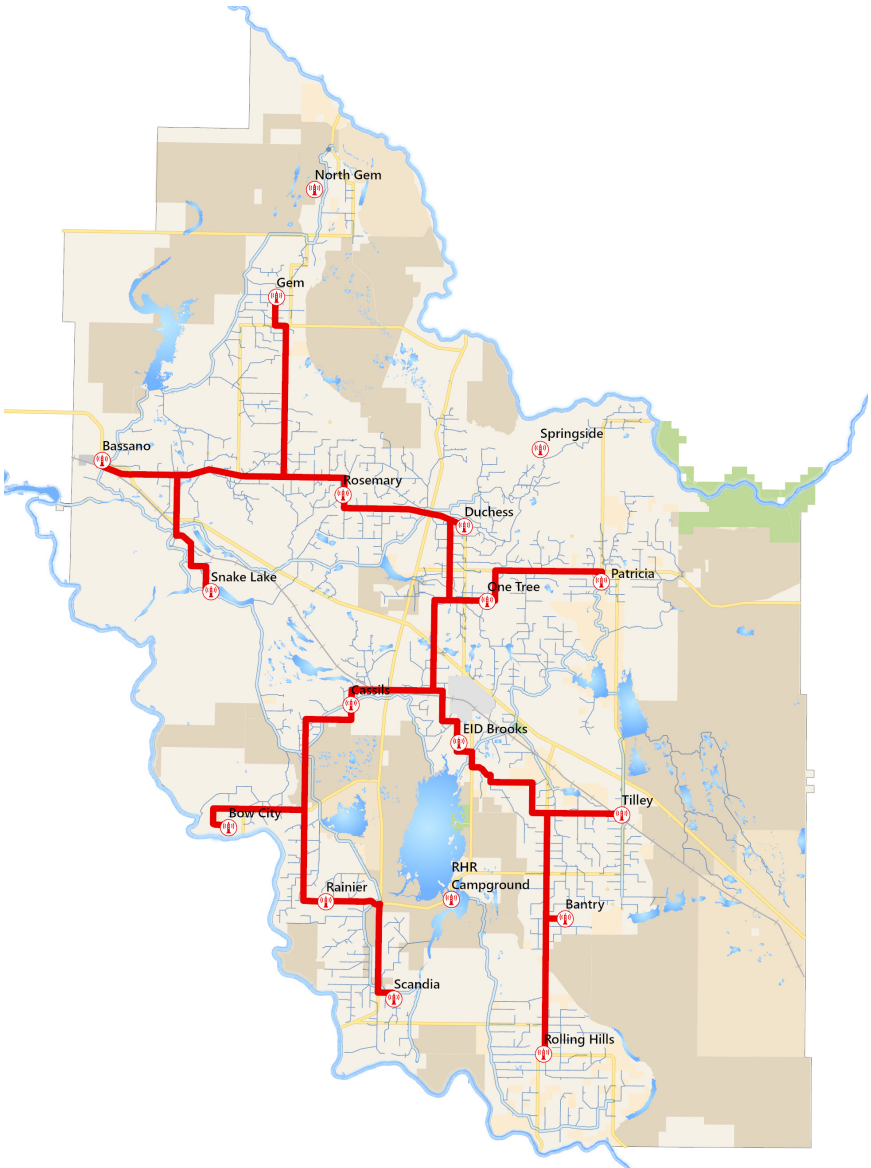
EIDNet now offers Routers, Access Points, and Point-to-Point kits. Ask one of our friendly staff for more information.

Available Plans	Download/Upload	Cost/Month	Rate Payer/Month
Regular	3.0Mbps/2.0Mbps	\$50.00	\$20.00
Fast	6.0Mbps/3.0Mbps	\$65.00	\$50.00
Premium	9.0Mbps/3.0Mbps	\$80.00	\$65.00
Ultra	20.0 Mbps/4.0Mbps	\$110.00	\$95.00
Office 2	6.0Mbps/5.0Mbps	\$120.00	\$105.00
Office 3	9.0Mbps/7.0Mbps	\$175.00	\$160.00

Custom Accounts also available upon request. Please call us for all of your internet needs.

EIDNet Update

Fibre Optic Network



Eastern Irrigation District
P.O. Box 128
550 Industrial Road West
Brooks, Alberta
Canada, T1R 1B2