
BACKGROUND

Who is JohnQ Public Inc. and why was it created?

JohnQ Public Inc. (JohnQ) is a co-operatively owned economic development corporation formed in 2018 by 13 members of the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region (WMR) with a goal to capitalize on our collective strengths to enhance development opportunities that benefit the entire province.

JohnQ provides an opportunity to work at a larger regional scale to coordinate and combine efforts in order to reduce costs and build capacity while increasing the overall economic competitiveness of the WMR.

Viewing business and industry as partners in increasing our competitiveness, building our economy and improving the quality of life for our communities is a key tenant of JohnQ.

Through JohnQ, the development of high-speed Internet infrastructure is being explored for 43 under serviced communities in the 13 member municipalities outside the City of Winnipeg.

How does the WMR work with JohnQ?

The Winnipeg Metropolitan Region provides the platform for municipalities to work on projects that cross boundaries. JohnQ was built by Metro Region leaders and is led by a Board of Directors from the founding municipalities. It operates as a coordinated service provider for the participating municipalities in the METRO Region.

Why is providing high speed Internet service an important next step?

In order for us to attract and keep progressive, innovative and creative people, businesses and organizations in our communities, we need to provide the high speed, reliable access to services, including the Internet, that they require.

Most municipalities outside of Winnipeg don't have high-speed Internet. Residents, business, academia and entrepreneurs all require access. The CRTC also determined new targets for Canadian communities of unlimited service at speeds of 50Mbps down and 10Mbps up. Most communities are far below this.

What are the financial implications for the WMR communities?

There are no financial implications for communities in the WMR.

Why is RFNOW Inc. an important partner?

RFNOW Inc. is a Manitoba company that has a depth of knowledge and experience working with communities like those in the WMR. They already have a large infrastructure, network and training program in practice here locally. The benefits we can be afforded through their knowledge and experience working through construction and building the end user business model will save us countless hours and allow us to hit the ground running.

Why is WireIE an important partner?

WireIE's mission is to bring people living in underserved regions access to the digital economy. They plant seeds for future generations by encouraging the growth of sustainable communities wherever their business takes them. Their experience and depth of knowledge in this area is second to none and as such the benefits associated with this partnership

Does RFNOW Inc. or WireIE own the network?

There has been a partnership established that ensures JohnQ is the majority shareholder. Details in relation to the ownership structure are still in negotiation and are dependent on financial contributions.

Will other Internet Service Providers (ISP's) be allowed to participate?

Yes, this project is in relation to the backbone infrastructure. We have had extensive discussions with multiple ISP's who are very excited about this development and future opportunities.

Have anchor tenants for service been identified?

Currently the primary focus is on the backbone network, although the WMR and JohnQ have had extensive discussions with school divisions and local ISP's which have shown extensive interest.

How will this project affect the WMR?

Communities that offer high-speed Internet access will always have an advantage when trying to attract business. If municipalities in the METRO Region are unable to meet these needs, they will be left behind as the digital marketplace is a large component of almost all business.

Are other levels of government participating and if so how?

We will be meeting with and outlining a fulsome plan with other levels of government in the coming weeks.

Will there be an offering with greater service to individual community residents?

This investment in backbone infrastructure will offer a great opportunity to local ISP's as the initial investment will have been made, which will bring a host of competition to ensure greater offerings to our residents at competitive rates.

What are the next steps to make this project a reality?

Over the coming months the network design, budget and business plan will be finalized and approved. Community meetings will occur. Various levels of government will be contacted for briefings. Training programs will be made available for each aspect of the project.

What is the timeline for completion?

As communities continue to request service, this is an ongoing, moving timeline. Many are shovel ready therefore it is expected construction could commence mid-May 2019.