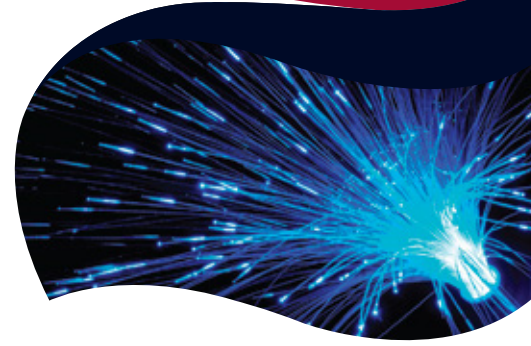


FIBRE PROVIDES NETWORK OF OPPORTUNITY FOR ENTREPRENEURS



The City of Summerside pioneered the bundling of telecommunications and electricity in Canada when creating a fibre optic network as part of its smart grid.

Now, the city wants to find other innovative uses for this sophisticated communications network and partners who can benefit from access to it.

The city started building the bi-directional communications network in 2011, as a way to transmit information between the electrical utility and the smart devices of consumers. The network not only helped modernize Summerside's electrical utility. It left another legacy: a unique opportunity for entrepreneurs to access the network to develop or test products and services.

As of 2022, the fibre optic network extends to approximately 40 per cent of the city—providing a pipeline to the premises of about 2,800 customers. Continued expansion means the city will eventually have fibre coverage to 7,600

customers (approximately 6,750 residential, 970 commercial, and 20 industrial), which could serve as a test bed for projects related to areas such as telecommunications and smart home metering.

Through its Living Lab, the City of Summerside offers a unique openness to work with entrepreneurs who can benefit from access to city infrastructure—such as this robust communications network—to create, refine, and validate their products.

Two internet service providers, Buzz Networx and PEI Monitoring, now have agreements with the city to provide other services on the network.

SUMMERSIDE SEEKS THE DRIVE AND COMMITMENT OF LIKE-MINDED ORGANIZATIONS TO PARTICIPATE AS PARTNERS AND SHARE IN THE SUCCESS.

