

# HALTON RURAL INTERNET ADVOCATES WEIGH IN ON FEDS' PROMISE OF UNIVERSAL HIGH-SPEED

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The federal government's budget pledge to deliver high-speed Internet for every Canadian is being met with mixed reviews in north Halton.

The 2019 budget, unveiled on March 19, promises up to \$6 billion for developing broadband service over the next decade in rural, remote and northern communities.

The end result is a goal that everyone, no matter where they are in the country, will have access to Internet speeds of 50 megabits per second (Mbps) for downloading data and 10 Mbps for uploading data by 2030.

For long-time rural Internet advocate Cindy Lunau, who spent years pressing the government on the issue as a member of Milton Council, the Liberals' plan contains "lovely words" that she fears may

**THE ISSUE:**  
FEDERAL FUNDING PROMISED FOR RURAL HIGH-SPEED INTERNET

**LOCAL IMPACT:** RURAL HALTON HILLS STILL STRUGGLING WITH RELIABLE INTERNET SERVICE

not translate as promised in areas like rural Halton Hills and Milton.

"These areas were specifically excluded in past funding for rural Internet," she said, explaining that due to their geography within the borders of municipalities that contain urban areas, they weren't defined as in need of 'rural' broadband service. "It's a

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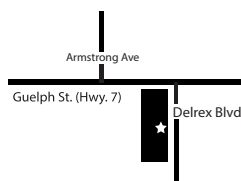
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