

YorkNet's Accessibility Plan

Presentation to the York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee

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Purpose

The purpose of this presentation is to receive feedback on YorkNet's compliance under the Accessible Canada Act (ACA) and highlight YorkNet's Accessibility Plan

Consultation Questions to Consider

1. How could we best consult and engage on this plan?
2. How might we keep the committee informed?
3. Is there any additional information you would like clarified?

About YorkNet

- YorkNet is a York Region-owned corporation. It builds and operates a high-speed, dark fibre network which facilitates access to high-speed internet across the Region.
- YorkNet is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of nine members of Regional Council.

YorkNet's role is to

- Connect regional operations
- Link local municipal partners to the network
- Share the network with telecommunications providers
- YorkNet is not an Internet Service Provider

What is a dark fibre network?

- A fibre network contains cables used to send data such as the ability to view videos, send email and surf the web
- Dark fibres are not connected and are not in use
- Internet Service Providers access the dark fibres and they use them to provide high-speed internet services to homes and businesses

Accessible Canada Act

- Aims to make Canada barrier-free by January 1, 2040, by identifying, removing and preventing barriers in federal jurisdiction
- Applies to organizations under federal responsibility, including:
 - Government of Canada, including government departments, agencies and Crown corporations
 - parts of private sector that the Government of Canada regulates, such as:
 - banks
 - the federal transportation network
 - **the broadcasting and telecommunications sectors**
 - the Canadian Forces and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Accessible Canada Act Requirements

The Act requires that organizations:

- prepare and publish accessibility plans (update plans every three years)
- set up a feedback process (have a way to receive and deal with feedback about their accessibility)
- prepare and publish progress reports (describe actions, include information and consult people with disabilities)

Accessible Canada Act Requirements

- YorkNet operates York Region's dark fibre network and both York Region and YorkNet are regulated as non-dominant carriers under the Telecommunications Act
- The *Accessible Canada Act* and the Accessible Canada Regulations require that federally regulated entities prepare and publish accessibility plans

YorkNet's 2024 Accessibility Plan

- YorkNet's Accessibility Plan under the Accessible Canada Act is available on york.ca/yorknet
- YorkNet's Accessibility Plan builds on the work identified in the Region's [Multi-Year Accessibility Plan 2023 to 2027](#) to improve accessibility across York Region

Areas under YorkNet's 2024 Accessibility Plan

The plan is made up of four applicable areas:

1. Employment
2. The Built Environment
3. Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)
 - Communication, other than ICT
4. Procurement of goods, services and facilities

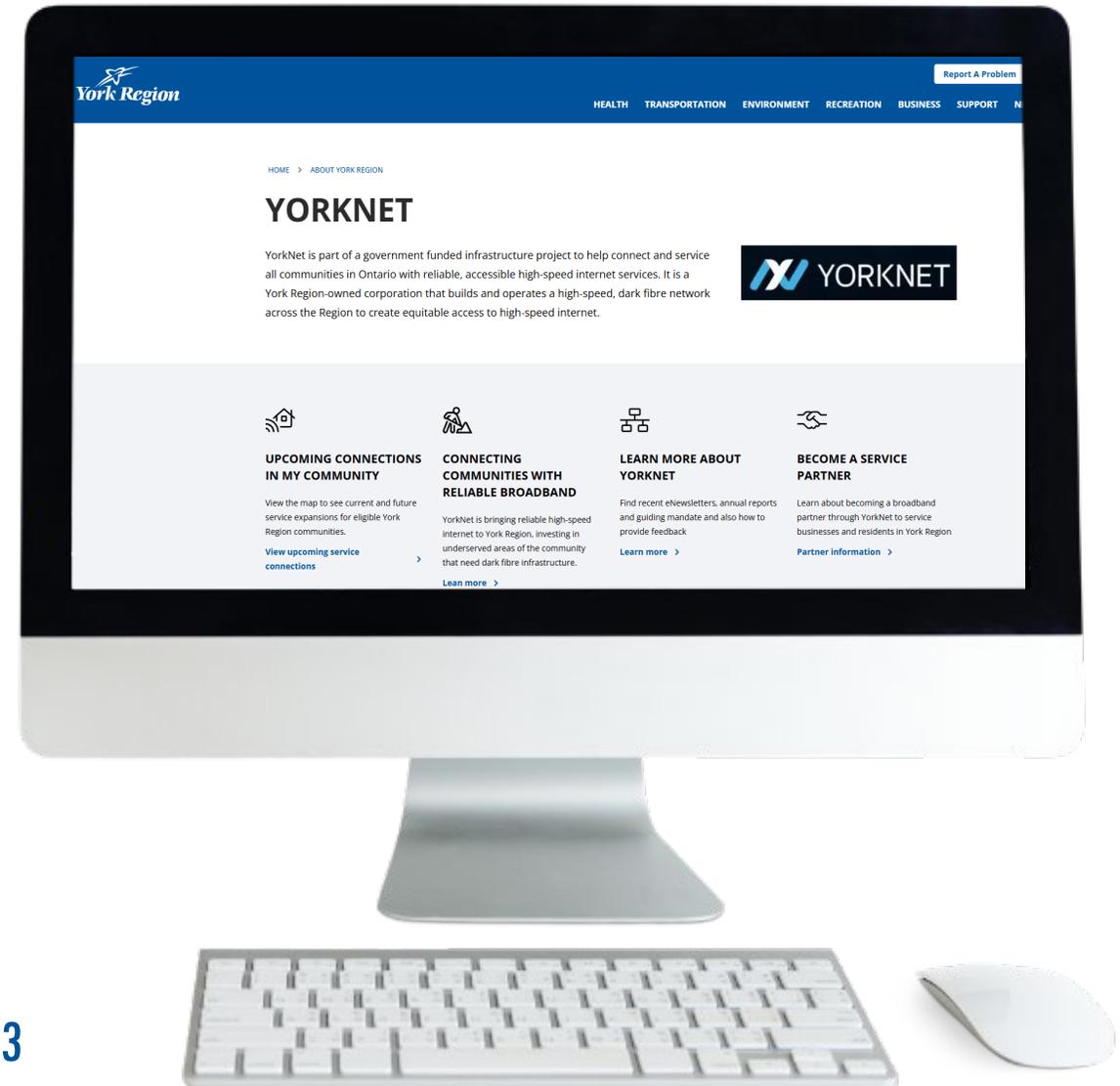
Feedback for YorkNet's 2024 Accessibility Plan

The Plan includes a defined process for receiving and responding to feedback

- **Online:** [Accessible Canada Act feedback form](#)
- **Mail:**
General Manager of YorkNet
YorkNet, Accessibility Feedback
17150 Yonge St, Newmarket, ON L3Y 8V3
- **Phone:** Accessibility feedback line 1-877-464-9675 ext. 71492
- **Email:** yorknet@york.ca (include “Accessibility Feedback” in the subject line)

Accessing YorkNet's 2024 Accessibility Plan

- YorkNet's Accessibility Plan and subsequent progress reports can be viewed at york.ca/yorknet



Conclusion - Next Steps

- YorkNet will continue to work with York Region's Accessibility Unit to further understand compliance under the Accessible Canada Act
- YorkNet is preparing its yearly ACA Progress Report and is on track to submit by June 1, 2025

How could we best consult and engage on this plan?

Consultation Question 1 of 3

How might we keep the committee informed?

Consultation Question 2 of 3

Is there any additional information you would like clarified?

Consultation Question 3 of 3

Thank you!

For more information:

Contact Laura Bradley at laura.bradley@york.ca

