# KEY SUCCESS FACTORS

Connectivity and community development are inextricable. Infrastructure decisions will be informed by an understanding of how digital will change community needs and opportunities going forward. The Province of British Columbia, in partnership with BC communities, identified five key elements that created the conditions for long-term community benefits to be realized through connectivity.

## Leadership and Vision

Connected communities have a vision for how digital can enhance community development strategies. Implementing these requires leadership, governance, collaboration, and the effective use of resources. Moving forward on a broadband solution requires long-term thinking.

## Connectivity

Access, Affordability and Speed are the three characteristics that must be present for communities to receive the full benefits of connectivity, driving resiliency, and sustainable growth. People, businesses, and organizations have the ability to connect and collaborate virtually.

## Digital Capability

Broadband access, adoption, and utilization are not the same concepts. People must also connect and use broadband enable solutions to nurture innovation that drives business opportunities and improves livability.

## Sustainability

Sustainable communities are rooted in a diversified economy that respects, supports, and leverages the environment and community values. The need to adapt, grow, and innovate requires workforce attraction, support structures, programs for entrepreneurs, and environmental stewardship.

## Community Well-Being

Healthy communities support quality of life. Citizen and business engagement is central to shaping community identity and building community well-being.

You can use a programmable Excel document based on these five success factors a useful engagement tool to start the process of community-driven connectivity planning. We have adapted the document for Connected Saskatchewan with the permission of the Province of British Columbia and it is accessible at www.connectedsask.ca.

# About the Community Self-Assessment Tool

Initial use of the Community Self-Assessment Tool allows your community to quantify a baseline, from which subsequent use can track your progress using the five success factors It was created to help communities assess their current state and enable visioning for the future state

It is separated into 21 indicators. All indicators fall within one of the five foundational elements. Planning starts with identifying current state in each of these elements. Many of these indicators are inter-related and can have a cascading effect upon each other.

Obtaining input from local stakeholders is suggested prior to completing the assessment questions. This could be facilitated by surveying residents and businesses or by hosting virtual forums. Refer to the Connected Saskatchewan Handbook for example surveys.