



MANITOBA FIRST NATIONS NETWORK:

FORMING LINKAGES WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD

CLOSING CONNECTIVITY GAPS

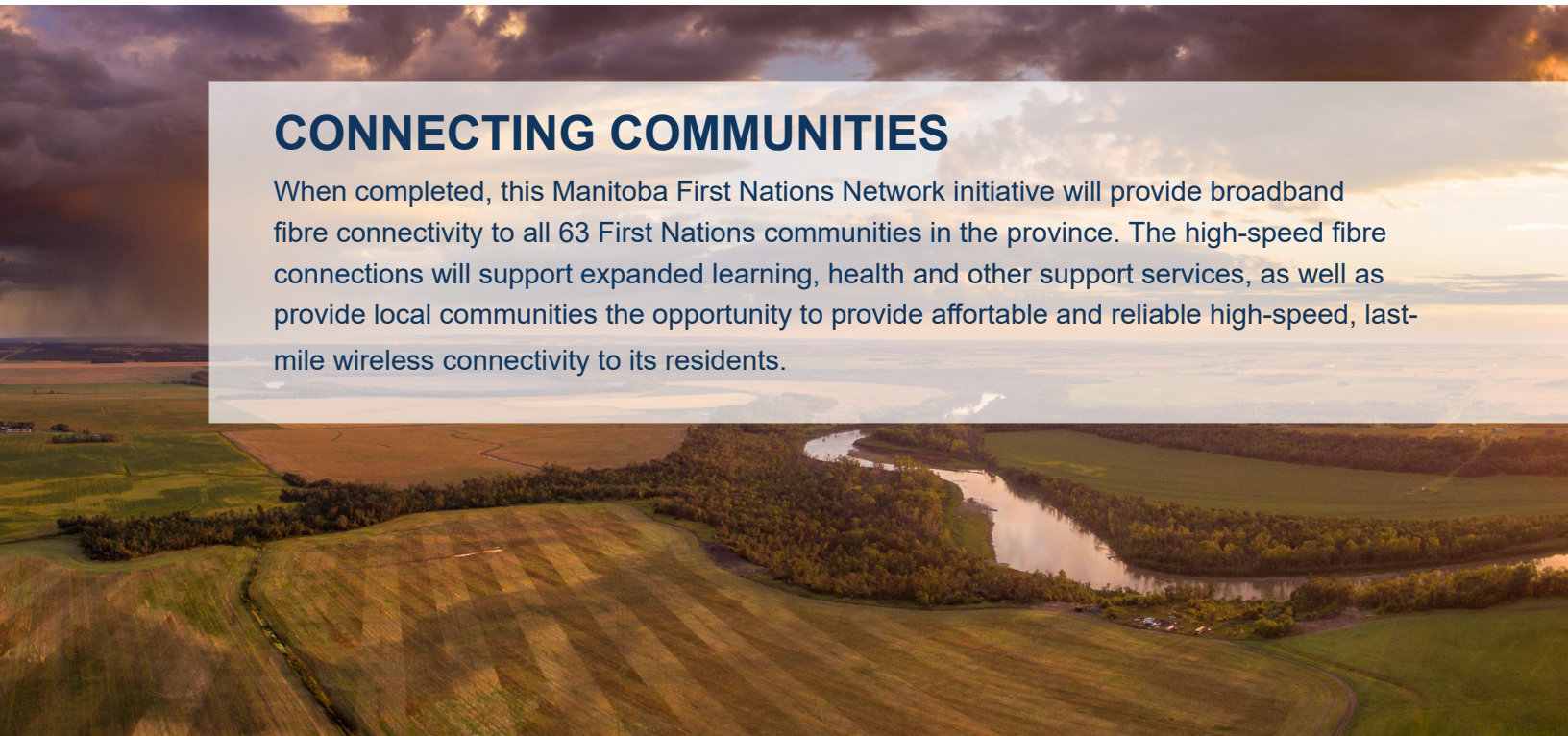
Within Manitoba, many First Nations communities lack affordable, dependable, high-speed internet connectivity. As technology continuously evolves, it is essential that Manitoba First Nations communities be able to keep up with all advancements moving forward.

Clear Sky Connections, who are the largest Indigenous-owned telecommunications network in Canada, have set out to close the connectivity gaps in Manitoba, and to provide all Manitoba First Nations and surrounding communities within their network with broadband service that is both affordable and reliable.



CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

When completed, this Manitoba First Nations Network initiative will provide broadband fibre connectivity to all 63 First Nations communities in the province. The high-speed fibre connections will support expanded learning, health and other support services, as well as provide local communities the opportunity to provide affordable and reliable high-speed, last-mile wireless connectivity to its residents.





LEVERAGING EXISTING ASSETS

The project will leverage relationships with Federal and Provincial Departments, along with private investment. The network is expected to require the deployment of over 5,000km of existing fibre and include the deployment of 3,600km of new fibre and plus numerous tower sites for last-mile connectivity.



SECURING FUNDING

Morrison Hershfield was retained as the technical lead and part of a team that included legal and financial experts that partnered over a multi-year engagement to create a detailed Development Roadmap. The road map included the components necessary to support funding applications and contribution agreements.

The team also helped the client secure \$63 million in project funding commitments from various sources to support the network build.



Self Determination

Rural broadband network expansion projects, like the Manitoba First Nations network project, are one way for rural First Nations communities to increase autonomy and capacity for self-determination. The improved access creates a world of new possibilities for residents and businesses, while drastically improving the health and well-being of the communities.