



**Canadian Network Operators Consortium Inc.
Consortium des Opérateurs de Réseaux Canadiens Inc.**

***** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE *****

CNOC Endorses Federal Budget Commitment to End Digital Divide

Investment in broadband funding an important step to building a fully connected Canada

Toronto, ON, March 19, 2019 – Canadian Network Operators Consortium Inc. (CNOC) welcomed today’s Federal Budget commitment to end Canada’s digital divide that limits high-speed Internet access to Canadian homes and businesses.

“CNOC endorses the government’s plan to achieve universal high-speed Internet access for all Canadians with new funding and a clear timeline for 100 per cent access by 2030. Our rural, remote and Northern communities need equal access at comparable speeds to participate fully in a modern, technology-driven, and digital economy,” said Matt Stein, CNOC’s Chair and CEO of Distributel.

The Federal Government continues to put the best interests of Canadian first when it comes to affordability, access, choice and competition.

“Today’s commitment builds on Minister Navdeep Bains’ recent policy directive that places consumers at the forefront of Canadian telecom policy. Together, they will provide all Canadians with the access to Internet services that they need and the benefits of competition and consumer choice that they deserve. The Federal Government’s vision is clear: high-speed Internet – with even higher speeds and greater demands for access – will continue to grow as a necessity for all Canadians,” said Mr. Stein.

About CNOC

CNOC is comprised of over 30 competitive telecommunications providers that operate wireline and/or wireless networks in many regions of Canada. CNOC’s mission is to increase the level of competitive choice and innovation in the delivery of communications services to Canadians. For further information, visit www.cnoc.ca

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