



# **EASTERN ARCTIC UNDERWATER FIBRE OPTIC NETWORK (EAUFON) PROJECT UPDATE**

**KRG REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING  
KUUJJUARAAPIK  
MAY 27-30, 2024**



# Overview

In 2019, the KRG began the work to connect 14 Nunavik Communities with reliable, dependable, and affordable High-Speed Fibre Optics connectivity.

The project was planned in 3 phases:

- **EAUFON 1** - Undersea fibre from Chisasibi to Puvirnituq connecting the communities of Whapmagoostui, Kuujjuaraapik, Umiujaq, and Inukjuak. A terrestrial fibre route from Kuujjuaq to Kawawachikamach. Fiber to the home for remaining 10 communities.
- **EAUFON 2** - Undersea fibre from Puvirnituq to Akulivik, Ivujivik, Salluit, Deception Bay.
- **EAUFON 2** - A terrestrial fibre route from Deception Bay to Kangiqsujuaq. ( Anticipated completion Summer 2026)
- **EAUFON 3** - Undersea marine cable connecting from Kangiqsujuaq to Kuujjuaq with connectivity to Quaqtaq, Kangirsuk, Aupaluk, Tasiujaq, and Kangiqsualujuaq. ( Anticipated completion Summer 2026)



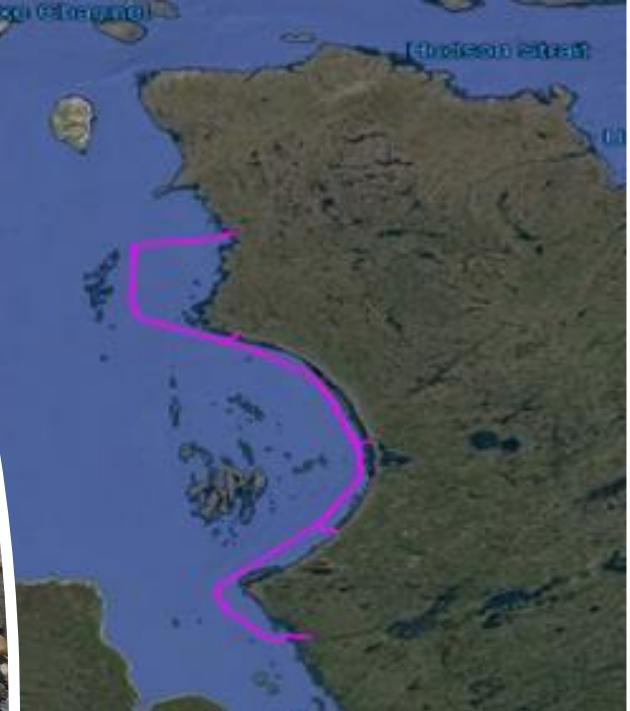
The EAUFON network connects in Chisasibi with the Eeyou Communications Network and in Kawawachikamach with the Sichuun network.

# EAUFON 1

**Total build Cost : +/- \$174 M**

- Upgrade of all community earth stations in preparedness for much greater bandwidth.
- Installation of Fibre to the home (FTTH) networks.
- Marine survey in 2018.
- Total fibre construction;
  - 1175 Km submarine Fibre
  - \*\*\* 455 Km terrestrial Fibre
- Activation – June 2022

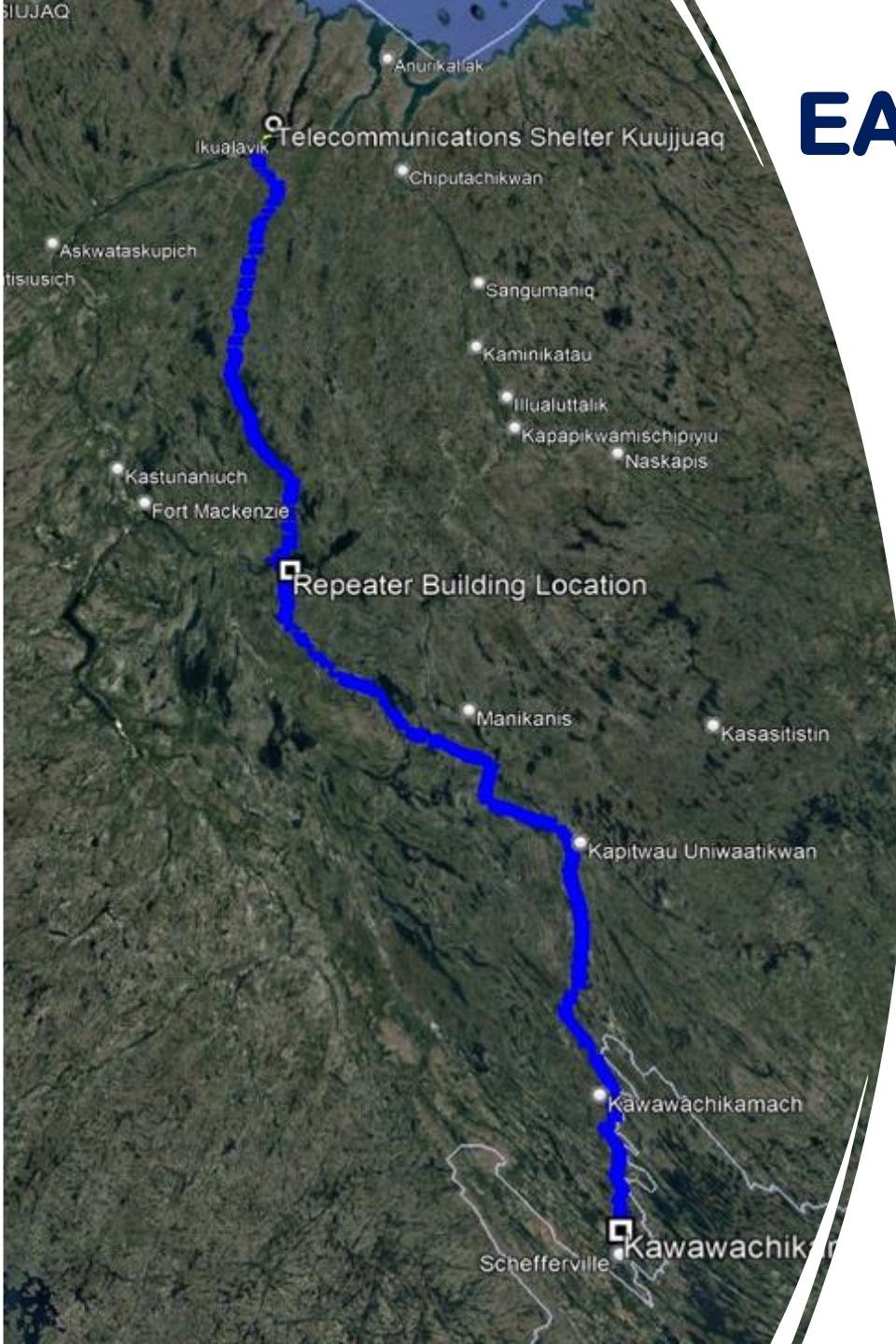
\*\*\* Kuujjuaq to Kawawachikamach still in progress



# EAUFON 1 Terrestrial

Planned terrestrial link from Kuujjuaq to  
Kawawachikamach

- Approval received by Nayumivik Landholding Corporation – April 2024
- The Naskapi Nation is supportive of the project and a further discussions have been had to discuss crossing the IB-N, II-N lands and the Nachicapau lake area.
- Expecting completion by summer 2026



# EAUFON 2

**Total build Cost : +/- \$114 M**

- Total fibre construction;
  - 675 Km submarine Fibre
  - \*\*\*220 Km terrestrial Fibre
- Activation – February 2024

\*\*\* Deception Bay to Kangiqsujuaq still in progress



# EAUFON 2 Terrestrial

Planned terrestrial link from Deception Bay to Kangiqsujuaq

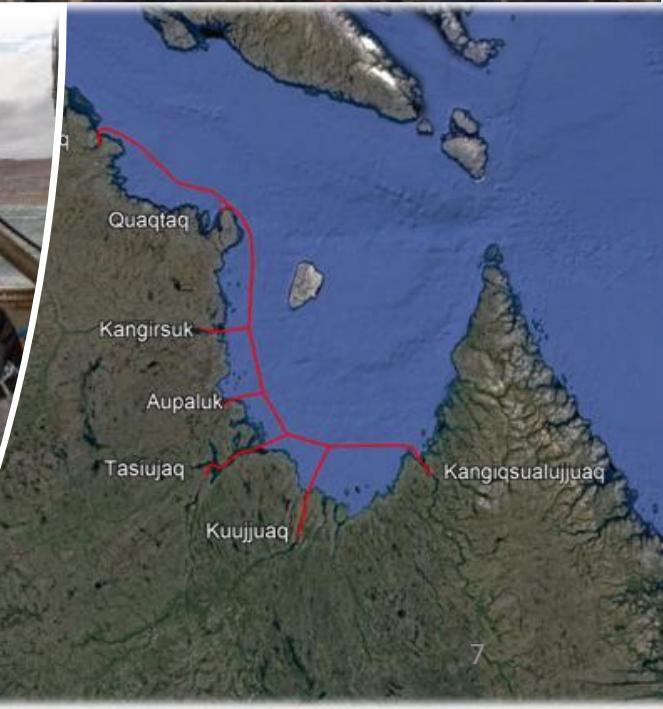
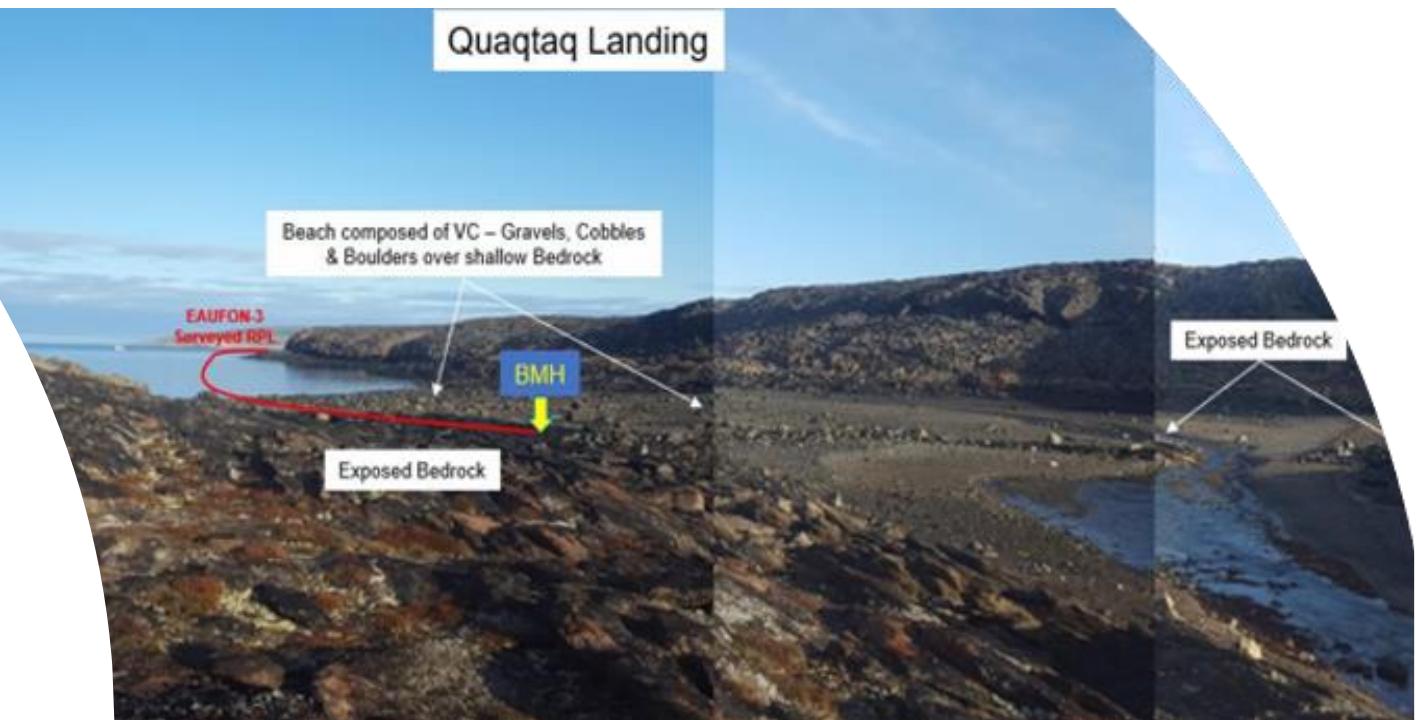
- This will also connect both mine sites and Donaldson airport.
- Anticipated Completion Spring 2026



# EAUFON 3

Estimated Build Cost : +/- \$158 M

- Marine survey done in 2022
- 900 Km marine fibre
- No Funding confirmed



# Some challenges faced along the way

## EAUFON 1

- Covid – 19
- Permitting approvals and tendering process
- Slack in cable during installation
- Bottleneck on the ECN network
- FTTH deficiencies

## EAUFON 2

- Supply Chain disruptions and price increases due to Covid-19
- Inoperability with network equipment in Cologix
- One year delay due to lack of available vessel

## EAUFON 3

- Ungava bay tidal activity and larger amount of rocky bottom
- A more detailed shore end survey is required.
- Funding not confirmed





# Why Fibre ?

With the implementation of a Fibre Optic cable bringing more dependable and reliable broadband/internet into Nunavik, it will broaden opportunities.

The results of Fibre positively impact:

- The Socio & Economic benefit
- The Medical benefit (Tele-Health)
- The Educational benefit (Tele-Education)
- The Justice benefit (Tele-Justice)

Over the longer term, a fibre optic solution is much more economical than satellite costs while providing 100% of Nunavik's broadband requirements

# STARLINK GATEWAY

In May 2022, the Quebec Government announced \$50 million to provide internet access to 10,000 satellite-dependent households in the province using SpaceX's Starlink. The announcement included a \$9.5 million subsidy for the targeted households to cover the cost of acquiring the equipment. - FAQ's for this subsidy can be found on the KRG website [www.krg.ca/en-CA/departments/administration/tamaani](http://www.krg.ca/en-CA/departments/administration/tamaani)

- **THIS SUBSIDY EXPIRES IN JUNE 2025**– The KRG is currently undertaking a feasibility study and are having discussions with the Quebec Government for funding towards a Starlink gateway in Kuujjuaq.
- This gateway will allow for residential and corporate customers in Kuujjuaq to take advantage of very similar internet experience as is offered on the Fiber optic link on the Hudson Coast – and at the same price point.
- Without the need to install individual antenna on home and businesses. The bandwidth will be delivered over Tamaani's FTTH network.



This gateway will provide redundancy once the Fiber optic network is in service.

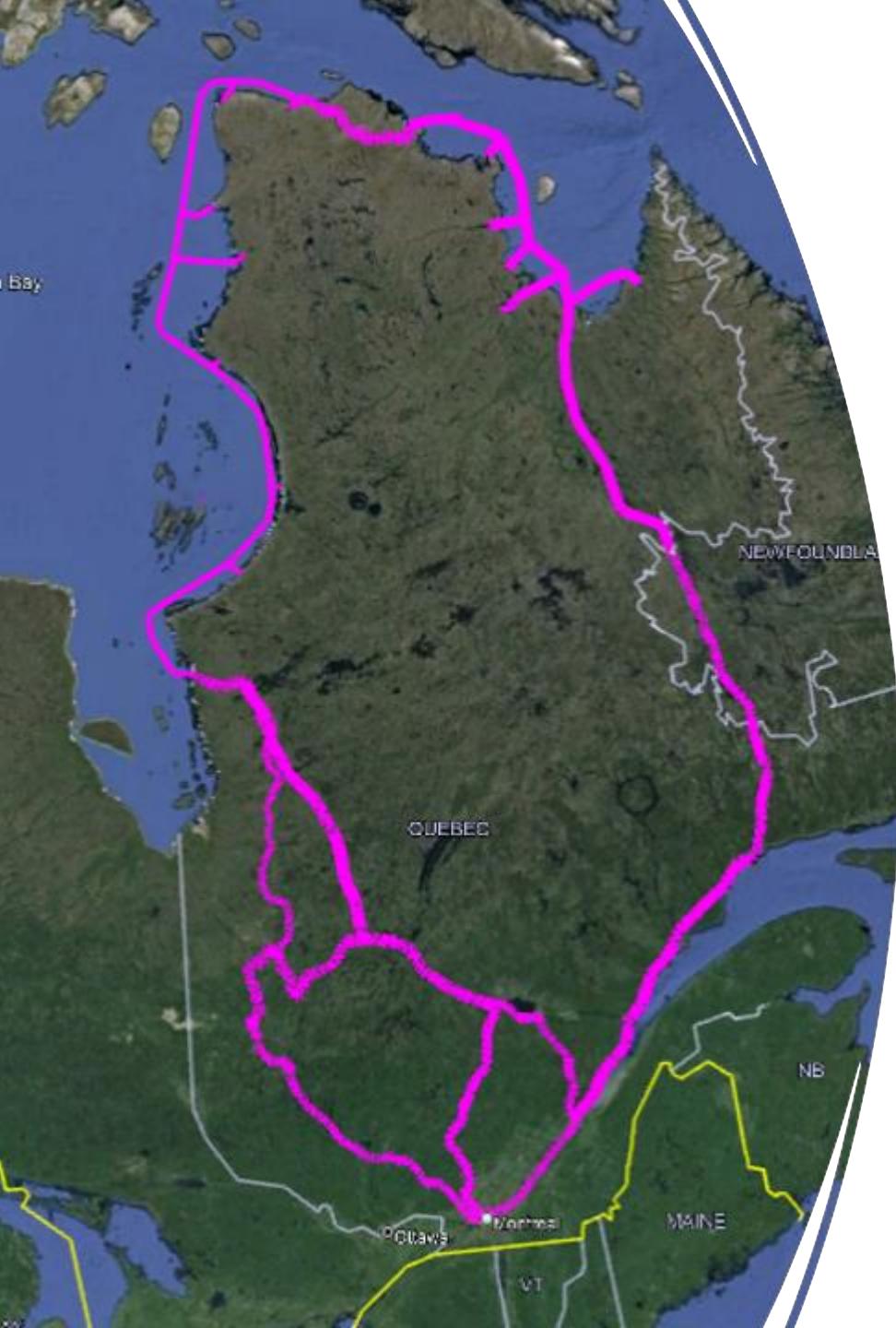
# STARLINK COMMUNITY TERMINALS

While waiting for the EAUFON 3 funding and eventual construction of a fiber optic network, the KRG plans to install a high-performance terminal in Kangiqsujuaq, Quaqtaq, Kangirsuk, Aupaluk, Tasiujaq and Kangiqsualujuaq.

- These High-Performance terminals will provide home and businesses with similar speeds compared to the Fibre optic network – but with less overall capacity for each individual user.
- Without the need to install individual antenna on home and businesses. The bandwidth will be delivered over Tamaani's FTTH network.



These terminals will provide redundancy once the Fibre optic network is in service.

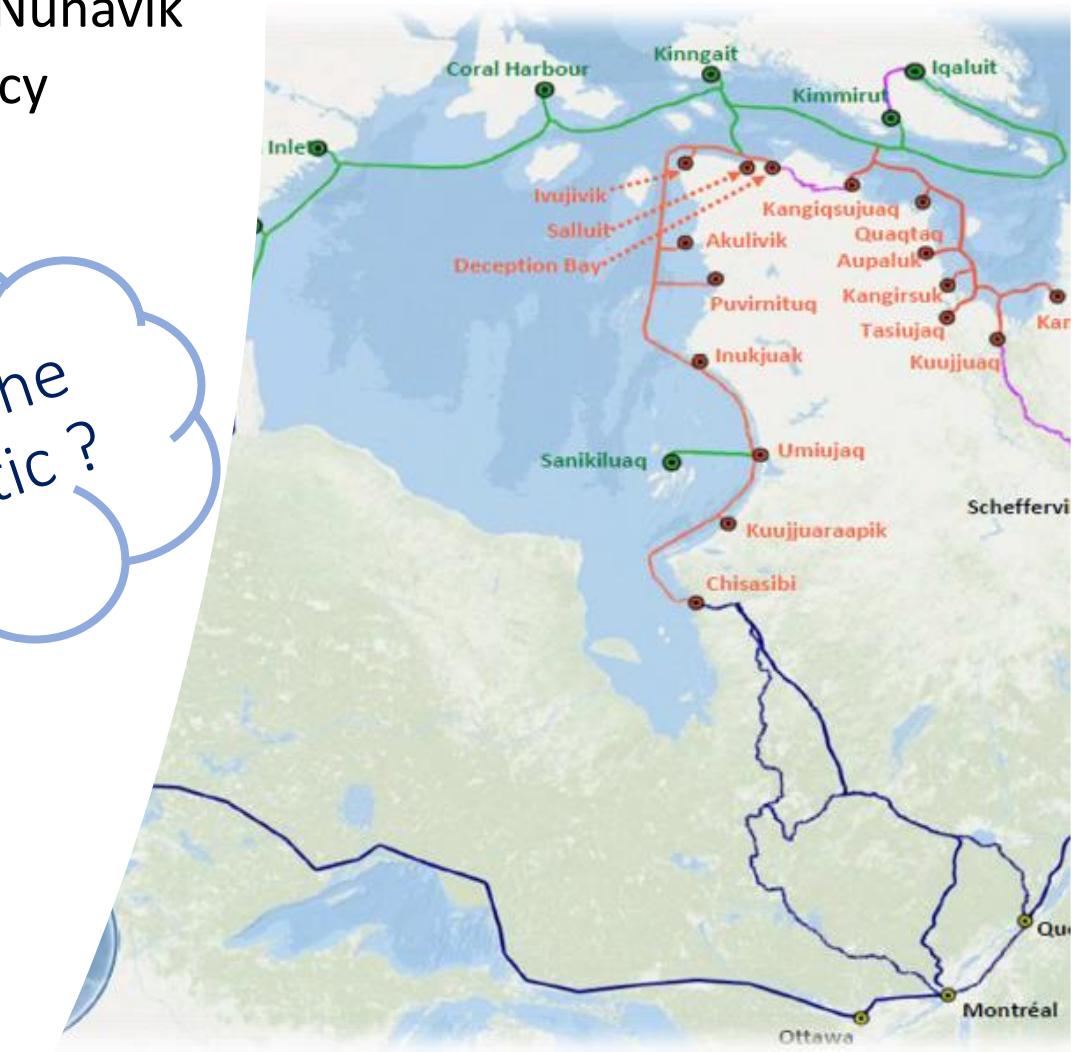


# Nunavik will be fully connected

A High Speed, High-Capacity network that will eliminate the Digital Divide in Nunavik

- Full Redundancy

Perhaps a gateway to the Eastern Arctic?



# Thank You!

