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Close the Digital Divide - Background

ACORN Members give the Harper government a failing grade in [Closing the Digital Divide](#).

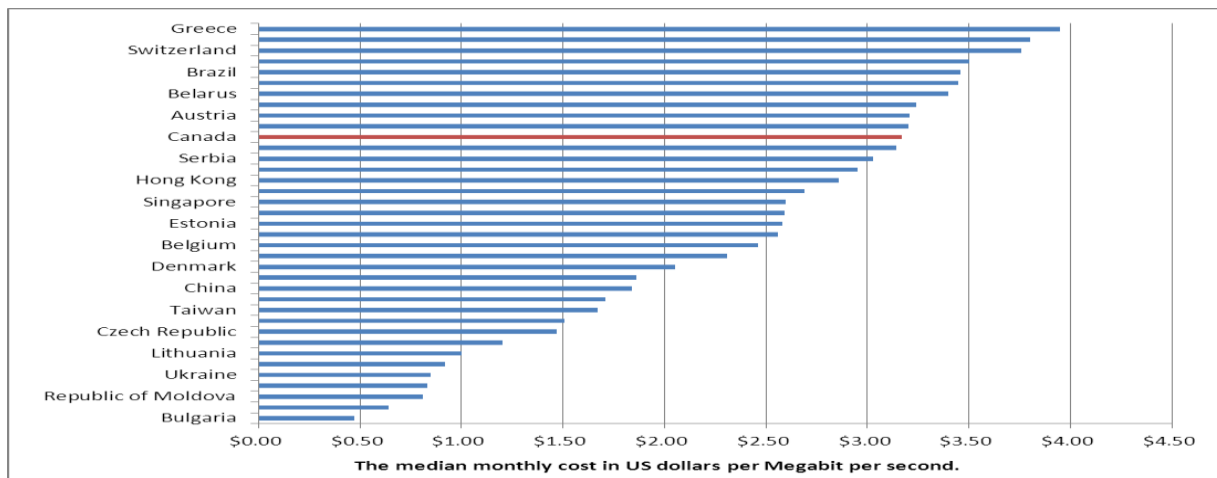
The Facts:

- According to a Statistics Canada survey, 42% of households in the lowest quartile of \$30,000 or less do not have home Internet access.
- This “digital divide” excludes low-income individuals and families from what the United Nations now considers to be a human right, comparable with freedom of speech.
- In 2012 Statistics Canada reported that 37% of people used the internet for formal education, training or school work, 36% for searching for employment and 63% used the internet for visiting or interacting with government websites.
- Surrey, BC is entering licensing agreements with SHAW for free Wifi in public buildings and parks - but what about PUBLIC HOUSING!
- In 2013, the Board of Directors of Bell Canada recommended AGAINST a shareholder proposal to cap total executive compensation gross pay at \$5,000,000. George Cope’s (Bell’s CEO) compensation package is \$10,963,448/year.

How Canada Compares

The following graphs are generated from data from the **Ookla** website (ookla.com), the leading broadband testing and web-based network diagnostic application company. The information is based on their user test and survey results.

The Median Monthly Cost in US dollars per Megabit per second.

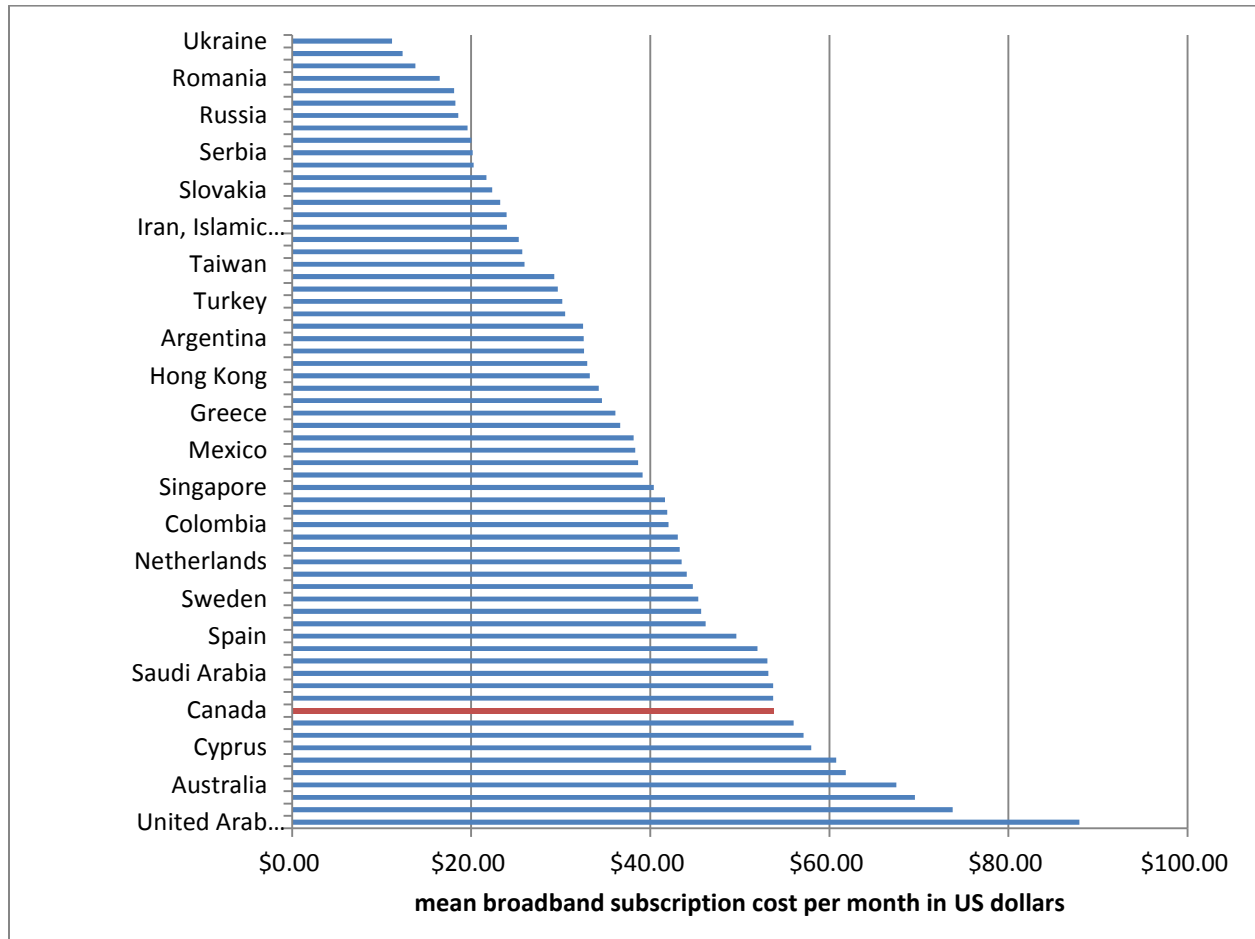




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Mean Broadband Subscription Cost per Month in USD.

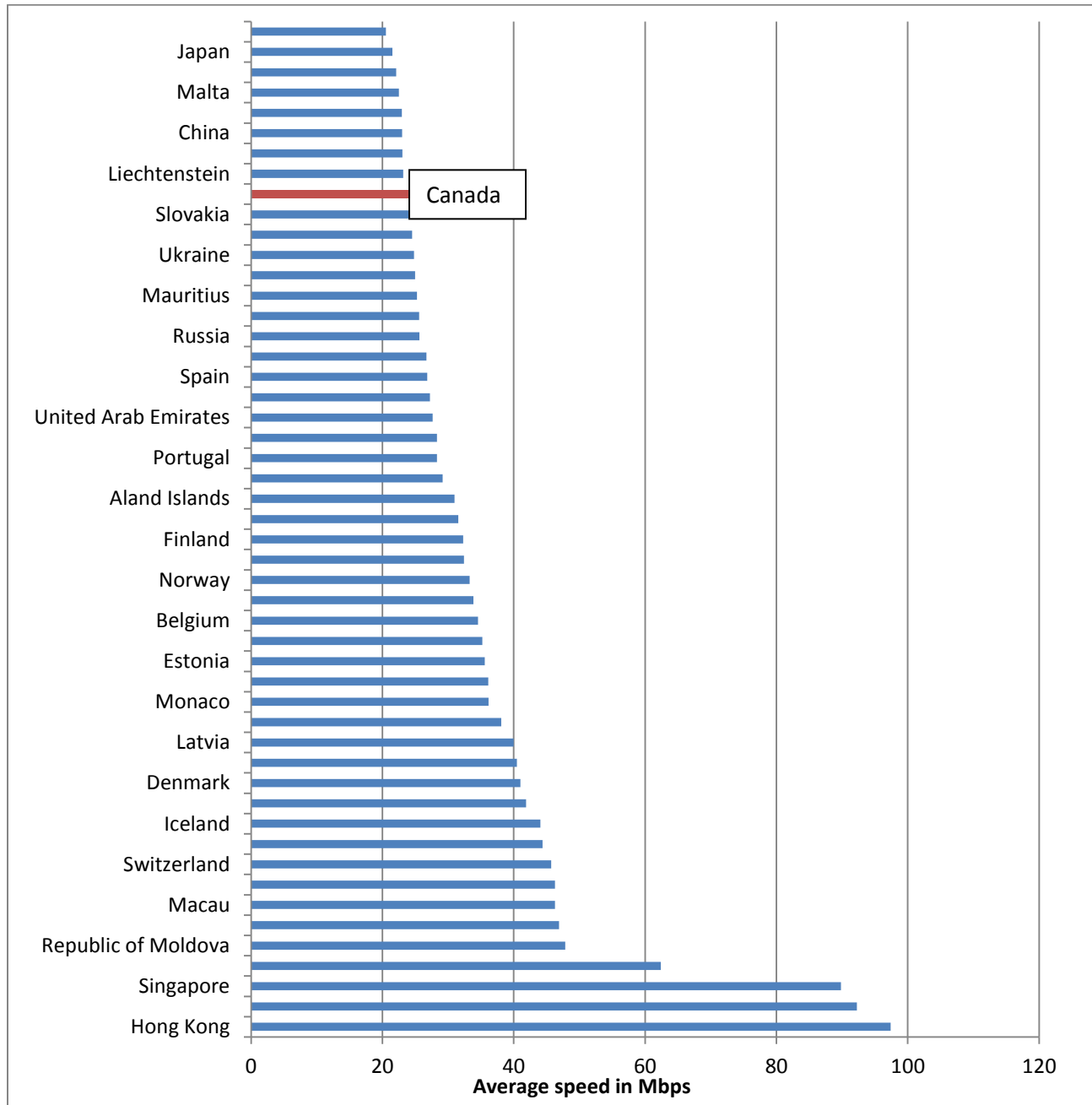




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Average Speed by country in Mbps





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How does Canada's plans compare to other OECD countries?

The federal government's Digital Canada 150 includes a connectivity goal: 98 percent access to 5 Mbps download speeds by 2019.

Country	Target Year	Target Speed
Austria	2013	100% access to 25 Mbps
Australia	2021	100% premises, 93% homes, schools and business to 100 Mbps
Denmark	2020	100% access to 100 Mbps
Finland	2015	99% within 2 km of network permitting 100 Mbps
Germany	2014	75% access to 50 Mbps
Greece	2017	100% household access to 100 Mbps
Hungary	2020	100% access to 30 Mbps
Luxembourg	2020	100% access to 1 Gbps
Slovak Republic	2020	100% access to 30 Mbps
Sweden	2020	90% access to 100 Mbps
United States	2020	100% access to 4 Mbps