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At TELUS we're working hard to ensure everyone has access to world-leading technology and healthcare, including the most marginalized among us, through our Connecting for Good® programs.For almost a decade, our Connecting for Good programs have been supporting those who need it most.Free or low-cost, pre-loved smartphones and plans for youth emerging from foster care and low-income seniors.Low-cost connectivity for in-need families, people with disabilities, low-income seniors and youth aging out of care.Customized training and assistive technology for people with disabilities who face barriers using smartphones, tablets, computers and laptops.Providing marginalized individuals with improved access to primary and mental health services, and supporting low-income older adults to safely age in place with confidence.Mobility for Good for youth provides a free smartphone and plan to youth aging out of foster care, helping them successfully transition to independence.Mobility for Good for seniors provides access to a discounted smartphone and low-cost mobility rate plan for Canadian seniors receiving the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) benefit, ensuring that they stay connected to loved ones and can access important resources and information. Apply for Mobility for GoodFree smartphones and plans for youth leaving foster care, with the option to buy a discounted device from Low-cost plans with the option to buy a discounted device from for low-income seniorsDigital literacy and safety workshops and resources through .of participants said the program makes it easier to stay connected to friends, family and support workers.said the program helped them foster a personal sense of security.said the program helped them find resources in a crisis.We have partnered with service provider organizations that assist government-assisted refugees across Canada to offer refugees free phones and low-cost mobility plans.Developed in partnership with Indigenous-led organizations, this program provides free smartphones and data plans to Indigenous women at risk or surviving violence.Photo: AtI'kitsem | Texwnéwets | Howe Sounds, B.C. David Ward, Lil'wat First NationWatch how Mobility for Good is making a positive difference in communities across Canada.How a smartphone program is helping seniors to stay healthy and safeWhen Andrew stopped working due to health issues, it was tough financially. Yet it was still important for him to connect with his friends and family. That's why our Mobility for Good for seniors program offers low-cost wireless plans and discounted smartphones to help low-income seniors stay connected to what matters most. How a smartphone program is helping seniors to stay healthy and safeHelping youth stay connecting with Mobility for GoodTELUS Internet for Good offers low-cost, high-speed Internet to qualified low-income families and seniors, youth aging out of care and people with disabilities in need.*Note: Internet for Good is provided as a TELUS wireline service only and is not available on our wireless network or for customers accessing TELUS High Speed Internet with a SmartHub.* This program is only available in B.C., Alberta and some regions of Quebec.Apply for Internet for GoodLow-cost high-speed Internet, starting at \$10 per month, with the option to buy a low-cost refurbished computerDigital literacy and safety workshops and resources through 0No contracts or cancellation fees.of Internet for Good participants said the program allows them to stay connected to the people and resources that matter most.said the program helped their children to continue learning remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic. said the program helped them feel more connected to their community.computers donated to the Government of Canada's Computers for Schools Plus program since 2001.We have partnered with service provider organizations that assist government-assisted refugees in B.C., Alberta and some areas of Quebec to offer refugees low-cost home internet plans.Watch how Internet for Good is making a positive difference in communities across Canada.Connecting Canadians in need - Internet for GoodHalf of Canadian single mothers live in poverty. Our Internet for Good program connects families in need with high-speed internet starting at \$10/month to help them succeed and focus on what matters most - their family.Connecting Canadians in need - Internet for GoodKatelyn's story - Internet for GoodSheryl & Syrene's Story - Internet for GoodJessica's Story - Internet for GoodAvailable nationwide, Tech for Good helps improve quality of life, independence and personal empowerment of people with disabilities by offering customized recommendations and training on assistive technology for mobile devices, computers and laptops.A collaboration between TELUS and March of Dimes Canada, the program supports people with disabilities regardless of their mobility or internet provider.Note: Tech for Good does not provide program participants with free smartphones, tablets, computers or laptops. If additional assistive technology is required to optimize the use of a device, financial assistance may be available. Access to Assistive Technology Specialists with expert knowledge on accessibility challenges and assistive technologiesPersonalized, virtual one-on-one assessment, recommendations and training on mobile, computer and laptop devices and related assistive technologies, including apps, software and hardware Program participants receive a \$20 monthly discount on TELUS consumer smartphone plans.of program participants report increased independence in completing day-to-day tasks and participating in recreation, leisure and social activities. people with disabilities supported through Tech for Good.TELUS Health for Good initiatives like mobile health clinics and free or low-cost access to TELUS Health MyCare™ counselling and TELUS Health Medical Alert services make healthcare more accessible for marginalized individuals who often face significant barriers accessing quality health care.Our free digital literacy education program helps people of all ages stay safe and savvy in our digital world through informative workshops and resources.Our free digital literacy education program helps people of all ages stay safe and savvy in our digital world through informative workshops and resources.If you're an NPO seeking assistance not currently available through one of our Connecting for Good programs, please submit your request below.View NPO application formIf you're an NPO seeking assistance not currently available through one of our Connecting for Good programs, please submit your request below.View NPO application formIf you're an NPO seeking assistance not currently available through one of our Connecting for Good programs, please submit your request below.View NPO application formRogers announced a new program that aims to make 5G service accessible for more than 2.5 million low-income Canadians. The company's 'Connected for Success 5G Mobile Plan' will allow eligible low-income Canadians to get a \$25/mo plan with 3GB of 5G data (speeds of up to 250Mbps) with unlimited use at reduced speeds of up to 512Kbps beyond the allotment. Additionally, the plan includes unlimited Canada-wide talk and text, and unlimited international text and picture/video messaging sent from Canada. Alongside the plan, Rogers will offer a 'no-cost' Samsung Galaxy A14 or Motorola G 5G smartphone to eligible low-income Canadians. The phones usually cost \$386 or \$364, respectively, but Rogers will offer them for \$0/mo financing (after a bill credit) and \$0 down on approved credit with the Connected for Success 5G plan. Rogers confirmed to MobileSyrup that the program is its own and isn't connected to a government initiative. Rogers isn't the only carrier offering a plan tailored to low-income earners, though it appears the company's is the only one to have 5G speed. Telus' 'Mobility for Good' program has a similar \$25/mo 3GB plan for low-income seniors. However, Telus' plan only specifies "high-speed data," and instead of a free phone, Telus offers a \$75 discount off the purchase of a phone from Mobile Klinik. The company also has a program for youth leaving foster care — the plan includes the same data and calling options but is free for two years. MobileSyrup was not able to find a similar program offered by Bell and has reached out to the company to learn if it offers one. To put the plan in perspective, there are few in-market offers from wireless providers that come close to matching the \$25/3GB plan Rogers has, and none of them include 5G data or a free phone: Rogers' Connected for Success program also offers internet and TV options for low-income Canadians. To access the program, Canadians need to receive eligible support for provincial and/or federal governments. In Ontario, for example, eligible support programs include the Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP), Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS), Connecting Families Program, Rent geared to income (RGI), Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP), or Ontario Works (OW). You can learn more about eligible programs here. In a press release about the program, Rogers highlighted its other affordability efforts, including the company's program offering 48-month device financing through its credit card. Rogers markets this as a way to lower monthly phone payments "by up to 50%," but the program appears to be a way to bypass the CRTC's restrictions on phone contracts that are longer than two years. You can learn more about Rogers' Connected for Success 5G Mobile Plan here. Header image credit: Shutterstock Home / For Youth / TELUS 'Mobility for Good Program'™ TELUS is working with Children's Aid Foundation of Canada to support young people in their transition out of care by providing free cell phone packages over a two-year period. TELUS' 'Mobility for Good'™ program will provide youth with access to a TELUS cell phone plan at \$0 per month, which will include unlimited across Canada talk and text and up to 3GB of monthly data usage. This service will help youth to stay in touch with friends and workers, and access important services and resources, including employment and academic opportunities. Youth who do not have a phone will have the option of receiving a smartphone from TELUS. At this time the Mobility for Good program is open to youth who were in care in Canada. To learn how TELUS Mobility for Good is helping youth stay connected with loved ones and supports, read the latest impact report here. Check your eligibility, find answers to your questions, and complete the online application by visiting the TELUS Portal. Check your eligibility This program (opens in new window) offers eligible young people who exited government care a free cellphone and a 2-year data plan at no cost. After the 2 years is up, you only have to pay \$25 per month. What you get from Telus Unlimited text and talk Canada-wide 3 GB of high-speed data, and unlimited data at reduced speeds. Free refurbished phone Free call display, conference call, call waiting and voicemail Free SIM card (if needed) No contract or cancellation fees Eligibility Be at the age of majority in the province you are currently living in (even if your care status is in another province). For example, if you aged out of care in Manitoba at 18 years old, and moved to BC where the age of majority is 19 years old then you would have to wait until you are 19 years old. Be under 26 years old Have been in either permanent or temporary care Aged out of the CFS system on your 18th birthday. You can be on an AYA (Agreements with Young adults/ Extension of Care). How to apply How to know if I got accepted Check your email frequently (including junk mail) for your letter of approval with your verification code. You will receive your personal verification code via email within two weeks of signing up. Got my code, now what? You can call or use online chat to set up your account. When you contact Telus you will need to provide the following information: Your Driver's License, SIN or Provincial Photo Card (any one of these is acceptable). Phone number and account number of any cell phone provider you want to transfer from, or your TELUS phone number (if applicable). Accessible mailing address for shipping of the phone and/or sim card. You do not have to do a credit check for this program. If you are asked for a credit check you can tell them that youth in this program do not have to provide a credit check. For more information contact the Telus Mobility for Good program by email. Rogers' Connected for Success 5G Wireless program will be available to those enrolled in certain income assistance programs from provincial and federal governments as well as some rental housing residents. Andrew Francis Wallace / Toronto Star file photo flag wire: false flag sponsored: false article .type: pubinfo.section: cms.site.custom.site .domain : thestar.com sWebsitePrimaryPublication : publications/toronto_star bHasMigratedAvatar : true firstAuthor.avatar : Diane Thomson recently made a bold move. She ditched her cellphone plan for good.She still makes calls with her iPhone, but no longer pays a telecom \$100 a month for the service. Instead, the 59-year-old retired nurse uses a no-cost mobile app called Fongo. With Fongo, Thomson gets free voicemail and call display, and there's also no charge for calling in Canada. She just needs Wi-Fi access. "It's amazing," reports Thomson, speaking to CBC News from her home in Powassan, Ont., using her Fongo app. "I can call my family back in Nova Scotia for free."She says she's tried to convince her friends to sign up, but many people just don't get it."They think once their [telecom] provider is removed from the phone, the phone's useless. They don't realize, as soon as you hit that app, you can talk."The free phone app is hereA growing number of mobile apps on the market now offer low-cost or free phone service that works using the internet. The apps aren't for everyone, especially for consumers desiring simple and seamless phone service.But for those willing to make the extra effort and contend with a few hiccups, the apps could drastically cut down or even eliminate your cellphone bill. "If you're vigilant about using them in a certain way, they can be useful to you," says Daniel Bader, senior editor with the tech site Mobile Nations.How it worksWaterloo, Ont., companies Fongo and TextNow both offer mobile phone apps with many free features. The apps work using your Wi-Fi access or data connection. To get calling, simply download either app at no charge and sign up. You will immediately get a phone number and access to voicemail service — for free. Countrywide calls with both services are also free.TextNow also offers free texting in Canada and the U.S. plus free phone calls to the States. Fongo charges \$1.99 a month for texting.Both services have low-cost long-distance deals. For example, Thomson pays two cents a minute to call family in Ireland. Fongo customers can also transfer their current phone number for a one-time fee of \$25. And if you're not ready to give up your current mobile plan, you can still download either app as a secondary service on your phone to avoid draining your talk minutes. Besides Wi-Fi, the app will also work using your phone's data plan.What's the catch?By now, you're probably thinking there's a catch."It's completely legal. There is no catch," says Greg Dalton, president of Fongo. "It's just new technology."Greg Dalton is president of Fongo, based in Waterloo, Ont. "There is no catch," he says of his company's app. (Fongo)Both Fongo and TextNow make most of their money by displaying small ads on the phone's screen. They do not appear to be obtrusive. So why isn't everyone using one of these mobile apps to cut down their bills?Canadians are famously known for complaining about the cost of their mobile phone service — we pay some of the highest rates in the industrialized world.Fongo reports that it has 400,000 active users. TextNow has around 6.5 million mobile app customers — however, 97 per cent of them are American. "For some reason, Canada is a little slower to catch on," says Derek Ting, CEO of TextNow. He admits the small uptake in Canada of his product leaves him scratching his head. "As long as your internet connection is solid, it should be as reliable as a [telecom's] phone service." The drawbacksBut there's the catch — obviously, you need Wi-Fi access or a data connection. When using Wi-Fi, a weak or spotty connection could lead to diminished or temporarily dead service.CBC News tried Fongo and TextNow using Wi-Fi. With both apps, the setup was quick and easy and the voice quality was good. But the audio cut out occasionally during phone calls with both services.Thomson reports sometimes a call goes straight to voicemail even when she has Wi-Fi access. But she claims her Fongo service has no more hiccups than her previous cellular plan with a major telecom.Thomson has also found a way to always have phone service. She pays \$25 a month for a portable wireless internet device from one of the telecoms. The device allows her to get internet access no matter where she is "I haven't been in an area where I can't call," she reports. Even with the added expense, Thomson points out, she's still paying \$75 less a month compared with her previous cellular plan.Not worth it?But tech analyst Bader says not everyone is interested in adopting workarounds to turn a free mobile app into something equivalent to traditional cell service. "The vast majority of people who would take advantage of a service like this don't see price trumping the convenience of having a data and regular phone plan," he says.Yes, you can use the app in conjunction with your current cellular service, but that requires juggling two different phone numbers and two separate formats for making and receiving calls. "It adds a layer of complexity that people don't want to deal with," Bader says.So even though it may save you cash, the mobile phone app isn't for everyone. Sometimes it's just easier to stick with an all-inclusive cellular deal, no matter the cost.But Thomson is happy she made the move and says there's no looking back."It's just like having a regular cellphone plan, except it's a lot cheaper." Rogers has unveiled a new initiative aimed at expanding the reach of 5G wireless services to low-income Canadians. The Connected for Success program will provide over 2.5 million Canadians with a free 5G smartphone and a 5G wireless plan. "Our goal is to ensure that the transformative benefits of 5G technology are within reach for all Canadians. This program is a step forward in our ongoing efforts to bridge connectivity gaps nationwide," said Phil Hartling, President of Wireless at Rogers in an issued statement to iPhone in Canada. The new Connected for Success 5G Mobile Plan, priced at \$25, includes 3GB of data and has no overage fees. A Samsung Galaxy A14 or Motorola G 5G phone is free on financing with a 24-month term. The \$25 5G plan is available to those on provincial income support or disability benefits, seniors on the federal Guaranteed Income Supplement, tenants in non-profit housing, individuals under the federal Resettlement Assistance Program, and families eligible for the Maximum Canada Child Benefit. In July, Rogers also expanded its Connected for Success high-speed internet program to include Western Canada and Northern Ontario. © 2021 Newcomers Canada Sign up for our newsletter

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