

MEETING NOTE

Advice to Minister Robinson

MEETING DATE: December 4, 2019

CLIFF#: 112346

ISSUE: Meeting with Nicole Foster, Head of Amazon Web Services Public Policy Canada

BACKGROUND:

Amazon Web Services (AWS) is a global market leader for cloud infrastructure (storage) and solutions (software applications). Access to cloud services supports traditional information technology (IT) functions such as data storage as well as modern capabilities such as data analytics and artificial intelligence.

AWS operates data centres in both Montreal and Toronto, and these are compliant with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. Recent amendments to the legislation were not necessary for use of AWS – their services have been compliant for some time. AWS enables customers in British Columbia to secure, store, and process their data within the Canadian border; the company states its commitment to enabling BC public sector customers to adopt cloud computing with confidence, while maintaining compliance with privacy legislation.

In British Columbia, organizations such as Vancouver International Airport, British Columbia Institute of Technology and BC Hydro are using AWS.

AWS is expanding its presence in British Columbia. In July 2019, AWS announced the launch of a Cloud Innovation Centre (CIC) at the University of British Columbia. The CIC is the first of its kind in Canada, and supports student teams tackling real-world issues and challenges, where application of novel and emerging technology or computing approaches are essential.

AWS has an expanding number of cloud services that aim to address current and future needs of government and the overall public sector, and it is expected that the company may speak about these new products.

DISCUSSION:

Cloud computing represents a fundamental shift in the delivery of IT services. Adopting cloud computing will help the BC government respond to increasing demand for digital services and timely access to emerging technologies. This should improve government's ability to build digital services quickly to meet citizens' needs.

Adoption of cloud is progressing across the BC government and the broad public sector. Growth of cloud adoption in government is expected over the next few years as program areas explore business solutions, and cloud storage and solutions become the new norm in the market.

The Office of the Chief Information Office (OCIO) is leading the BC Cloud Initiative to allow government to maximize the benefits of cloud, and to manage and mitigate any potential risks of its adoption.

In addition, in October 2019, the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* was amended to authorize public bodies to disclose personal information inside and outside Canada for processing that is automated and temporary. This amendment allows the use of cloud-based functionality (e.g. spell check) of the tools that public servants used every day such as Word, Outlook and Google Analytics.

The OCIO will continue to move forward with the development of a cloud roadmap. It is expected that, as part of the roadmap and once British Columbia has identified the most suitable cloud service model for its needs, there will be a competitive procurement process to select the most appropriate cloud vendor(s). Data security and privacy protection is of paramount importance to cloud adoption in British Columbia.

PROPOSED RESPONSE:

- CITZ appreciates Amazon's contribution to the BC technology and innovation ecosystem.
- We appreciate the opportunity to discuss the benefits that innovative technology services such as cloud could mean for government and for British Columbians.
- We understand the significant potential that cloud has in allowing us to provide better services to British Columbians.
- We see cloud as an important enabler of our digital transformation and, as such, will continue to explore the options that would allow us to expand cloud adoption in British Columbia.
- CITZ is leading the development and implementation of a corporate approach for cloud and will continue to work with Amazon where it is appropriate.
- Our commitment to protect private information and enhance data security will always be paramount and we look forward to understanding better how we can partner with Amazon to achieve these goals.

Attachment(s): Appendix A - Bio
Contact: Hayden Lansdell, Phone # 250-415-0118

APPENDIX A BIO



Nicole Foster, Head of AWS Public Policy (Canada) at Amazon

Nicole leads the company's public policy efforts in support of the Amazon Web Services (AWS) business in Canada, including the federal and provincial levels of government. In this role, she focuses on issues such as cloud computing, cyber security, data protection, government procurement and acquisition issues, and renewable energy policy.

Prior to joining Amazon in 2018, Nicole led the Toronto office for Global Public Affairs, providing senior public affairs counsel to a diverse range of clients, including both the private and not-for-profit organizations. Nicole worked with clients in a variety of sectors including natural resources, health, infrastructure, retail, consumer and gaming.

Nicole has been a long-time and passionate advocate for women in politics and has been active in numerous political campaigns and events. She is an active volunteer and serves as a board member for a variety of committees and associations. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Art and Culture Studies with an extended minor in Political Science from Simon Fraser University.

INFORMATION NOTE

Advice to Deputy Minister

DATE: December 2, 2019

CLIFF#: 112377

ISSUE: Freedom of Information Request Timeliness

BACKGROUND:

Over the past several years, the volume and complexity of Freedom of Information (FOI) requests made to government ministries has increased substantially.

To address this increase in workload, Information Access Operations (IAO) undertook significant work to improve business processes and increase internal capacity, including:

- IAO process standardization.
- Realignment of clients served by IAO's sector-based teams.
- A Deloitte led review of government's FOI services.
- A Government Communications and Public Engagement led service design review.

In addition to the internally focussed projects above, IAO has also focussed efforts on assisting client ministries and applicants, including:

- Establishing an FOI Coordinator's Community of Practice.
- Releasing FOI process guidelines for ministry staff.
- Updating FOI-related content in the IM 117 refresh.
- Redesigning the online FOI request form.
- Modernizing the FOI web presence.
- Piloting a secure file transfer service for delivery of FOI responses.

In fiscal 2018/19, government received over 12,000 requests – a 17 percent increase over the prior fiscal year. In the past decade, the number of requests has doubled, and the number of general requests has increased by more than 300 percent. These increases do not account for the approximately 1,500 proactive disclosures that are published by IAO every year, many of which would previously have been requested through FOI.

Despite the increased workload, overall compliance with the timelines legislated by the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FOIPPA) has increased over the past few years, from 80 percent on-time in 2016/17 to 90 percent in 2017/18 and 89 percent in 2018/19.

IAO has increased its staff complement by approximately 30 percent over the past five years to help keep pace with some of the increase in demand. Overtime has also been used to increase capacity during some periods.

DISCUSSION:

While the efforts noted above have allowed government to increase its capacity to handle a growing number of FOI requests, there are approximately 4,000 requests currently in progress. This is the highest volume of work in progress ever recorded and more than a 1,000-request increase over this time last year.

Government is currently responding to requests at 87 percent on-time. The large volume of requests in progress is putting pressure on the system's overall capacity and government will not be able to continue hitting the high on-time performance measures seen over the last two years.

In October 2019, the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner informed government that it would not support an application to disregard a batch of 615 requests asking for records sent from personal email accounts. That meant most of those requests went overdue immediately. If those requests were all closed, overall timeliness would fall from 87 percent on-time to 80 percent on-time.

Government is on pace to close approximately 11,000 requests this fiscal year. With a current overdue backlog of over 900 requests, IAO forecasts that government will end fiscal year 2019/20 at 78 to 82 percent on-time compliance with the timelines legislated by FOIPPA.

NEXT STEPS:

IAO will continue to work with client ministries and applicants with a view to increasing compliance with legislated timelines and will continue to explore continuous improvement projects, including those involving technical enhancements, to increase internal capacity further.

Contact: Kerry Pridmore, Assistant Deputy Minister, 778-698-1591

INFORMATION NOTE

Advice to Minister Robinson

DATE: December 6, 2019

CLIFF#: 112332

ISSUE: Surplus BC Assessment Office at s.17

BACKGROUND:

s.17

s.13; s.17

s.17

DISCUSSION:

s.17

NEXT STEPS:

s.17



BRIEFING NOTE

BC 211 – Service BC Current Connections

Briefing Note

What:

The Ministry of Citizens' Services has no current involvement with BC211. Our last contact was staff support to the Minister's Office for a 2018 meeting with BC211 Executive Director and Board Member representative.

Background:

Service Overlap

The list below displays areas of potential overlap in service delivery. In relation to Service BC, and for further clarification, over the phone, citizens are able to receive general information and referrals through the Service BC Contact Centre, and in some cases receive service fulfilment depending on the program. In person through the Service BC Centres, citizens are able to receive services fulfilment in these areas. In aggregate, we estimate that Service BC has handled over a million transactions, over the phone and in-person, on the topics below from January until October this year.

- Health (primarily MSP)
- Income assistance
- Legal and public safety
- Government services (all ministries and all programs)
- Transportation
- Tourism, arts, culture
- Employment
- Education and training

Efficiency Opportunities for BC211 and BC Government

The two organizations have very specific purposes to fulfill. BC211 provides assistance to citizens with social and community/local programs, including services provided by non-profit organizations. Service BC is the front door for citizens to access services directly delivered by government. The two organizations could better serve the citizens by sharing information on resources available in the communities we serve, specially when we are supporting vulnerable citizens.

INFORMATION NOTE

Advice to Minister Robinson

DATE: December 9, 2019

CLIFF#: 111867

ISSUE: Surplus Property Program Repurposing and Sales Update

BACKGROUND:

Since September 2012, the Release of Assets for Economic Generation (RAEG) program [now Strategic Real Estate Services Branch (SRES), Real Property Division (RPD)] has overseen and facilitated the redeployment and divestiture of assets over \$1 million, that have been identified by the owner ministries as being surplus to their program needs.

In September 2017, RPD received direction to enhance the focus on the repurposing of surplus government real estate assets to support high priority social outcomes (schools, housing, health and childcare). Properties that were being marketed through the Surplus Properties List (SPL) were put on hold while a review was conducted.

In response to this new direction from government, RPD updated its procedures to provide a renewed focus on repurposing real estate assets where feasible. RPD implemented the Enhanced Referral Process (ERP), a new, mandatory process that matches ministry and agency demands with existing surplus properties. The ERP is now undertaken prior to any land being considered for sale on the open market.

The ERP creates a requirement to review government properties identified as surplus against demand from other ministries and agencies. Ministries and agencies have 90 days to review details of the opportunity and create a business case that demonstrates the need and capacity for repurposing the asset through transfer or sale. The ERP includes a follow up process at 30 and 60 days and if required, extensions to the 90 days can be granted when requested by the Ministries and agencies.

The Process Manual for the Surplus Properties Program directs all Ministries and Broader Public Sector entities, as part of their due diligence, to ensure that local municipalities are made aware of any potential disposition and are provided an opportunity to express interest in the surplus property. First Nations are provided with the opportunity for direct sale in a similar manner to local municipalities. Please refer to the Direct Sale Policy for further information (attached as Appendix A).

DISCUSSION:

The Minister of Citizens' Services has the authority, under the Public Agency Accommodation Act, to own and sell surplus crown lands for the Ministry of Citizens' Services (CITZ). Other Ministries have their own legislation that authorizes them to own and sell lands.

In September 2017, CITZ advised all the ADMs of Corporate Services of various ministries about the ERP. SRES has now applied the ERP to all properties that were on the SPL as of September 2017, as well as all properties that have been added to the SPL since then. As a result of the ERP, RPD has facilitated three property transfers between government bodies, with six more currently under review or negotiation.

Further to the recommendations contained in the report by the Office of the Auditor General in July 2018, RPD has requested each ministry supported by the Surplus Properties Program to submit a Surplus Declaration and Readiness Checklist and a Triple Bottom Line Cost Benefit Analysis, for each applicable property currently on the SPL and for all additions in the future.

The sale of surplus assets is recognized as a standard function of prudent real estate portfolio management. Funds from surplus property sales are used to support government programs and projects. For example, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure regularly sells surplus lands acquired for highway projects, which are then invested for other infrastructure projects. Any delays to the sale of properties on the SPL requires ministries to adjust their fiscal forecasts and may require other sources of funding to pay for projects.

s.17	
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s.17	A holistic approach to surplus properties will be considered so that all options are considered in order to maximize the value to the Province.
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Assets not for sale include:

- Properties for which ownership is essential to the delivery of a government-funded service (such as hospitals, jails or schools).
- Assets that are part of the treaty process.
- Assets approved by Cabinet or one of its committees to be held for any identified future government need.

SRES has developed an Acquisition Process Manual which provides guidance and outlines the standards and procedures according to Core Policy in all phases of property acquisition for CITZ. SRES conducts the acquisition due diligence for CITZ from the time a property is under a conditional contract to purchase completion (i.e. appraisal, building condition assessment, environmental, title review, etc.). SRES supports other Ministries with pre-approved vendor lists for appraisers, brokerages, and strategic real estate advisors in addition to providing real estate project management services, but does not have the mandate to oversee other Ministries acquisition processes.

CONCLUSION:

Properties on the Surplus Properties List (refer to Appendix B) have been thoroughly reviewed for alternate government use where required. No ministry or agency has expressed interest in these properties except where indicated on the attached list. Where applicable, the land-owning ministries have received confirmation from CITZ to dispose of these, with oversight from SRES, as per the ministries' applicable legislations. These properties are planned to be marketed as per the newly developed process for disposition of surplus properties.

Attachments:

- Appendix A: Direct Sale Policy
- Appendix B: Current Surplus Properties List


ADM Contact: Sunny Dhaliwal, 250 380-8311
Prepared by: Yvonne Deibert, 250 387-6348

Appendix A – Direct Sale Policy



Land Procedure Allocation Procedure - Direct Sales

NAME OF LAND PROCEDURE:	Allocation Procedures - Direct Sales
APPLICATION:	Applies to all direct sales through Regional Offices
ISSUANCE:	Assistant Deputy Minister, Tenures, Competitiveness and Innovation
IMPLEMENTATION:	Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
REFERENCES:	<i>Land Act (Ch. 245, R.S.B.C., 1996)</i>
RELATIONSHIP TO PREVIOUS LAND PROCEDURE:	This procedure replaces the previous Direct Sale/Lease procedure dated August 16, 2004



Dave Peterson, ADM
Tenures, Competitiveness and Innovation
Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural
Resource Operations

MAY 26 2011

Date:

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 1, 2011
AMENDMENT:

FILE: 11480-00

Land Procedure: Allocation Procedure - Direct Sales

APPROVED AMENDMENTS:		
Effective Date	Briefing Note /Approval	Summary of Changes:
June 1, 2011	BN 175892	Policy and Procedure update to reflect reorganization of resource ministries April 2011

FILE: 11480-00

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 1, 2011
AMENDMENT:

Land Procedure: Allocation Procedures - Direct Sales

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Land Procedure: Allocation Procedures - Direct Sales

1. PURPOSE

To establish a framework for the direct sale of Crown land.

The Authorizing Agency may sell Crown land using one of the following processes:

- Direct sale through Authorizing Agency offices;
- Real estate industry listing on the Multiple Listing Service (MLS); or,
- Competitive process (use of Request for Offers to Purchase, Public Auction, etc.)

See [Real Estate Industry Sales](#) and [Competitive Process](#) procedures for information on these other methods of disposition.

The following procedures comply with the provisions of the *Land Act* and the *Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing Act*.

2. DEFINITIONS

Authorizing Agency means the Provincial ministry responsible for the specific land use authorization.

Deposit means the sum of money required to be submitted with the Offer to Purchase.
A deposit may be by certified cheque, money order, or bank draft.

Direct Sale means fee simple disposition of Crown land through the Authorizing Agency offices directly to one or more interested parties, without a public offering.

First Nation is a term that refers to the Indian peoples in Canada, both Status and non-Status. Although the term First Nation is widely used, no legal definition of it exists. Some Indian peoples in British Columbia have adopted the term "First Nation" to replace the word "band" in the name of their community.

Public offering means the use of a competitive process or real estate industry listing.

Purchaser means purchaser, lessee, prospective purchaser, prospective lessee.

3. DIRECT SALE CRITERIA

Direct sales may occur when one or more of the following criteria are met:

- Landlocked and other properties that are not separately viable except to the purchaser;
- The property is needed to restore access or frontage to property cut off by realignment or closure;
- Property is being transferred/sold to other levels of government, provincial agencies or corporations, utility companies, conservation authorities or First Nations;
- Sales are being carried out subsequent to an unsuccessful public offering.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 1, 2011
AMENDMENT:

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Land Procedure: Allocation Procedure - Direct Sales

- Land is being exchanged; and/or,
- Entities who have been occupying the property under tenure have applied to purchase the site.

In the event that a direct sale would provide clear benefit to the Crown and does not meet the above criteria, an appropriate rationale will be provided on a case-by-case basis for the decision of the Authorizing Agency's Executive.

4. PROCEDURE

4.1 Eligibility

The eligibility requirements, as well as the number and type of lots that may be acquired by an individual, family unit, corporation or partnership, must be determined in accordance with the specific program policy under which the property is being offered.

4.2 Processing Offers To Purchase

The purchaser completes the Offer to Purchase form and submits it to the Authorizing Agency together with the required deposit. The Authorizing Agency accepts the Offer to Purchase in accordance with signing authorities.

The regional office will forward to the Surveyor General Division, Land Title and Survey Authority, for the preparation of the Crown grant, the following:

- the accepted offer to purchase;
- the Vendor's statement of adjustments;
- a current status report on the property being sold; and,
- the name, address and telephone number of the purchaser's conveyancer.

4.3 Sale Value

All direct sales of parcels will be sold at market value. Selling below market value may result in an operating expense for the concessionary difference.

Direct sales where all or part of the market value consideration is based on land transfers or other value-in-kind compensation require prior approval by the Authorizing Agency's Executive.

4.4 Profit Recovery Clause

In order to ensure that the Province receives fair value for its land, agreements of purchase and sale with municipalities or other direct sales (where normal method of sale would be through public means) of parcels may contain a clause providing for the purchaser to reimburse the Government the difference between the purchase price and the sale price, should the property be sold at a higher price within a certain time period.

Land Procedure: Allocation Procedures - Direct Sales

4.5 First Nations

The Authorizing Agency is responsible for ensuring the Province's obligations to First Nations are met in the disposition of Crown land. The Authorizing Agency carries out consultations with First Nations in accordance with its guidelines and policies on First Nations consultation to identify the potential for aboriginal rights or title over the subject property and to determine whether infringement of either might occur (refer to the Aboriginal Interest Consideration Report form contained in the Land Use Report).

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 1, 2011
AMENDMENT:

FILE: 11480-00
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Appendix B – Current Surplus Properties List

							Estimated Sales Price ('000)
Tab	SPP #	Fiscal Year	Status	Sector	Description	Location	
1	020	19/20	Contract in Place	EDUC	Anniedale School (SD36)	Surrey	s.16; s.17
2	182	19/20	Contract in Place	FLNR	Brunswick Point - Ph. 2.1	Delta	
3	248	19/20	Contract in Place	TRAN	7672 Progress Way (SFPR)	Delta	
4	s.16; s.17						
5							
6	384	19/20	On Market	TRAN	2332 Clarke Street (Evergreen)	Port Moody	
7	s.16; s.17						
8	153	19/20	Pre-Marketing	EDUC	Big Eddy Elementary (SD19)	Revelstoke	
9	382	19/20	Pre-Marketing	TRAN	7590 80th Street (SFPR 8)	Delta	
10	386	19/20	Pre-Marketing	TRAN	631 Westley Street (Evergreen)	Coquitlam	
11	387	19/20	Pre-Marketing	TRAN	657 and 659 Clarke Road (Evergreen)	Coquitlam	
12	s.16; s.17						
13							
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17	s.12						
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28	s.12						
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30	s.12						
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Tab	SPP #	Fiscal Year	Status	Sector	Description	Location	Estimated Sales Price ('000)
37	s.16; s.17						s.16; s.17
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39							
40							
41							
42							
43							
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Tab	SPP #	Fiscal Year	Status	Sector	Description	Location	Estimated Sales Price ('000)
64	s.16; s.17						s.16; s.17
65							
66							
67							
68							
69							
70							
71							
72							
						Total:	

MEETING NOTE

MEETING DATE: December 11, 2019

CLIFF#: 112403

ATTENDEES: **Don Wright**, Deputy Minister to the Premier; **Christine Kennedy**, Associate Deputy Minister, Office of the Premier; **Amber Hockin**, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Premier

Donna Sanford, Executive Director, Confidence and Supply Agreement Secretariat; **Evan Pivnick**, Chief of Staff, Green Caucus; **Sarah Miller**, Policy and Issues Manager, Green Caucus

Jill Kot, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Citizens' Services; **Fazil Mihlar**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Jobs, Trade and Technology

ISSUE: Approach and Consultation for BC Genuine Progress Indicators.

BACKGROUND:

The vision for British Columbia is to help build a better province for everyone with progress in the areas that matter most to citizens. The Emerging Economy Task Force is also interested in seeing government redefine how economic performance and social progress is measured in BC. Development of holistic, enduring genuine progress indicators (GPI) will inform these areas, provide evidence to support government decision-making, and enable tracking of priority issues.

In previous meetings, the Green Party has put forward views that a) the GPI should be a single index, b) they will participate in indicator selection, and c) government will undertake a broad public engagement, all of which are addressed in the points below.

DISCUSSION:

1. What will the GPI be?

Option 1A: Single index – a single value, combining a range of information into one number, meant to capture overall progress on multiple indicators.

Benefits:

- A single index may be appealing to the public.

Risks:

- A single index is less transparent, difficult to communicate, interpret, or apply to decision-making.
- Assumptions and complexity may undermine its validity.
- The weighting and monetization of indicators is complex and requires assumptions on the relative importance of each indicator.

Option 1B: Multiple indicators – multiple indicators organized by focus area.

Benefits:

- Allows more transparency of focus areas and indicators, flexibility to incorporate changes, straightforward development and maintenance, and comparison to other jurisdictions.
- Users may more readily see measures of their subject matter and interests and clear links to government policy and priorities.

Risks:

- Guidance may be required to help users understand and interpret indicators and their interactions.
- If the indicators are tied to government priorities, they may change over time.

Recommendation: (B) Multiple indicators

2. What will meaningful consultation look like?

Option 2A: One-time consultation – There would be direct outreach to key stakeholder groups outlined in the Confidence and Supply Agreement (CASA) over a discrete period. Input focuses exclusively on how to use the GPI.

Benefits:

- This option provides more focused input that can be directly applied to the implementation and allows for consultation to be completed in a timely manner.
- The approach builds on work already completed to further inform GPI development and ensures government expertise informs the GPI.

Risks:

- Stakeholders may want input on the conceptual framework, indicator selection or other aspects of GPI.
- Stakeholder expectations regarding how the GPI should be used to inform government policy and decision-making may need to be managed, as stakeholder expectations may exceed government's intention.

Option 2B: Targeted consultation – This option expands on 2A by starting consultation at earlier stages so input can be integrated into the GPI in an iterative manner. Through targeted outreach, stakeholder groups, including the Green Party, will be asked for input on: the priority areas to ensure the GPI reflects what progress means for British Columbians (see Appendix 1), criteria for selecting indicators, and pilot GPI indicators. Targeted consultation will enable draft GPI indicators put forward by cross-government policy and technical experts to be vetted by external experts in the field and groups representing indigenous and GBA+ views.

Benefits

- Wider deliberation brings legitimacy and increases public trust and commitment to people's values and well-being is demonstrated.
- Consistent with leading practices from other jurisdictions and follows the Government of New Zealand and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) highly respected approach; resulting GPIs are accepted, supported and recognized as useful.
- Diverse groups are represented, and risk of oversight or misrepresentation for specific issues and populations is reduced.

Risks

- There could be a lack of consensus for a compelling narrative, common language and framework.
- The approach requires additional time and resources from government and may also be constrained by stakeholder availability to provide feedback.

Option 2C: Broad consultation – This option expands on 2B to involve broad public engagement using a range of online and in-person consultations. A higher profile consultation would invite the views of all British Columbians on some or all aspects of GPI development.

Benefits:

- Wider deliberation brings legitimacy and increases public trust, and commitment to people's values and well-being is demonstrated.

Risks:

- The approach could raise public expectations about how feedback will be used, which may be difficult to satisfy, and alternative viewpoints raised publicly may be irreconcilable.
- The approach requires additional time and resources from government and may also be constrained by stakeholder availability to provide feedback.

Recommendation: (B) Targeted consultation

Attachment(s): Appendix 1: Example of Preliminary Indicators

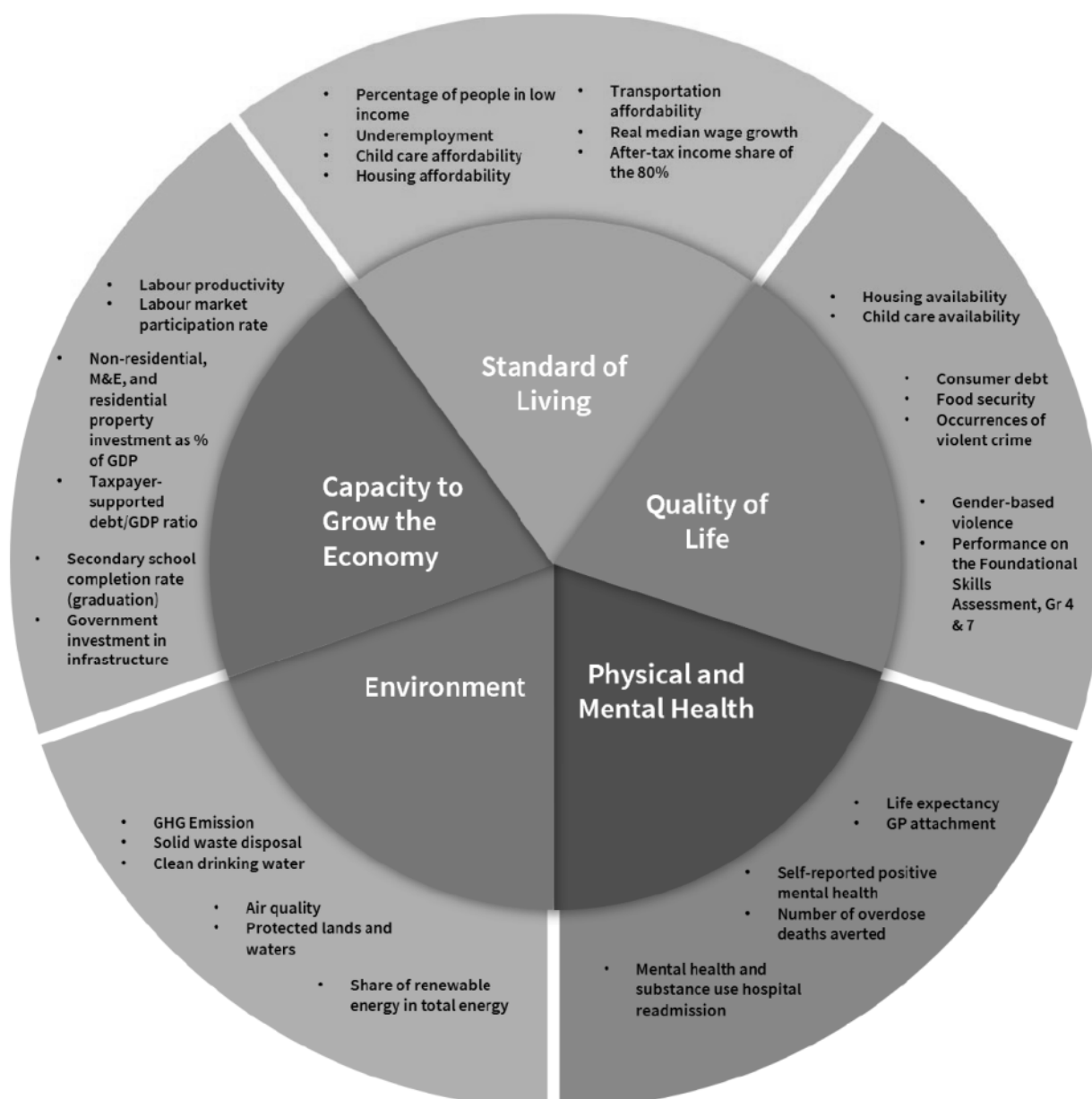
Contact: Hayden Lansdell, 250 415-0118

APPENDIX 1: Example of Preliminary Indicators

The model shows an example of a conceptual framework for illustrative purposes. The approach to the GPI to date has been to identify potential indicators that ideally meet the following criteria: readily available from reliable sources, consistently defined over time, and easy to understand. There are approximately 30 potential indicators identified. These indicators have been organized according to five government priority areas.

Several caveats are important to note:

- All indicators are preliminary and have not been agreed to and/or “signed off” by ministries.
- Some indicators may be under development and/or not publicly available on a regular basis.
- There may be multiple measures that could be used for the specific indicators proposed.
- Proposed indicators may fall across more than one priority area.



DECISION NOTE

Advice to Deputy Minister Jill Kot

DATE: December 10, 2019

CLIFF#: 112412

ISSUE: Temporary Assignment: Connectivity Coordination Project

BACKGROUND:

Connectivity is interdependent with multiple sectors, organizations, all levels of government, government priorities and stakeholders. These organizations all point to connectivity as an underlying requirement, particularly in rural communities and First Nations to advance the socio-economic and well-being benefits of communities across the province.

To ensure that connectivity investments are optimized, stronger linkages are required with some sectors. Programs and policies related to connectivity span all levels of government, and in many cases are not well aligned, and could potentially be misaligned. The effects of misalignment impact the potential value to rural and indigenous communities, and the Province.

Providing universal access to high-speed internet in rural BC as well as providing cellular connectivity along unconnected highways is important for safety and accessibility. Timely and affordable access to hydro poles and highway rights-of-way are essential to the Province's connectivity goals. Removing network deployment barriers and using government assets effectively can substantially reduce costs and speed up the expansion of connectivity in rural BC.

DISCUSSION:

Build once: Integrated infrastructure investment and passive infrastructure

The Provincial Connectivity Strategy framework identifies key success factors for an effective connectivity action plan. One of the foundational pillars to support these success factors, *Build Once*, targets an integrated investment approach that would seek policy alignment across all levels of government and reflect the diverse digital infrastructure needs throughout the province including regional (north vs. coastal), ministry priorities, all levels of government and adoption of integrated infrastructure investment where it would generate the most value (i.e. conduit/fibre in road design).

An integrated investment approach in BC would:

- Better coordinate connectivity investments across public sector entities.
- Move beyond single use investments to shared use with organizations such as the Ministries of Transportation and Infrastructure and Advanced Education, Skills and Training, BCNet, BC Hydro, CP Rail, mining companies, etc.
- Reduce the cost of extending and expanding digital infrastructure where accommodations in original design are made such as conduit in new roads, micro-trenching centre lines on roads, fibre optics on hydro transmission towers, etc.

Passive infrastructure is a component of the Build Once pillar of the Connectivity Strategy and includes non-electronic physical elements required by telecommunications providers to deploy their networks. These elements include telephone and hydro poles, underground ducts, towers, building structures, cell towers, street furniture (e.g., bus shelters and lampposts), pipelines, railways and rights-of-way that are used to string fibre cable, or mount wireless radios and antennae.

Responsibilities over access to hydro poles and highway rights-of-way are currently shared across multiple bodies and levels of government, which presents challenges for efficient and effective network deployment. For example, majority of utility poles in BC are jointly owned and managed by BC Hydro and TELUS whereas the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure is responsible for granting rights-of-way along highways where these poles are installed.

The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the Union of BC Municipalities and the federal government are weighing in to access coordination and management of passive infrastructure in order to support the expansion of connectivity as quickly and as cheaply as possible by taking advantage of infrastructure assets that are already built and in place.

Exploring measures that reduce deployment costs, the speed of deployment, and reduced barriers to entry not only provide incentive for service providers to expand to smaller rural communities, it also ensures connectivity funding does not pay for connectivity infrastructure where existing infrastructure assets exist. This is particularly relevant when considering new small cell technology for cellular services where service providers can install cellular antennae on buildings instead of constructing a tower such as TELUS's solution for [Witset](#).

Fund navigation: Attract funding to BC

Currently, there is an unprecedented level of available federal funding for expanding connectivity. The federal government has committed to providing more than \$2.5B in grant funding toward connectivity projects in addition to the up to \$2B in funding available through the Canada Infrastructure Bank specifically designated for connectivity projects.

In addition, there are five known provincial funding programs that include connectivity as an eligible component. While the Ministry of Citizens' Services (CITZ), Information Communication Technologies division (ICT) has direct engagement with the Rural and Northern Communities fund (Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing) for project evaluation and tracking, this is not the case with the other funds including First Nations Gaming Revenue and Northern Capital Planning.

This complex landscape for funding has only recently emerged and creates an opportunity to provide fund navigation guidance to ensure BC secures its share of the available funding. Without fund navigation, projects may not be aligned to the best funding opportunities, impeding their ability to compete for funds—and some proponents may submit the same project to multiple funds, increasing the burden on funding staff capacity, risking double funding and locking out other potential projects.

Optimizing provincial funds requires effective navigation of the multiple federal funds and funders, municipal funds and new regulations, Trusts' funds and private sector organizations such as the Canada Infrastructure Bank and telecom vendors.

OPPORTUNITY:

There are a significant number of funding, integrated investment and passive infrastructure opportunities to investigate, qualify, quantify and prioritize that would benefit the provincial connectivity funding program and ultimately benefit rural and indigenous communities throughout BC. Identifying and determining the potential value of program, funding and policy alignment opportunities will require a significant level of due diligence and engagement across ministries, levels of government and other key stakeholders.

CITZ/ICT is proposing a time-bound project to complete this foundational evidence-based approach by:

- Mapping the landscape of higher value actions that can then be incorporated into the connectivity strategic plan.

- Engaging with relevant government departments to advance the importance of access to passive infrastructure and the need for current policies and regulations.
- Explore and report out on how we use the investments we are making more efficient and make recommendations on how we can provincially and federally coordinate them.
- Determine if there are government investments being made, ensure that they have long term benefits for the province.

Funding for this work is directly aligned to the Treasury Board approved Financial Agreement between the Province and Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT). Under Program Objectives, the Province's active role in the advancement and alignment opportunities are defined and include:

- Establish and maintain a coordinated effort amongst many stakeholders...to maximize the value for the funds dispensed.
- Leverage contributions for the initiative from other sources, including the federal government and other organizations in BC.
- Allocate funding in the most cost effective manner possible.
- Engage communities and local organizations to pursue shared interests and investments.
- Provide access to tools and resources to navigate the connectivity landscape, including best practices and shared learning.

This position would qualify for funding under the program arrangement with NDIT, would be within the program service and support function cap of \$750k per year, and would not be a draw on the CITZ ministerial budget.

OPTIONS:

Option 1: Create a one-year Temporary Assignment position to lead the connectivity coordination project to create a comprehensive and prioritized landscape of program, policy and funding alignment opportunities.

s.13

Option 2:

s.13

Option 3:

s.13

RECOMMENDATION: s.13

(please circle)

APPROVED

NOT APPROVED

OPTION 1

(Conditional approval on the basis that this work falls within Susan's scope of funding for this position)



Jill Kot, Deputy Minister

December 11, 2019

Date Signed

Contact: Susan Stanford, ADM ICT, 250-580-7459

DECISION NOTE

Advice to Deputy Minister Kot

DATE: December 9, 2019

CLIFF#: 112405

ISSUE: Alexis Creek Property

BACKGROUND:

- s.12; s.16; s.17
-
-
-
-
-
-
-

DISCUSSION:

- s.12; s.16; s.17
-

s.12; s.16; s.17

OPTIONS:

OPTION 1:

s.12; s.13; s.16; s.17

OPTION 2:

s.12; s.13; s.16; s.17

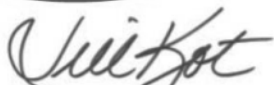
RECOMMENDATION: s.12; s.13

(please circle)

APPROVED

NOT APPROVED

OPTION 1



Jill Kot, Deputy Minister

December 11, 2019

Date Signed

Attachment(s):

1) s.12; s.16; s.17

2)

Contact: Sunny Dhaliwal, Assistant Deputy Minister, Real Property Division (250) 380-3811

Page 29 of 47 to/à Page 30 of 47

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s.12 ; s.15 ; s.16 ; s.17 ; s.19

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s.12 ; s.16 ; s.17

Page 32 of 47

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s.12 ; s.15 ; s.16 ; s.17 ; s.19

INFORMATION NOTE

Advice to Minister Bruce Ralston

DATE: December 13, 2019

CLIFF#: 112439

ISSUE: Provincial Connectivity Update

BACKGROUND:

- Connectivity is a critical enabler to participate in the digital economy and many rural communities throughout British Columbia require additional infrastructure, services, digital awareness, planning and leadership capacity in order to overcome barriers in attracting businesses and talent.
- Connectivity is interdependent with multiple sectors, organizations, all levels of government, government priorities and stakeholders. These organizations all point to connectivity as an underlying requirement, particularly in rural communities and First Nations to advance the socio-economic and well-being benefits of communities across the province.
- As outlined in the recently released [2019 KMPG Connectivity Report](#), it is imperative that rural communities are adequately positioned and enabled (by way of infrastructure investments and digital literacy capacity building) in order to keep pace with imminent, exponential changes on the horizon brought on by connectivity.
- The Emerging Economy Task Force has recognized the importance of accelerating investment in rural connectivity (broadband and cellular) to reduce regional economic inequities and has put forth draft recommendations to support this.

DISCUSSION:

Status of broadband connectivity in rural BC

- Broadband infrastructure forms the backbone for cellular and other next-generation wireless technologies.
- In general, rural and remote communities have less connectivity than in the Lower Mainland or Victoria due to lower population densities and higher infrastructure cost than in urban centers.
- Federal Budget 2019 announced new internet connectivity goals:
 - 95% of Canadian homes and businesses will have access to internet speeds of at least 50/10 Megabits per second (Mbps) by 2026 and 100% by 2030.
 - Early estimates indicate it will take at least \$8 billion nationally to reach 100% of the population.
- In BC:
 - 33% of rural communities (non-Indigenous) meet the universal target speed of 50/10 Mbps.
 - 35% of rural Indigenous communities meet the universal target speed of 50/10 Mbps.
 - Refer to ATT-1 Status of broadband internet connectivity in BC.
- We are working with the federal government on a coordinated funding plan.
 - BC's new \$50 million funding announcement on March 8, 2019.
 - Federal \$1.7 billion Universal Broadband fund announcement on March 19, 2019.
 - CRTC \$750 million Broadband fund announced September 2018.
- Since July 2017, Connecting British Columbia projects to improve high-speed internet connectivity are underway or completed in 479 communities, including 83 Indigenous communities and benefitting 45,000 households. communities.
- See Map ATT-2.

Connected Communities Program

- Program staff in the Ministry of Citizens' Services are engaged with local governments and regional districts to support them with their regional connectivity plans. The plans are used in support of internet service providers requests for funding from the Connecting British Columbia program.
- Through the Connected Communities initiative, the ministry has a suite of tools available to help local governments establish their digital roadmap.
- Connectivity resources for communities: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/connectivity-in-bc/connected-communities>

Multiple Funding Options to help Local Governments expand connectivity exist:

Connecting British Columbia

- The Connecting British Columbia program is aligned with government priorities (making life affordable, improving services for citizens, good jobs and sustainable economy), overarching commitments including reconciliation and Ministry mandate commitments.
- A historic \$50 million commitment to Phase 3 via 2018/19 Supplementary Estimates was announced with Budget 2019.
- Northern Development Initiative Trust administers the fund on behalf of the Province.
- Program purpose is to fund broadband infrastructure builds (both transport and local infrastructure). It does not include funding for cellular tower builds.
- Provincial dollars allocated to current Phase 3 intake can be leveraged from multiple sources, including federal funding programs, private capital investments from telecommunications service providers and from other sources such as trusts and local governments.

CRTC's Broadband Fund:

- The new CRTC Broadband Fund provides direct funding for both internet and cellular builds¹.
- On November 13, 2019, the CRTC issued a second call for applications² to begin the competitive process to evaluate and select projects.
- The fund is in support of the CRTC's decision to make internet a basic telecommunications service where internet speed of a minimum of 50 Mbps is available in 90% of premises by the end of 2021, and the remaining 10% within 10 to 15 years.
- Funding applications are more desirable if funds are leveraged from other sources, including provincial funding.

Innovation, Science and Industry Universal Broadband Fund:

- In addition to the CRTC Broadband Fund, Canada is anticipated to launch a new Universal Broadband Fund (UBF) in early 2020.

Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (Rural and Northern Communities) - Administered through Municipal Affairs and Housing:

- On September 12, 2018 the Canadian and British Columbian governments committed up to \$95 million towards an initial intake of the Rural and Northern Communities (RNC) Program³.

¹ CRTC regulatory fund: <https://crtc.gc.ca/eng/internet/internet.htm>

² CRTC Broadband Fund – Second call for applications. <https://crtc.gc.ca/eng/archive/2019/2019-372.htm>

³ Investing in Canada infrastructure program details: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/transportation/funding-engagement-permits/funding-grants/investing-in-canada-infrastructure-program/rural-northern-communities>.

Gas Tax Fund Municipal Top-Up Funds to Support Local Priorities.

- Budget 2019 proposed a one-time transfer of \$2.2 billion through the federal Gas Tax Fund to address short-term priorities in municipalities and First Nations communities.
 - Broadband connectivity is an eligible funding category under the theme Productivity and Economic Growth.

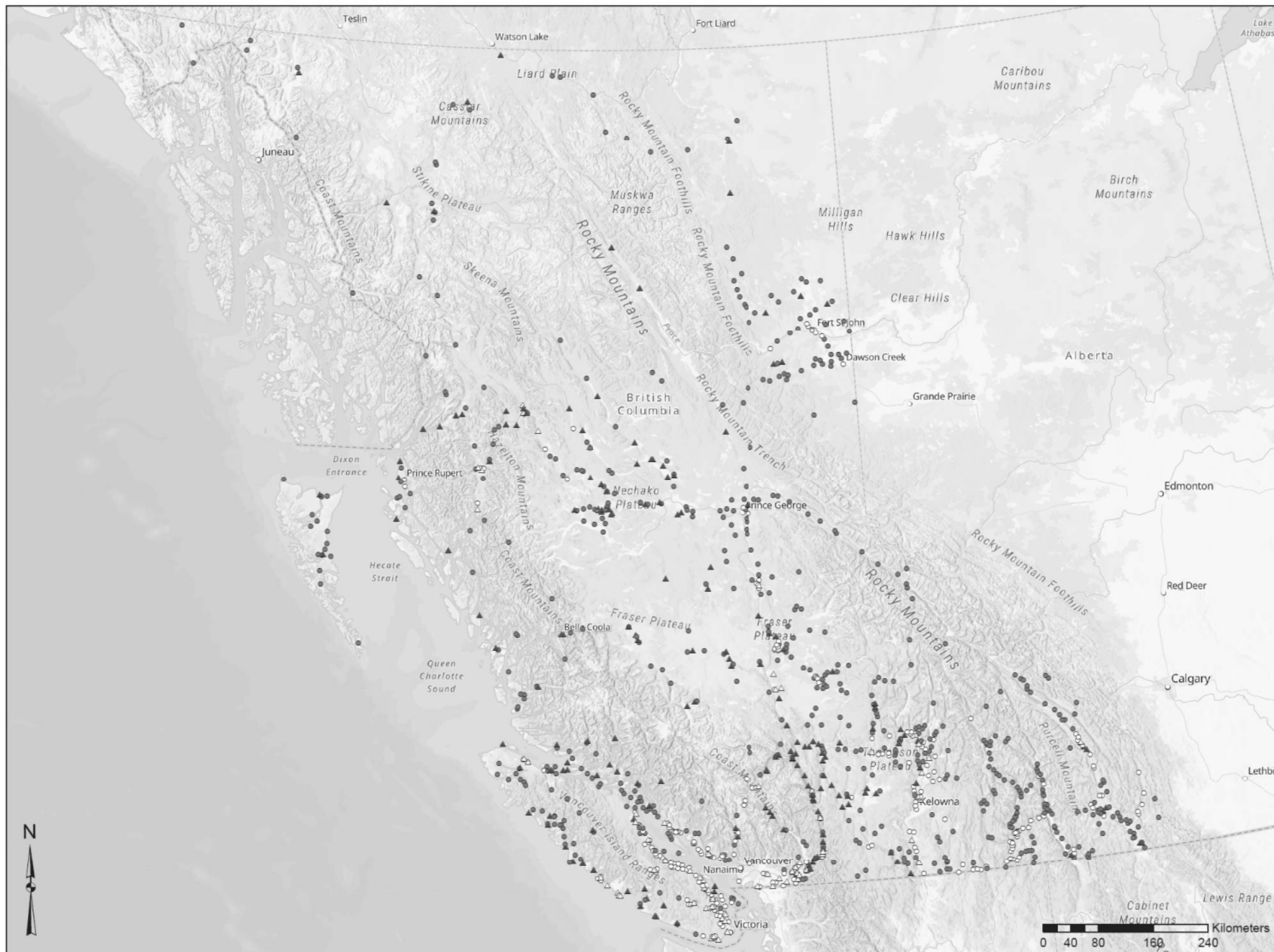
Cellular Connectivity

- Cellular networks are built by Shaw, Rogers and TELUS. See ATT-3 for coverage map.
- Our investments in connectivity infrastructure make it easier for the private sector to expand cellular service because some of the infrastructure will be in place.
- s.13
- The cellular gap:
 - Of the 15,000 km of major highways in BC, 6,100 km do not have cellular coverage (LTE) of which 4,100 km have no access to power.
- CITZ is working with federal government on cellular costing modeling.
 - CITZ analysis of cellular coverage gaps determines that it will cost over \$1.7 billion to address.
- Every year at UBCM, local governments and regional districts have petitioned the government to address the cellular gaps.

Attachment(s):

1. Map – Rural Communities
2. Map – Connecting BC Program, Community View
3. Map – Cellular Coverage

Contact: Susan Stanford, Assistant Deputy Minister
Information Communication Technologies (ICT) Division
250.580.7459



BROADBAND ACCESS 50Mbps

Current Connectivity Performance



Ministry of Citizens' Services

Legend

- Rural non FN Communities without 50 Mbps (67%)
- Rural non FN Communities with 50 Mbps (33%)
- ▲ Rural FN Reserves without 50 Mbps (65%)
- △ Rural FN Reserves with 50 Mbps (35%)

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CELLULAR COVERAGE

TELUS & ROGERS
2019



Ministry of
Citizens' Services

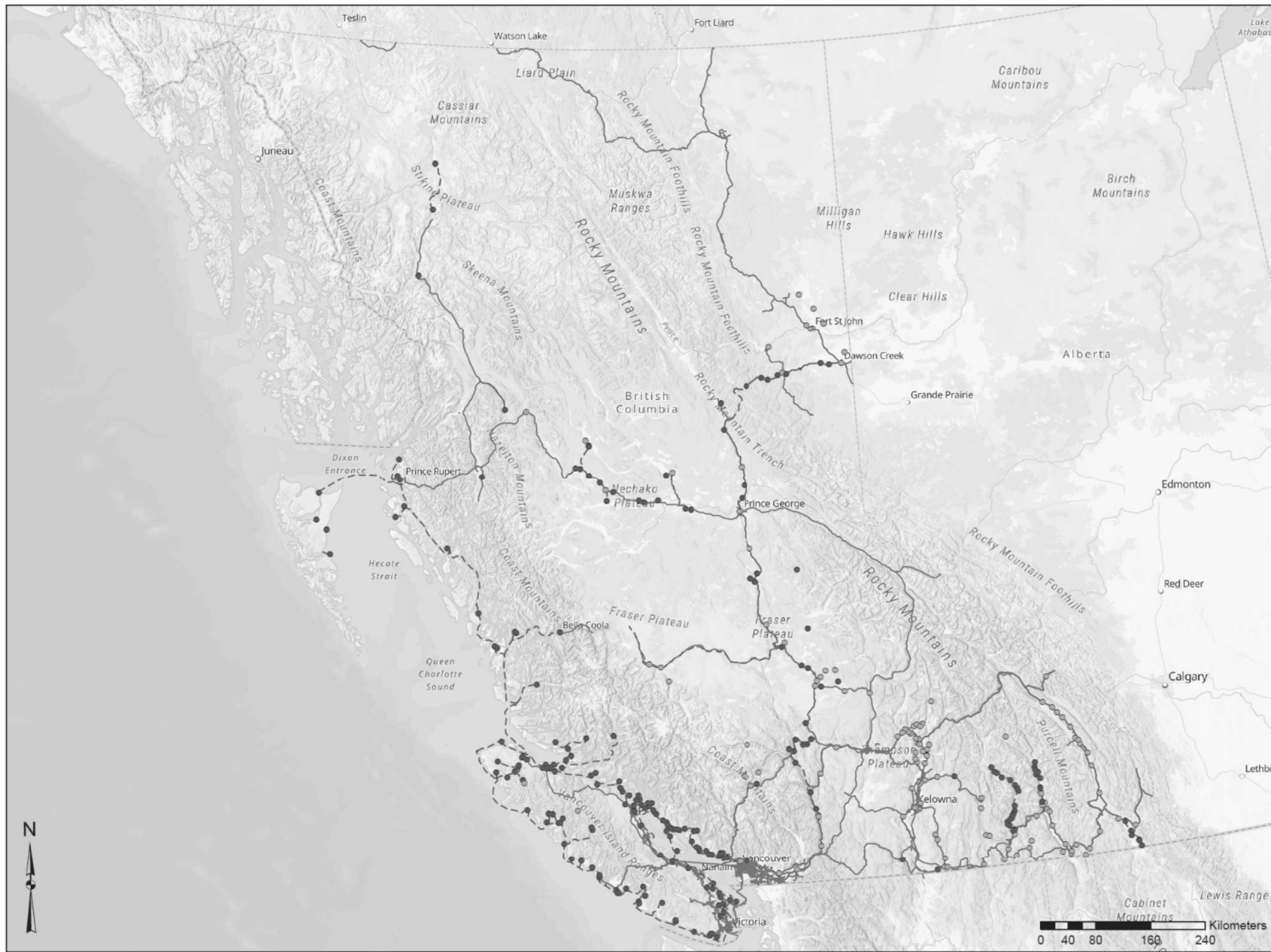
Legend

Cellular Coverage

- TELUS LTE Cellular Coverage
- TELUS HSPA Cellular Coverage
- ROGERS LTE Cellular Coverage
- ROGERS HSPA Cellular Coverage

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CONNECTING BRITISH COLUMBIA Program



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

Ministry of
Citizens' Services

Legend

Connecting British
Columbia Program
Communities

- Phase 1 (224 including 86 locales)
- Phase 2 (250 including 19 locales)

BC Fibre Infrastructure

- CURRENT FIBRE
- - - FUTURE FIBRE

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INFORMATION NOTE

Advice to Minister Robinson

DATE: December 19, 2019

CLIFF#:

ISSUE: Status of 2532 and 2413 Lonsdale Avenue, North Vancouver

BACKGROUND:

The properties located at 2532 and 2413 Lonsdale Avenue in North Vancouver (the Properties) are vacant residential lots owned by the BC Transportation Financing Authority (BCTFA) and are administered by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (TRAN). s.17

s.17

s.17

The

Properties are zoned for medium density residential (see Attachment 1 - Maps of the Properties).

s.16; s.17

s.12; s.16; s.17

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s.17

DISCUSSION:

s.14; s.16; s.17

s.12; s.16; s.17

s.17

Attachment(s):

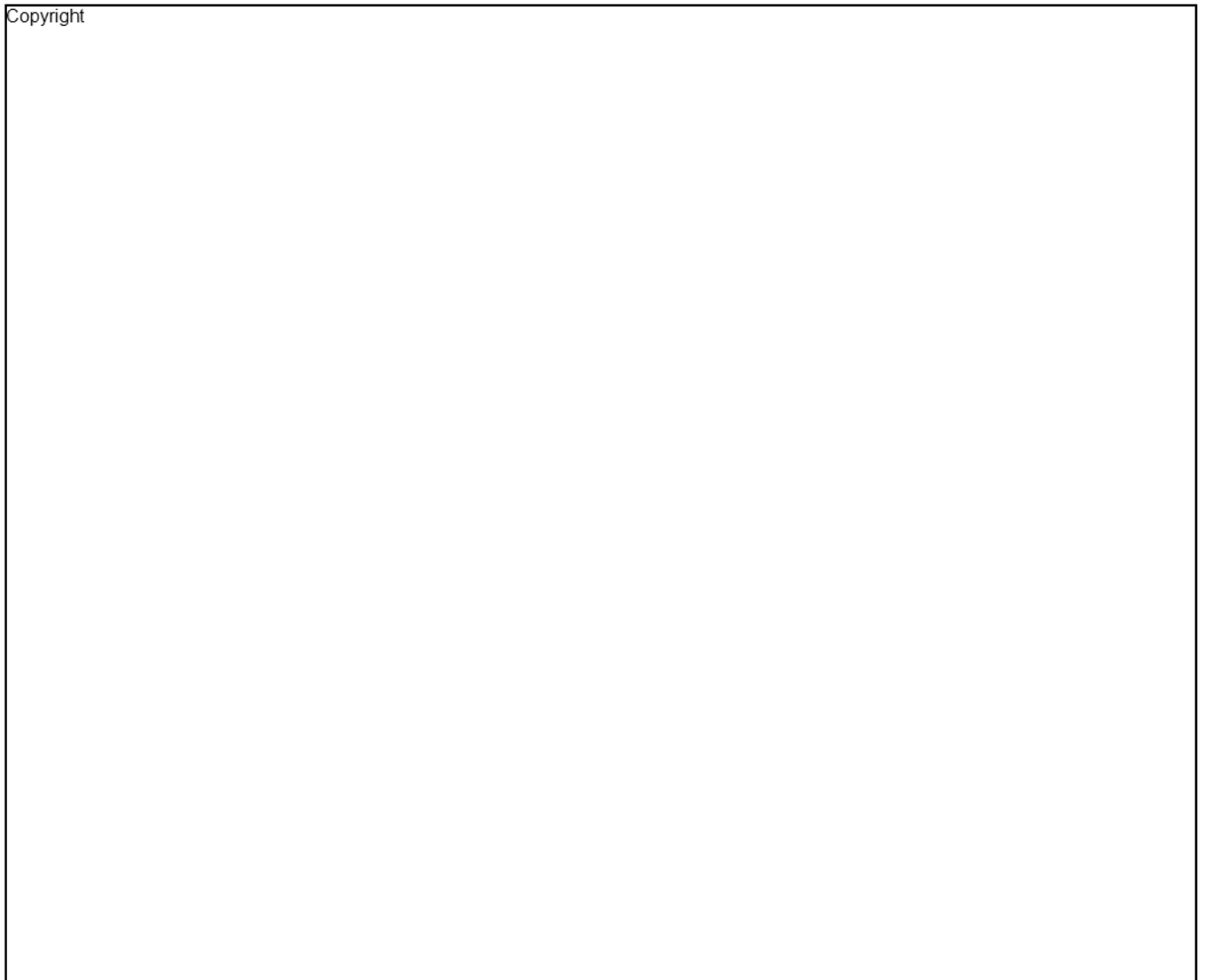
1. Maps of 2532 and 2413 Lonsdale Avenue, North Vancouver
2. s.16
- 3.

Contact: Yvonne Deibert, Executive Director, 250-387-6348

Attachment 1: Maps of 2532 and 2413 Lonsdale Avenue, North Vancouver

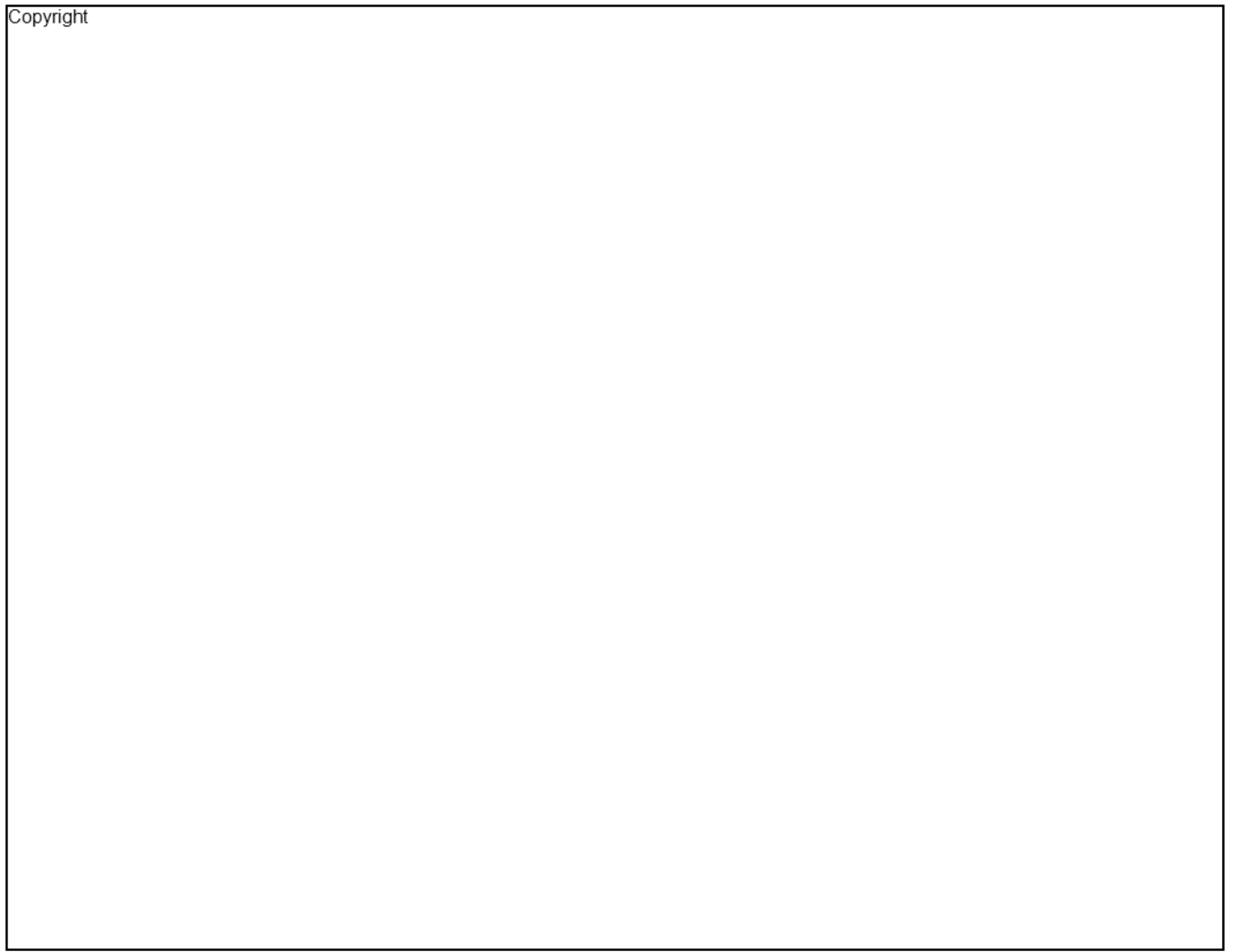
Location Map

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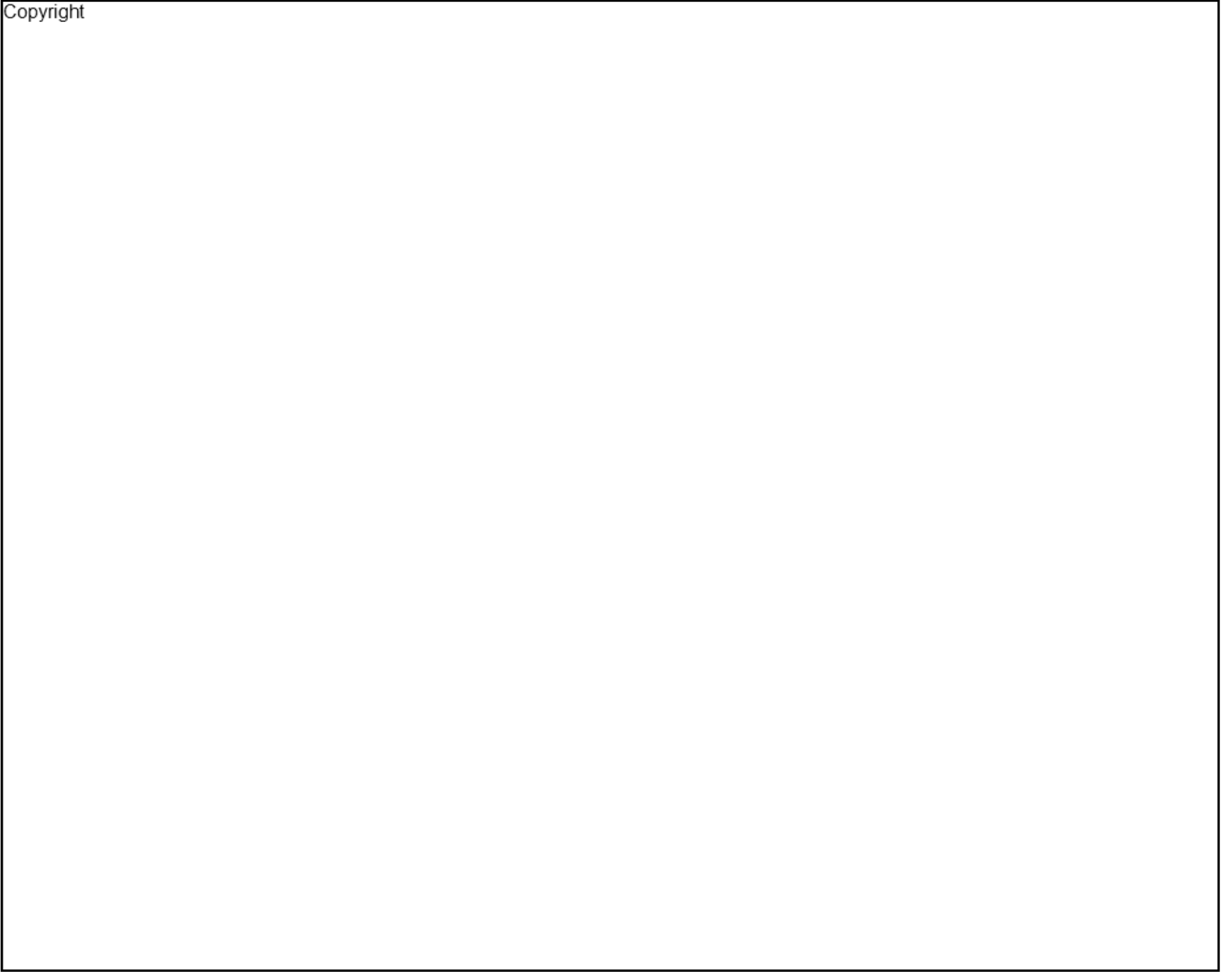
Detail Map: 2532 Lonsdale Avenue, North Vancouver

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Detail Map: 2413 Lonsdale Avenue, North Vancouver

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