

INFORMATION NOTE

Advice to Minister Beare

Date: February 17, 2021

CLIFF#: 114665

ISSUE: Surplus Properties List

BACKGROUND:

Real Property Division (RPD), oversees and facilitates the redeployment and disposition of real property assets over \$1 million identified by the owner ministries as being surplus to their program needs, excluding self-supported Crown Corporations.

s.16; s.17

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, s.16; s.17

s.16; s.17

The table below indicates the forecasted SPL net proceeds, per Ministry, excluding any adjustment for contingencies/slippages from fiscal 2020/21 to 2024/25.

s.16; s.17

DISCUSSION:

The Minister of Citizens' Services (CITZ) has the authority, under the *Public Agency Accommodation Act*, to own and sell surplus Crown lands for CITZ. Other Ministries have their own legislation that authorizes them to own and sell lands. Ministry of Finance has directed CITZ to oversee management of all provincial surplus properties on their behalf.

.../2

Accordingly, all surplus properties are subject to the Enhanced Referral Process (ERP) prior to disposition. Ministries and agencies are provided an opportunity to review details of the potential surplus properties, so that alternate use of properties, if any, can be identified before a decision to sell a property is made. Exemptions to the ERP can be made with rationale to support the request (e.g., direct sale to a municipality to support an infrastructure project).

Once the ERP is complete, and if no alternate Government use for surplus properties is identified, those properties valued at \$1 million or more are added to the SPL. RPD meets monthly with land-owning ministries and entities to track the stages of surplus property disposition including due diligence, forecasted year of sale, risk, financial reporting, marketing, and First Nations consultation for properties on the SPL. The SPL changes frequently as surplus properties are added, removed, or sold.

s.16; s.17

s.16; s.17 As a result of this process, RPD has facilitated five property transfers between government bodies, with 10 more currently under review or negotiations.

A holistic and rigorous approach to surplus properties is taken so that all options are considered to maximize the value to the Province, including but not limited to rezoning, subdivision, adding charges such as easements and right of ways to title, and long-term land leases. These options are considered prior to sale, to achieve the highest and best use of the property. Additionally, effective as of 2019/20 fiscal sales, properties on the SPL undergo an economic impact assessment by BC Stats to demonstrate the impact that activities attributed to the sale and development of surplus properties have on household income, job creation, average wages, tax revenue and added value to the BC economy.

s.16; s.17

SUMMARY:

Properties on the current SPL have been thoroughly reviewed for alternate government use, where required. No ministry or agency has expressed interest in these properties except where highlighted on the attached list (refer to Appendix 1). Disposition of these properties has been paused until such time that consultation with the ministries expressing interest has been completed. Where applicable, the land-owning ministries have received confirmation from CITZ to proceed with disposition of SPL properties, with oversight from CITZ, as per the ministries' applicable legislations and completion of First Nations consultation requirements. These properties are planned to be marketed as per the process for disposition of surplus properties.

In the next six months, the following properties are planned to be disposed of:

s.16; s.17

Attachments: Appendix 1: Current Surplus Properties List (January 8, 2021)

Contact: Sunny Dhaliwal, Assistant Deputy Minister, Real Property Division, 250 380-8311

Prepared by: Yvonne Deibert, Executive Director, Strategic Real Estate Services, 250 387-6348

Appendix 1 – Surplus Properties List as of January 8, 2021

s.16; s.17

Appendix 1 – Surplus Properties List as of January 8, 2021

s.16; s.17

Appendix 1 – Surplus Properties List as of January 8, 2021

s.16; s.17

Notes:

No ministry or agency has expressed continued interest in these properties except where highlighted in yellow

INFORMATION NOTE

Advice to Minister Osborne

Date: February 3, 2021

CLIFF#: 114602

ISSUE: Broadband Mapping and Coverage Data

BACKGROUND:

Some communities applying to connectivity funding programs are disputing the accuracy of the federal broadband mapping and are wanting to contest the coverage data. Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED), together with the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC), are making continual improvements to broadband coverage data to make maps more precise and detailed.

Historically, data was aggregated into areas of 25 square km or more (hexagonal view) to be displayed and shared. If one household with this area was deemed served at 50/10 Mbps then the entire community would be considered ineligible for funding.

In 2020, ISED refined its data to measure speeds down to the 250-meter road segments for broadband internet coverage. Today, ISED uses a new online map the [National Broadband Service Availability Map](#) to determine eligibility for the Universal Broadband Fund.

An Eligibility Mapping Tool exists to assist applicants to map new coverage areas in their applications. A process is also in place should applicants wish to contest broadband mapping data.

DISCUSSION:

The new 250-meter road segment approach uses information provided by internet service providers against household locations and road segments. ISED presents this information on its new online map the [National Broadband Service Availability Map](#) and makes it available for download on [Canada's Open Data portal](#).

The new map contains layers with additional data relating to broadband internet, including: 50/10 Mbps broadband coverage area; broadband coverage at the road level, internet service providers for any given address; internet service providers operating in the vicinity of a specific address, their name and available technology; and, internet service providers providing high capacity transport services (backbone) in the area.

Sometimes more than one internet service provider might contest the information contained on the national broadband map. A recent example is Quadra Island where CityWest, an internet service provider headquartered in Prince Rupert, has indicated that Canada's broadband coverage is inaccurate for Quadra Island. Today, Mascon (a subsidiary of TELUS) indicates they provide 50/10 Mbps coverage to most of Quadra Island, but CityWest is contesting this and is seeking provincial funds in an application that overbuilds existing infrastructure owned and operated by Mascon.

The provincially funded Connecting British Columbia program is designed to leverage federal funding for projects and uses the National Broadband Service Availability Map to establish whether an area is eligible for funding in addition to proprietary network information shared in confidence by the private sector to ensure government funding is applied to benefit the greatest number of British Columbians. Federal and provincial programs are intended to address the 'market failure point' where private sector companies don't have the business case to expand connectivity infrastructure, or funding is applied where private sector companies won't go.

Federal data on the progress of expanding connectivity is reported in multiple ways. In addition to the National Broadband Service Availability Map the CRTC releases an annual Communications Monitoring Report. On December 10, 2020, the CRTC released their report¹ indicating the percentage of households connected with speeds of 50/10 Mbps in British Columbia:

- 62.5% of rural households have access to 50/10 Mbps in 2019, up from 58.4% in 2018.
- 68.3% of First Nations reserves households have access to 50/10 Mbps in 2019, up from 66.7% in 2018.

A list of questions and answers has been prepared for Minister Osborne on the topic of broadband mapping and coverage data. ATT-1 is updated from a previous version provided on February 1, 2021.

CONCLUSION:

Expanding broadband internet in rural and Indigenous communities is a top priority for the Province. Ministry of Citizens' Services (CITZ) works very closely with ISED to leverage federal funding to improve connectivity more households.

ISED has further refined the national broadband map and has introduced an Eligibility Mapping Tool to assist applicants with their broadband funding applications.

February 15, 2021, is the deadline for the Universal Broadband Fund. Some organizations have petitioned ISED to extend the deadline, however no decision has been made at this time.

CITZ works directly with ISED on all issues related to connectivity in B.C. The Connected Communities team is available to communities to address data discrepancies in the federal data mapping tool.

Attachment(s): ATT-1 Broadband Mapping and Coverage Questions and Answers

Contact: Susan Stanford, Assistant Deputy Minister Connectivity, Phone: 778 698-2349

¹ Communications Monitoring Report published December 10, 2020: See Table 4.3 Availability of internet services with speeds of 50/10 Mbps and unlimited data, by population size and province/territory (% households, 2019): <https://crtc.gc.ca/eng/publications/reports/policymonitoring/2020/cmr4.htm>

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

BROADBAND MAPPING AND DATA

Updated February 3, 2021

What actions have been undertaken to improve how internet service provider data is mapped, analyzed, and shared?

- In 2020, ISED further refined its data to measure speeds down to the 250-meter road segments for broadband internet coverage.
- Previously, data was aggregated into areas of 25 square km or more (hexagonal view) to be displayed and shared.
- The new 250-meter road segment approach uses information provided by internet service providers against household locations and road segments. ISED presents this information on its new online map the [National Broadband Service Availability Map](#) and makes it available for download on [Canada's Open Data portal](#).
- The new map contains layers with additional data relating to broadband internet, including:
 - 50/10 Mbps broadband coverage area
 - Broadband coverage at the road level
 - Internet service providers for any given address
 - Internet service providers operating in the vicinity of a specific address, their name and available technology
 - Internet service providers providing high capacity transport services (backbone) in the area.

Why are hexagons still being used?

- Hexagons on the map exist for display purposes only and to provide users with a means to view the data from a very broad perspective.
- Funding programs do not use hexagons to determine program eligibility. Instead, programs use the 250 meter road segments as shown on the [National Broadband Service Availability Map](#).

What do I do if I disagree with the coverage on the map?

- If users have information that contradicts what is shown on the National Broadband Internet Service Availability Map, they are encouraged to first contact the internet service provider in question for initial verification.
- If a discrepancy affects your application to a broadband funding program, then users are asked to follow the steps outlined in [Annex 4 of the Universal Broadband Fund Application Guide](#).
- Applicants seeking to challenge coverage information must provide evidence that households or areas in question cannot access speeds of 50/10 Mbps with any internet service providers. ISED has requested that one speed test measurement is required for every 5 targeted households.

What is the difference between broadband and cellular mapping?

- It is very important that communities access the correct map and become familiar with the features and layers contained in the [National Broadband Service Availability Map](#). The new map contains layers for broadband connectivity and a separate layer for cellular connectivity.

Is there available funding that internet service providers can apply for today?

- The federal Universal Broadband Fund is accepting applications for last-mile projects up until February 15, 2021.
- [The Connecting British Columbia program](#) also has intakes open for last-mile and transport projects. Communities are eligible to apply if they partner with an internet service provider that can demonstrate the capability to deliver telecommunications services.

Who can I talk to for more information?

- If there are any additional questions or if the public requires assistance contacting their internet service provider, please contact the Connectivity Division staff in the Ministry of Citizens' Services for more information. Enquiries should be directed in writing to Network BC at www.NetworkBC@gov.bc.ca.

INFORMATION NOTE

Advice to Minister Beare

Date: February 25, 2021

CLIFF#: 114651

ISSUE: Connectivity Overview

BACKGROUND:

- Connectivity is an imperative for rural and Indigenous communities to participate in the economy, enable investment, resident attraction, retraining and access to vital services.
- The provincially funded Connecting British Columbia program effectively leverages funding from federal funding programs and the private sector to expand high-speed connectivity.
- Current funding to the Connecting British Columbia program will increase the number of communities with the minimum needed 50/10 megabits per second internet speed over the next few years.
 - Provincial and federal funding programs have funded numerous projects throughout the province and provincial funding has benefited more than 500 communities since 2017.
 - When existing provincial funding is fully allocated and projects are completed 60% of rural communities and rural Indigenous communities will completely meet the 50/10 megabits per second internet speed standard (see ATT-1).
- One significant project co-funded with the federal government is the Connected Coast Network, announced in January 2018 and expected to begin construction this spring.
 - The Connected Coast Network project involves the installation of sub-sea fibre-optic cable, stretching from north of Prince Rupert, to Haida Gwaii (Masset), south to Vancouver and around Vancouver Island. Total project investment is \$45.4 million, co-shared between the federal and provincial governments.
- In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic reinforced connectivity as a basic essential service for rural and remote communities, requiring a more aggressive and coordinated local government approach to addressing urgent infrastructure needs. Regional districts have started to view the delivery of high-speed internet as a public utility, assigning the same level of importance as clean water, road maintenance and access to electricity.
- Dialogue at the recent UBCM Electoral Area Directors' Forum February 2 indicates local governments have embraced the shared nature of the challenge of broadband infrastructure and want to engage in finding creative connectivity solutions that derive greater community benefits from public infrastructure investments.

DISCUSSION:

StrongerBC Projects: Connecting British Columbia Economic Recovery Intake

- Under the StrongerBC, the Connecting British Columbia Program was expanded by \$90M.
- This intake is expected to benefit an estimated 200 rural and Indigenous communities, and new connectivity to **14 rest areas, 4 roadside call boxes and 140 kilometres of new cellular coverage along highways, by October 2021.**

Connected Coast Project

- The Connected Coast Network project will provide high speed transport to communities along the west coast of British Columbia, as well as network resiliency for communities along Highway 16 between Prince George and Prince Rupert.
- The project leads are CityWest Cable & Telephone Corporation (CityWest) and the Strathcona Regional District (Strathcona). They have partnered on the project to jointly build the network.
- The project has a goal of building 159 landing sites, connecting 139 communities, including 48 Indigenous communities, representing 44 First Nations, along BC coast from north of Prince Rupert, to Haida Gwaii, south to Vancouver, and around Vancouver Island.
- The Connected Coast Network does not include last-mile builds, but once the landing sites are complete, the new fibre backbone will enable increased last-mile internet speeds and reliability.
 - Of the 139 communities on the route, all but 19 communities have existing last mile infrastructure, and many of those will be fully served when their existing last mile infrastructure is connected to the Connected Coast Network.
 - Federal and provincial funding programs are accepting applications from service providers for communities that need new last mile infrastructure or need upgrades to their existing infrastructure.
- The Connected Coast Network project has had setbacks from the lengthy contracting process and through the development of a relationship between the proponents to jointly own and manage the network. Now that the procurement phase is complete, the project leads are focused on permitting and stakeholder engagement.
- The provincial Connecting British Columbia program and the federal Universal Broadband Fund are currently accepting applications to support new or upgrades for last-mile projects along the Connected Coast route.
- CityWest and Strathcona have been granted a project completion date extension from March 31, 2021 to March 31, 2023. Canada has indicated to the recipients that federal funding must be disbursed by March 31, 2023.

MUNI's mandate to work with the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure to support economic recovery in communities across B.C. by continuing to build important infrastructure projects.

- Provincial and municipal governments own or otherwise control a significant amount of passive infrastructure in the form of rights of way along roads and highways that is used in the telecommunications network. In the context of connectivity, highway rights-of-way and conduit to house fibre lines are needed and extremely valuable for telecommunications.
- Up to 90% of the costs of deploying fibre is when the work requires the installation of conduit. The installation of actual fibre can occur at the same time or later. Costs could be significantly reduced if conduit is added when the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (TRAN) is expanding or remediating highways in rural areas of B.C.
- In B.C. the approach to the installation of conduit in an urban setting differs than in a rural setting. TRAN has policy in place requiring that conduit dedicated for fibre must be installed in urban areas during construction. For rural areas, the policy is limited with a focus on overpasses bridges or tunnels.

POINTS OF INTEREST:***Discuss opportunity for the Community Data Support Project***

- A key concern raised at the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Electoral Area Forum on February 2 was the potential exclusion of rural communities from accessing the Universal Broadband Fund resulting from discrepancies in the Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada broadband service eligibility map which shows available internet speeds in communities.
- Some communities have disputed the information on the map and claim that internet speeds are lower than the 50/10 Mbps indicated.
- The Province is keen to work with UBCM to support communities in validating internet speed data and is in the process of hiring a contractor to identify issues and make policy and program recommendations for improvement if required.

Discuss opportunities to collaborate on a provincial connectivity strategy:

- CITZ will be developing a connectivity strategy and would welcome the Ministry of Municipal Affairs' important input to the strategy. Input could include collaborating on regional tables with local government and stakeholders.

Attachment: ATT-1 Connectivity Overview PowerPoint

Contact: Susan Stanford, Assistant Deputy Minister Connectivity, Phone: 778 698-2349

Minister Briefing

Connectivity

March 2021



Connectivity is the ability to reliably connect to the internet and access the information and services you need when you need them.



Access



Speed



Affordability

CITZ Connectivity Mandate

Lead work to deliver high-speed connectivity throughout the province until all regions are connected to the high-speed network.

Rural Communities & First Nations

Rural communities and regions will play a major role in helping BC meet the challenges of the next century.

- New energy sources
- Food production innovation
- Natural resources and natural systems stewardship

Many rural communities lack the capacity to shift and adapt to the oncoming challenges.

Connectivity is foundational for community prosperity especially for rural communities and First Nations.

Broadband



Broadband services are characterized as services that don't move with you. When you are out of range of your home WiFi, you lose your connection.

Cellular



Cellular services are characterized by internet access that moves with you. Your connection is moved on the network (i.e. one cell tower to another) as you move—and you remain connected.

As internet technologies evolve, and evolve rapidly, the distinction between these types of services are starting to blur. Today, large internet providers are deploying technologies that can deliver both broadband and cellular services—reducing some infrastructure costs.

Connectivity: digital capacity of communities



Tsay Keh Dene

Satellite
dependent
3 communities



Granisle

Underserved
530 rural communities
150 rural FN



Corridors

Cellular
40% of BC's highways don't
have cell coverage



Campbell River

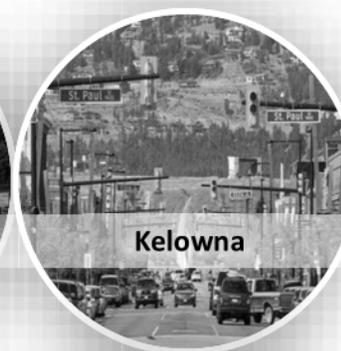
CRTC
Standard+
345 rural communities
116 rural FN
+
100% urban
communities and FN



Nelson

Hyper
connected and
5G ready
Targeting 8 hyper
connected
communities
throughout BC

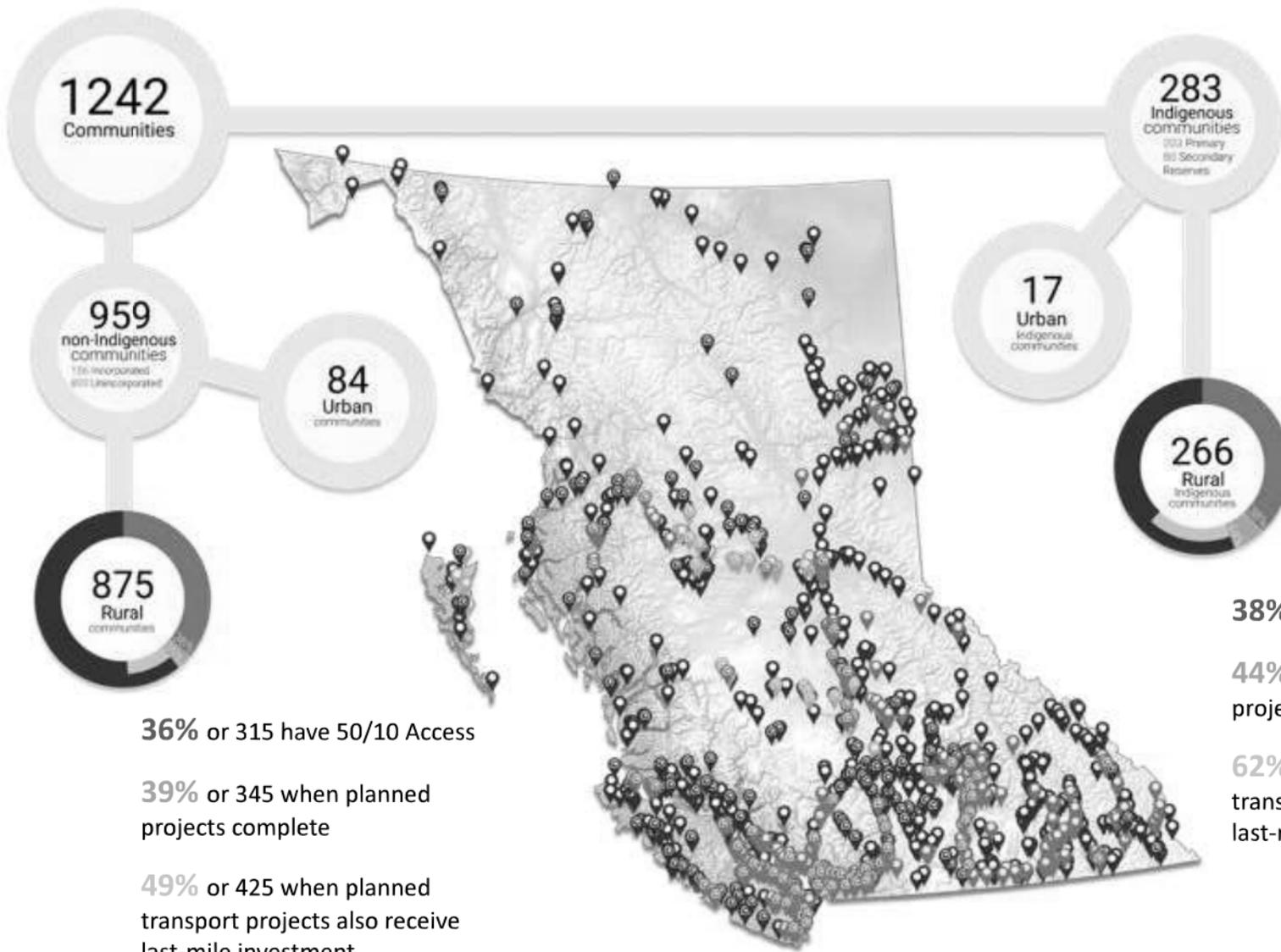
Nelson was first



Kelowna

5G enabled
Rogers and UBC have
established 5G test
bed – 1st in Canada

100% of program funding today is allocated to communities that do not meet the CRTC standard + some highway cellular



British Columbia also measures connectivity based on whole communities

Federal Government measures connectivity based on household counts



36% of rural BC communities have access to 50/10 Mbps internet speeds



38% of rural BC Indigenous communities have access to 50/10 Mbps internet speeds



94% of BC households are able to make a connection at 50/10 Mbps internet speeds (CRTC)

Targeted

Connectivity Funding

Federal funding programs:

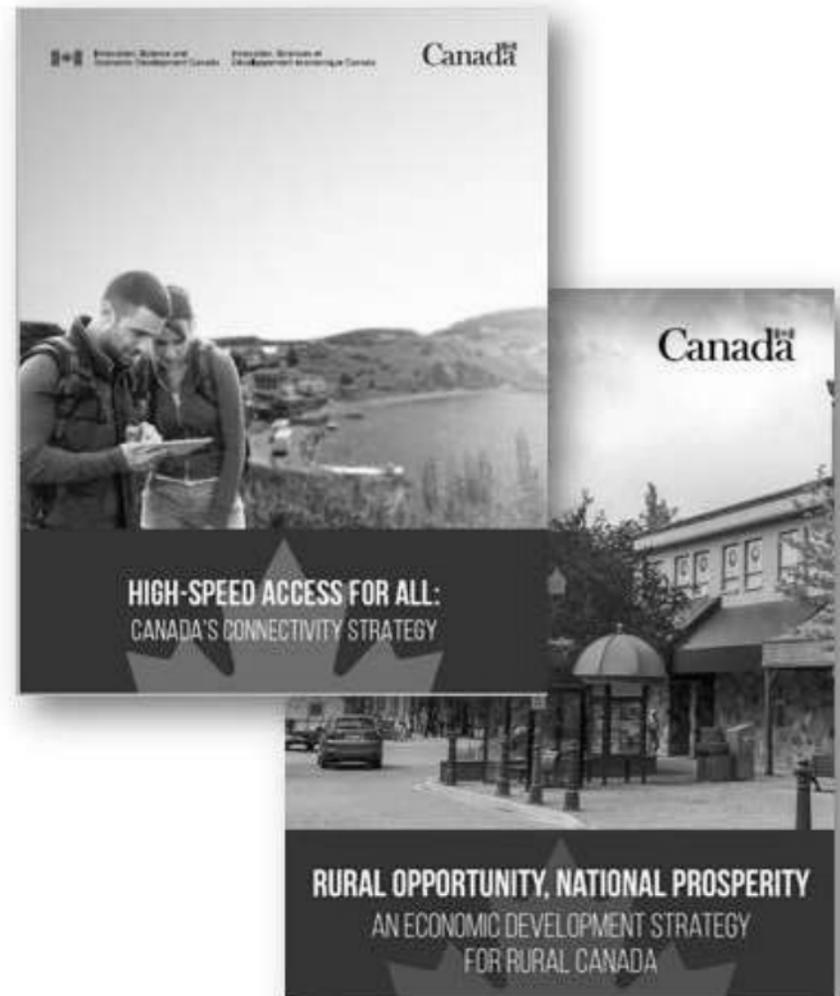
- ISED Connect to Innovate: \$550M – BC share \$55M for 10 projects (closed)
- ISED Universal Broadband Fund: \$1.75B (open)
 - \$150M allocated to rapid project execution (closed)
- CRTC fund: \$750M (open)

Provincial Connecting British Columbia Program

- 2017: \$40M project intake; projects are in flight
- 2019: \$50M project intake currently open, partially allocated
- 2020: \$90M StrongerBC project intake currently open

BC Co-chair FPT Connectivity Committee:

- BC was a major contributor including cost analysis. For BC:
 - \$1.1B in initial cost to complete to CRTC standard
 - \$1.9B to complete cellular on all BC highways



Connecting British Columbia Program

Connected Coast Project

- Connected Coast project will be jointly owned by CityWest and Strathcona Regional District
- 159 coastal landing sites, including 51 Indigenous communities representing 44 First Nations, along BC coast from north of Prince Rupert, to Haida Gwaii, south to Vancouver, and around Vancouver Island
- \$45.4 million, co-shared between the federal and provincial governments
- Project build will start in Spring 2021 with an anticipated completion by March 31, 2023
- www.connectedcoast.ca



A brief history of the

Connecting British Columbia Program

2014

Program started with \$10M

Match funding to federal Digital Canada 150 program – 30 projects – \$30M project value - 255 communities benefiting from projects
Established Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT) as the program administrator

2017

Program expanded by \$40M

Match funding to federal Connect to Innovate program –26 projects – \$143 project value - 286 communities benefiting from projects

2019

Program expanded by \$50M

Match funding to CRTC fund & federal Universal Broadband fund – Intake in progress - \$14M allocated to 15 projects
COVID-19 Response intake April 2020 – 47 projects approved & completed in 4 months - \$1.2M allocated – 9,300 households benefiting

2020

Program expanded by \$90M as part of StrongerBC Economic Recovery

Rapid response projects to be completed by October 31, 2021 – Intake in progress
Target: 200 communities benefiting – 140 kilometres of highway cellular – 14 highway rest areas – 4 satellite call boxes

When current funding is fully allocated and projects are complete, 60% of rural and Indigenous communities will be connected to the CRTC internet speed target 50/10 Mbps.

\$180M in flight

Back up slides

Connectivity

Strategic Pillars

Place-based



- ✓ Recognize the diversity of rural communities, rural First Nations and regions
- ✓ Target untapped assets
- ✓ Identify profitable niches to support diversification.
- ✓ Flexible beyond a sector-based approach
- ✓ Support high-performing rural regions

Pooled Knowledge



- ✓ Multi-sectoral approach that engages public agencies, the private sector and non-government organisations, and is inclusive of different population groups and places
- ✓ Policy coherence across government sectors and levels of government with a rural lens
- ✓ Integrate rural and urban policies

Local Economy & Social Equity



- ✓ Investment over subsidy
- ✓ Coordinate sectoral investments and adapt to the needs of different types of rural areas
- ✓ Identify investments with strong rural and urban linkages
- ✓ Address market failures and support social innovation

Build Once



- ✓ Integrate delivery to enable multi-sectoral policies that match the needs and circumstances of different rural regions
- ✓ Integrated, multi-purpose infrastructure investment approach (i.e. roads + fibre)

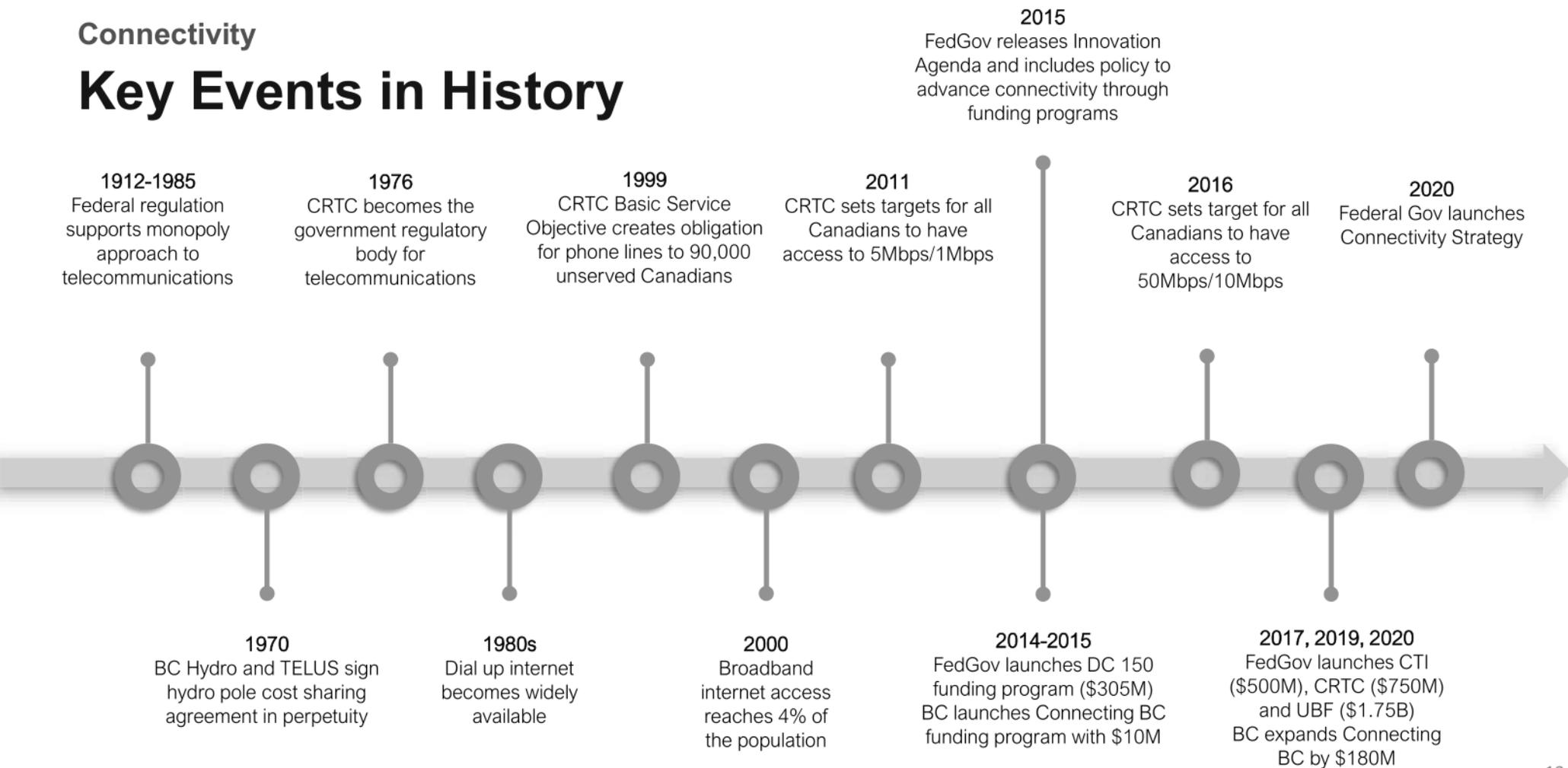
Page 25 of 62

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.12

Connectivity

Key Events in History



DECISION NOTE Advice to Deputy Minister

DATE: February 12, 2021

CLIFF#: 114659

ISSUE: Connectivity Division

BACKGROUND:

The Connectivity Division (CONN) in its current form was created in December 2020. Prior to this, the two branches, NetworkBC and Connected Communities were contained within a larger division, located within the Ministry of Citizens Services (CITZ) and subsequently, Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation (JERI) with additional full-time equivalent (FTEs) resources.

DISCUSSION:

Connectivity funding and programs have expanded dramatically over the past couple of years due to a number of factors including advances in technologies, community engagement and planning, regulatory change, competitive industry and available government funding programs. A summary of changes in staffing within the division is included in the attached PowerPoint.

In September 2020 the provincial funding program was expanded by \$90M under StrongerBC. At the same time, CITZ was invited to submit for additional ongoing funding for the program as part of Budget 2021. While CITZ has supported expanding staff to support connectivity programming, additional capacity and expertise is required to manage the current load, and anticipated increases. s.12
s.12

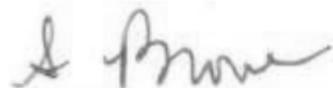
s.12; s.13

- **RECOMMENDATION: Option 1**

APPROVED

NOT APPROVED

OPTION 1



March 1, 2021

Shauna Brouwer, Deputy Minister

Date

Attachment: Connectivity Division – Staffing Plan
Contact: Susan Stanford, 250-580-7459

Staffing Plan – For approval

Connectivity Team

February 12, 2021



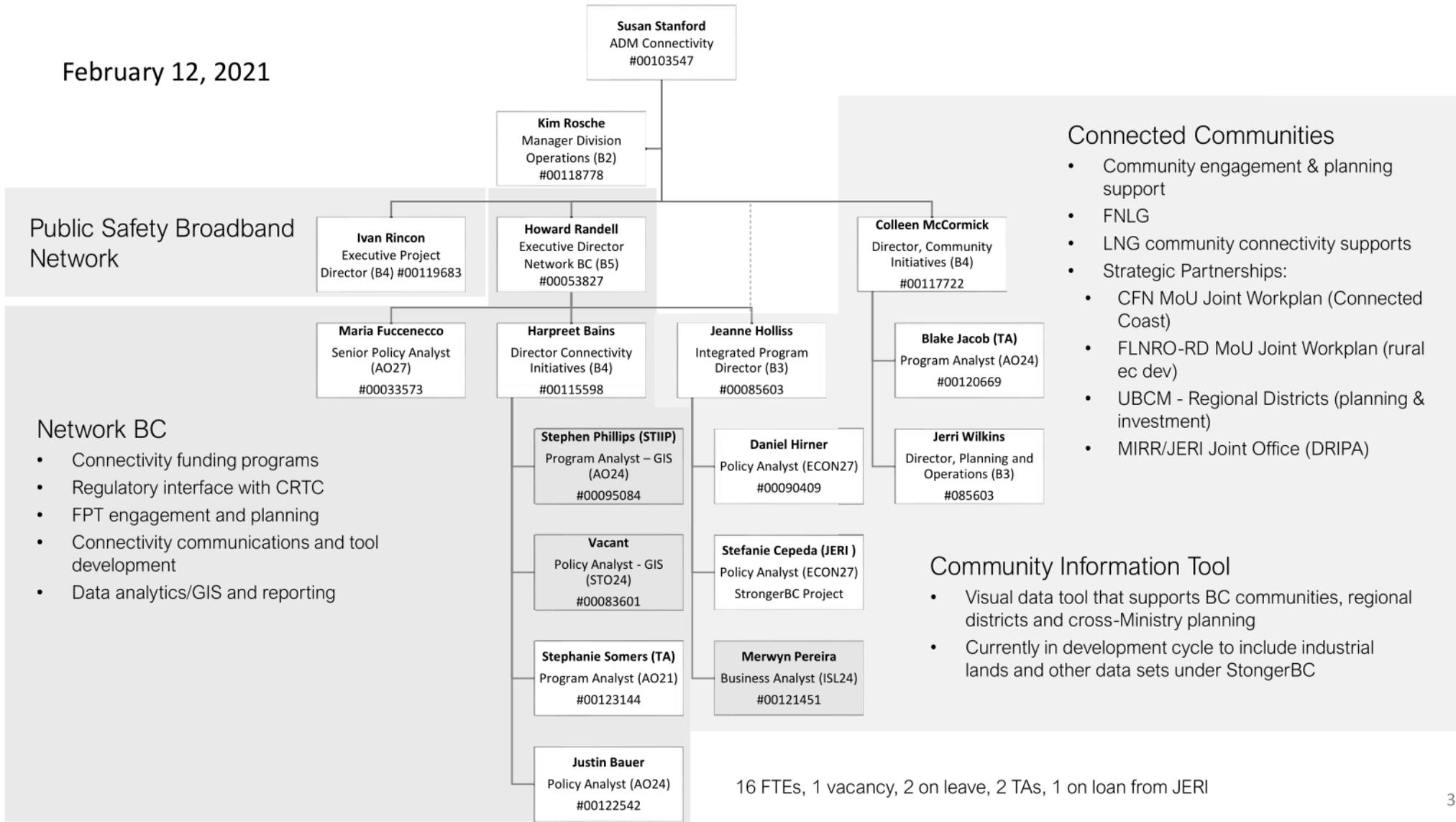
Program Growth

Connectivity program demands have expanded dramatically over the past 5 years, and particularly in the past 24 months. Connectivity programming not only has to support provincial funding programs, but scale with federal programming and increasing community needs for support. Focused supports for local governments were under development in 2017 and introduced in 2018 leading to the formation of the Connected Communities team. Connectivity was not included as a priority in the Minister’s mandate letter between 2017 and 2020.

	FTEs		\$s	
	Network BC - Fund Management	Connected Communities – Tools and supports	Active funding (Provincial/Federal)	
2016	4		\$10M / \$305M	
2017	5	1	\$40M / \$500M	
2018	7	2	\$40M / \$500M	Start of community engagement and tools and support development
2019	9	3	\$90M / \$1.25B	Coastal First Nations MOU
2020	9	3	\$180M / \$3.0B	Ministry mandate for connectivity
2021	14	5	\$180M + / \$3.0B	

CITZ funded FTE expansion internally to 2020; Active funding refers to program funding inflight and requiring programming effort to manage

February 12, 2021



Connected Communities

- Community engagement & planning support
- FNLG
- LNG community connectivity supports
- Strategic Partnerships:
 - CFN MoU Joint Workplan (Connected Coast)
 - FLNRO-RD MoU Joint Workplan (rural ec dev)
 - UBCM - Regional Districts (planning & investment)
 - MIRR/JERI Joint Office (DRIPA)

Network BC

- Connectivity funding programs
- Regulatory interface with CRTC
- FPT engagement and planning
- Connectivity communications and tool development
- Data analytics/GIS and reporting

Community Information Tool

- Visual data tool that supports BC communities, regional districts and cross-Ministry planning
- Currently in development cycle to include industrial lands and other data sets under StongerBC

16 FTEs, 1 vacancy, 2 on leave, 2 TAs, 1 on loan from JERI

Current organization

The Connecting British Columbia program is administered by Northern Development Initiative Trust. The Connectivity Division holds the responsibility to perform technical reviews of all project applications submitted to NDIT, including those submitted for joint funding with federal programs. In addition, to ensure the Division has the expertise, information and relationships to perform the technical review and that the Trust and federal programs receive high quality and competitive applications for funding, the Connectivity Division has established community-based programs, partnerships (such as the MOU with Coastal First Nations), industry engagements, cross-Ministry collaborations and data and analytic tools.



Technical review capacity

Applications to the Connecting British Columbia programs have increased exponentially with increased funding and expanded program types. Not only do applications need to be assessed at time of evaluation, but throughout the build cycle to ensure services are delivered and public funds are accounted for. Currently there is more than \$180M of provincial funds and \$3B of federal funds in flight. As large projects can take 4 or more years to complete, the Connectivity portfolio and the technology, data and community engagements associated with managing the program require additional bench strength and expertise.

Application review

- Overbuilds, duplicates
- “Gold Plated” network design and technology
- Non-eligible, inflated equipment costs
- Dependencies
- Contribution ratios
- Transport capacity and costs

Applicant review

- Logical Network Diagram
- Opportunity for applicant to provide description of project and benefits

Business Considerations

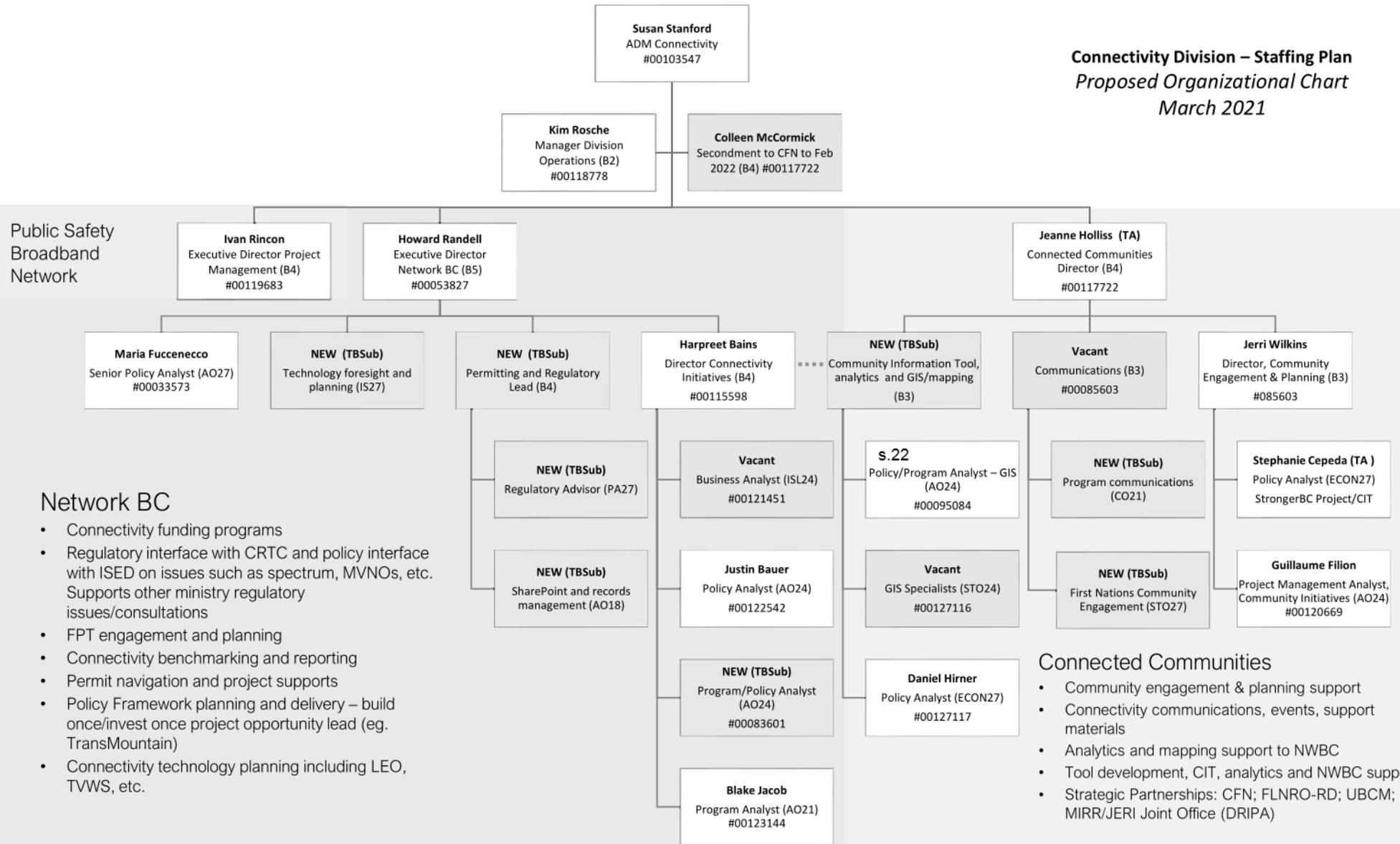
- Ineligible communities
- ANTCO fund leveraging
- Previously committed projects
- Previous funding
- Sustainability
- Alignment with funding targets

Capacity and skills gap staffing request in TB submission

Role focus and 2021/22 deliverables

s.12; s.13

Connectivity Division – Staffing Plan
Proposed Organizational Chart
March 2021



Network BC

- Connectivity funding programs
- Regulatory interface with CRTC and policy interface with ISED on issues such as spectrum, MVNOs, etc. Supports other ministry regulatory issues/consultations
- FPT engagement and planning
- Connectivity benchmarking and reporting
- Permit navigation and project supports
- Policy Framework planning and delivery – build once/invest once project opportunity lead (eg. TransMountain)
- Connectivity technology planning including LEO, TVWS, etc.

Connected Communities

- Community engagement & planning support
- Connectivity communications, events, support materials
- Analytics and mapping support to NWBC
- Tool development, CIT, analytics and NWBC support
- Strategic Partnerships: CFN; FLNRO-RD; UBCM; MIRR/JERI Joint Office (DRIPA)

INFORMATION NOTE Advice to Minister Beare

Date: February 16, 2021

CLIFF #: 114668

ISSUE: Connectivity Overview

BACKGROUND:

- Connectivity is an imperative for Indigenous communities to participate in the economy, enable investment and tourism, attract members back to community, retrain and access vital services including health and emergency. See Attachment 1 for an overview of Connectivity.
- High-speed internet improves access to online education and supports the preservation of Indigenous languages, digitally capturing them so they can be shared with future generations.
- Connectivity has been identified as a priority area for inclusion in the *Declaration on the rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (DRIPA) because it is a catalyst for Indigenous economic reconciliation and means to advance self-determination, and specifically aligns with articles related to social and economic systems including health, mental health and education (articles 21, 22, 24).

Connectivity in BC's First Nations:

- A community is considered 'served' when all homes in a community have access to the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission's (CRTC) of 50 Megabits per second download speed and 10 Megabits per second upload speed (50/10).
- In 2017, only 25% of rural First Nations primary and secondary reserves were served with adequate internet. Today, 38% of rural FNs are served.
- When all approved projects and funding from the Connecting British Columbia program are complete, more than 60% of rural First Nations will have the internet they need.

Connectivity Funding Programs:

- The provincially funded Connecting British Columbia program leverages funding from federal programs and the private sector to expand high-speed connectivity to underserved communities.
- The Province has allocated \$180 million to the Connecting British Columbia program, including \$90 million as part of StrongerBC. The program is accepting applications until all funding has been allocated.
- Federally, there are two connectivity programs with \$2.5 billion in available funding.

DISCUSSION:

Connected Communities continues to develop strategic partnerships with Coastal First Nations (CFN), First Nations Technology Council (FNTC), Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation's (MIRR)/Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation's Joint Office, Carrier Sekani Tribal Council (CSFN) Joint Officials table, and participates in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples / DRIPA Action Plan champions' table.

CITZ's Strategic Partnerships to Advance Connectivity for Indigenous Communities

- MIRR's Joint Office & CITZ's Connected Communities are key partners in addressing Indigenous connectivity gaps and using digital planning as a catalyst for economic reconciliation and cultural prosperity.

- CITZ and the Connected Communities program are represented on the Indigenous economic landscape as part of the Economy Sector Sub-Committee's DRIPA Action Plan principles which include initiatives that advance equitable, affordable and sustainable access to technology in Indigenous communities, including digital planning and internet connectivity. See Attachment 2.
- Connected Communities (CITZ) is included in the BC/Coastal First Nations MoU: *Memorandum of Understanding: Coastal First Nations/British Columbia Pathway to Reconciliation Protocol: Long-Term Economic, Social, Governance and Environmental Sustainability.*
- To advance the priorities identified in the BC/CFN MoU including supporting community engagement and facilitating collaboration/negotiations between Nations/CFN and service providers to access last mile funding, a secondment arrangement started mid February (FY21/22), with Colleen McCormick, Executive Director of Connected Communities is underway.

Indigenous Connectivity Stakeholders

There are several organizations and partners interested in delivering connectivity to Indigenous communities:

- **All Nations Trust Company's (ANTCO)**
 - ANTCO is an Indigenous owned and provincially regulated financial institution.
 - The **Pathways to Technology** project is an initiative to bring affordable and reliable high-speed Internet to all 203 First Nations in B.C.
 - In 2008/09 the Province granted over \$40-million to the All Nations Trust Company (ANTCO) to bring high-speed connectivity to the 203 First Nations in B.C. It is estimated that s.16 funds to support connectivity projects to benefit underserved First Nations.
- **First Nations Technology Council (FNTC):**
 - An Indigenous-led organization operating at the intersection of Indigenous sovereignty, technological advancement and a rapidly expanding technology and innovation economy.
 - Since 2002, FNTC has partnered with over 150 Indigenous communities across the province to provide advice, insights, and technology-related training.
 - FNTC includes connectivity as a core component of their framework and mandate.
- **First Nations Health Authority (FNHA):**
 - Committed to "health through wellness" in its programs, services and initiatives.
 - Lack of adequate access to high speed connectivity was recently cited as a barrier to vaccine rollout in some indigenous communities.

ANTCO, FNTC and FNHA are voting members of the Pathways to Technology project steering committee.

POINTS OF INTEREST:

Provincial connectivity strategy development:

- CITZ will be developing a connectivity strategy and would welcome MIRR's input to the strategy.

Discuss opportunities to advance cross-government collaboration:

- Inclusion of connectivity is foundational to addressing the needs of Indigenous communities through government's Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act given connectivity is deemed a priority Action.

- CITZ is uniquely positioned to work with First Nations Leadership organizations, including the First Nations Technology Council to support digital planning and is working closely with MIRR on strategic engagement efforts including First Nations engagement on connectivity and funding programs

Attachments: Attachment 1: Overview of Connectivity
Attachment 2: Indigenous Economic Institutions Map

Contact: Susan Stanford, Assistant Deputy Minister, Connectivity Phone: 250-580-7459

Minister Briefing

Connectivity

February 2021



Connectivity is the ability to reliably connect to the internet and access the information and services you need when you need them.



Access



Speed



Affordability

CITZ Connectivity Mandate

Lead work to deliver high-speed connectivity throughout the province until all regions are connected to the high-speed network.

Rural Communities & First Nations

Rural communities, Nations and regions will play a major role in helping BC meet the challenges of the next 7 generations.

- New energy sources
- Food production innovation
- Natural resources and natural systems stewardship

Many rural communities lack the capacity to shift and adapt to the oncoming challenges.

Connectivity is foundational for the prosperity of rural communities and First Nations.

Supporting First Nations directly

Connected Communities

Connected Communities brings together local governments, First Nations, cross-government partners and community development leaders to use connectivity planning as a catalyst for building sustainable economies and enhancing quality of life.

Connected Communities has developed strategic partnerships with Coastal First Nations (CFN), First Nations Technology Council (FNTC), MIRR's/JERI's Joint Office, Carrier Sekani Tribal Council (CSFN) Joint Officials table, and participates in the UNDRIP/DRIPA Action Plan champions' table.

Connected Communities videos



Heiltsuk (Bella Bella)



Haida Gwaii



What we do:

Guide local governments, and rural and Indigenous communities in better understanding the connectivity landscape, provincial role and ways to pursue their digital interests.



How we do it:

Provide hands on capacity support, learning resources, tools, and play a strategic convening role to help LG/Indigenous communities navigate digital progress.



Outcomes & Economic Development Linkages:

Support communities digital investment readiness to attract service providers and partners through regional connectivity coordination efforts.

Broadband



Broadband services are characterized as services that don't move with you. When you are out of range of your home WiFi, you lose your connection.

Cellular



Cellular services are characterized by internet access that moves with you. Your connection is moved on the network (i.e. one cell tower to another) as you move—and you remain connected.

As internet technologies evolve, and evolve rapidly, the distinction between these types of services are starting to blur. Today, large internet providers are deploying technologies that can deliver both broadband and cellular services—reducing some infrastructure costs.

Federal Government measures connectivity based on household counts



94% of BC households have access to 50/10 Mbps internet speeds (CRTC)

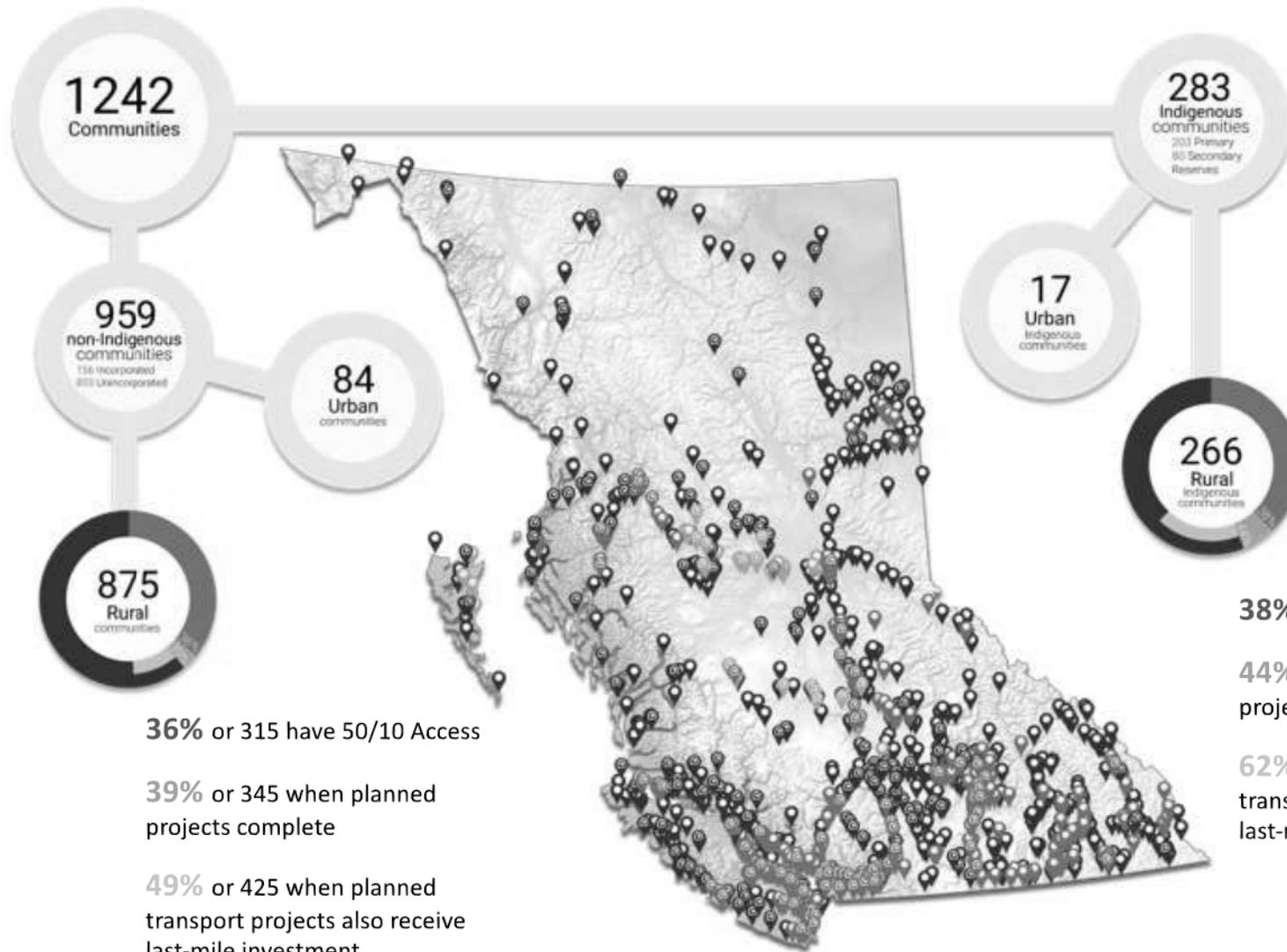
British Columbia also measures connectivity based on whole communities



36% of rural BC communities have access to 50/10 Mbps internet speeds



38% of rural BC Indigenous communities have access to 50/10 Mbps internet speeds



Targeted

Connectivity Funding

Federal funding programs:

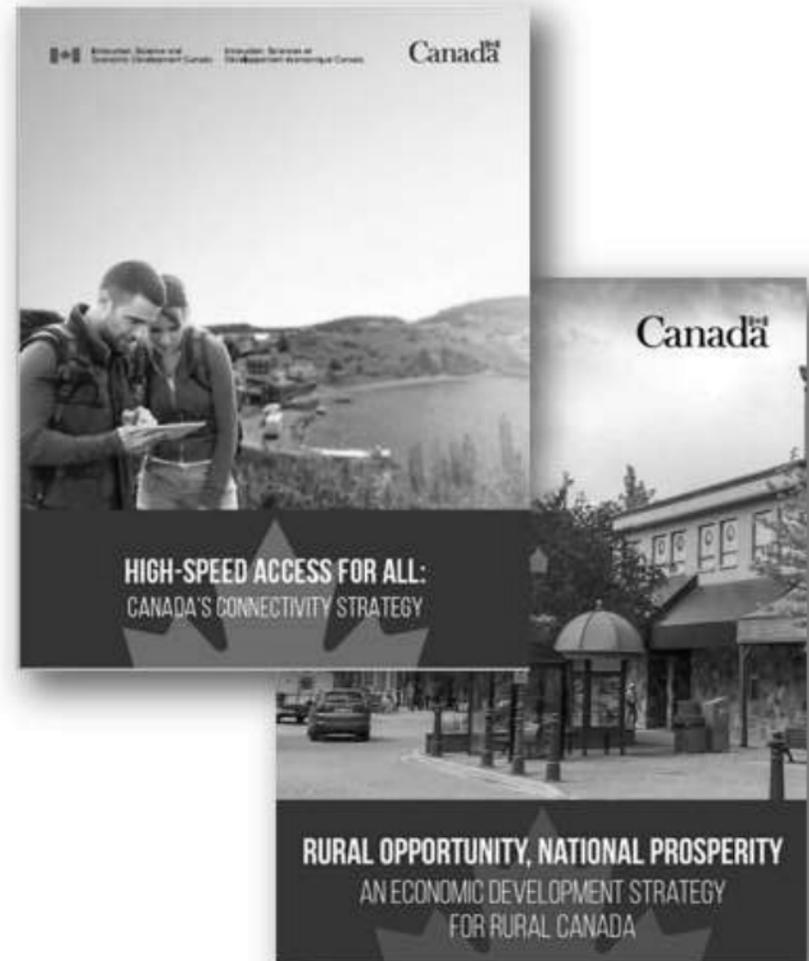
- ISED Connect to Innovate: \$550M – BC share \$55M for 10 projects (closed)
- ISED Universal Broadband Fund: \$1.75B (open)
 - \$150M allocated to rapid project execution (closed)
- CRTC fund: \$750M (open)

Provincial Connecting British Columbia Program

- 2017: \$40M project intake; projects are inflight
- 2019: \$50M project intake currently open, partially allocated
- 2020: \$90M StrongerBC project intake currently open

BC Co-chair FPT Connectivity Committee:

- BC was a major contributor including cost analysis. For BC:
 - \$1.1B in initial cost to complete to CRTC standard
 - \$1.9B to complete cellular on all BC highways



Connecting British Columbia Program

Connected Coast Project

- Connected Coast project will be jointly owned by CityWest and Strathcona Regional District
- 159 coastal landing sites, including 51 Indigenous communities representing 44 First Nations, along BC coast from north of Prince Rupert, to Haida Gwaii, south to Vancouver, and around Vancouver Island
- \$45.4 million, co-shared between the federal and provincial governments
- Project build will start in Spring 2021 with an anticipated completion by March 31, 2023
- www.connectedcoast.ca



A brief history of the

Connecting British Columbia Program

2014

Program started with \$10M

Match funding to federal Digital Canada 150 program – 30 projects – \$30M project value - 255 communities benefiting from projects
Established Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT) as the program administrator

2017

Program expanded by \$40M

Match funding to federal Connect to Innovate program – 26 projects – \$143 project value - 286 communities benefiting from projects

2019

Program expanded by \$50M

Match funding to CRTC fund & federal Universal Broadband fund – Intake in progress - \$14M allocated to 15 projects
COVID-19 Response intake April 2020 – 47 projects approved & completed in 4 months - \$1.2M allocated – 9,300 households benefiting

2020

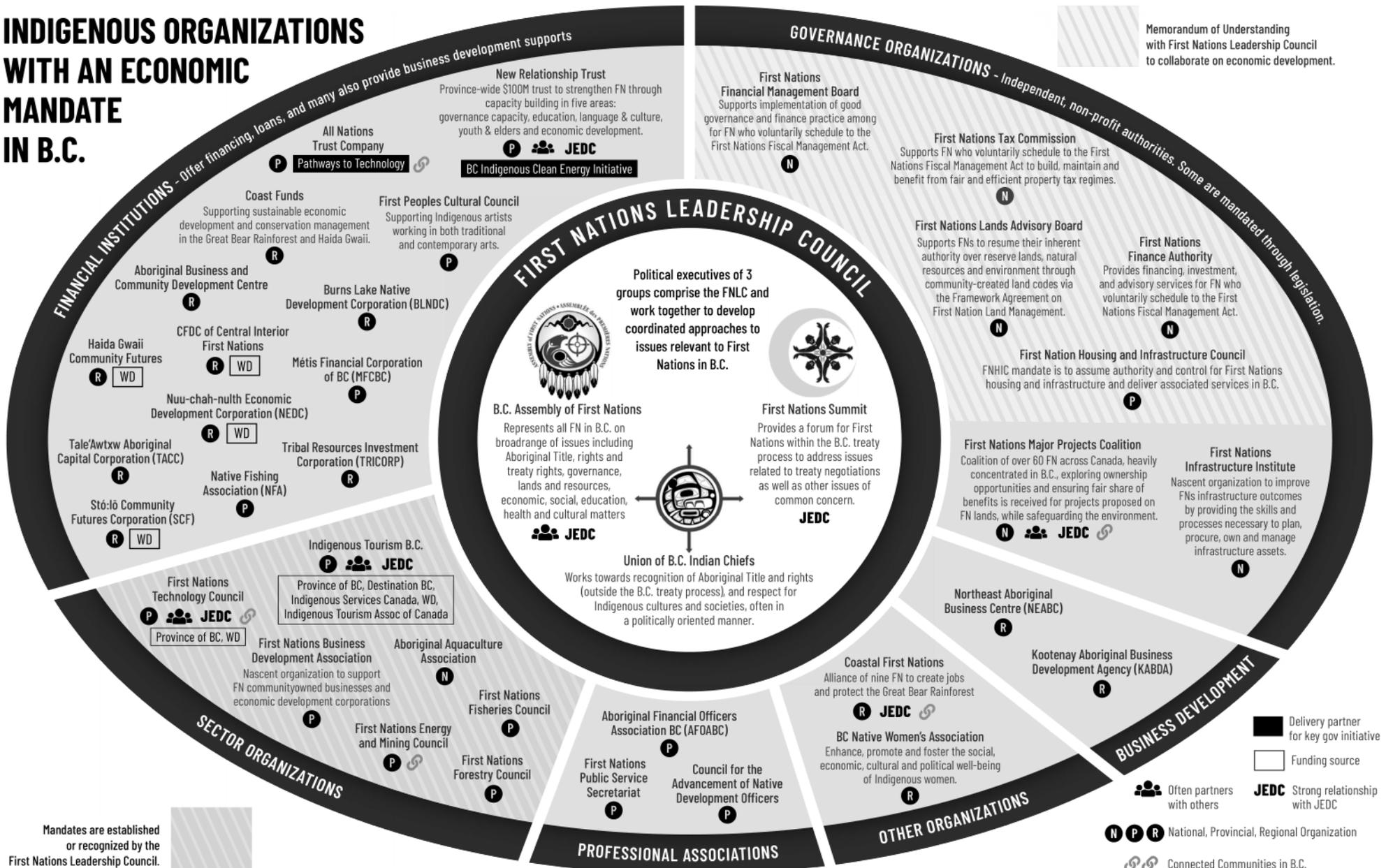
Program expanded by \$90M as part of StrongerBC Economic Recovery

Rapid response projects to be completed by October 31, 2021 – Intake in progress
Target: 200 communities benefiting – 140 kilometres of highway cellular – 14 highway rest areas – 4 satellite call boxes

When current funding is fully allocated and projects are complete, 60% of rural and Indigenous communities will be connected to the CRTC internet speed target 50/10 Mbps.

\$180M in flight

INDIGENOUS ORGANIZATIONS WITH AN ECONOMIC MANDATE IN B.C.



Memorandum of Understanding with First Nations Leadership Council to collaborate on economic development.

Mandates are established or recognized by the First Nations Leadership Council.

■ Delivery partner for key gov initiative
□ Funding source
⊕ Often partners with others
JEDC Strong relationship with JEDC
N P R National, Provincial, Regional Organization
⌚ Connected Communities in B.C.

INFORMATION NOTE

Advice to Minister Beare

Date: February 22, 2021

CLIFF#: 114706

ISSUE: Ministry of Citizens' Services (CITZ) support to Ministry of Health (HLTH) Immunization Rollout

BACKGROUND:

The Province of British Columbia has been in a state of emergency since March 18, 2020, in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic. An essential part of B.C.'s response is to make COVID-19 vaccinations available, free of charge, to everyone living in B.C.

Two COVID-19 vaccines, Pfizer and Moderna, will be used in B.C. Both have been approved for use by Health Canada after a rigorous scientific review of the available medical evidence. Both vaccines require two doses of vaccine per person.

Based on expert advice and guidance from the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI), B.C.'s COVID-19 Immunization Plan will roll out with four phases.

- **Phase 1 and Phase 2: High-risk population immunization.** Vaccination for those most vulnerable to severe illness will be vaccinated first from December 2020 to March 2021.
- **Phase 3 and Phase 4: General population immunization.** Vaccination for the general population runs April to September 2021. Vaccines will primarily be distributed in five-year age cohorts, starting with the 79 to 75 age group.

Getting immunized happens in steps:

- **Register:** people will be invited to register their intent to be vaccinated online or by phone.
- **Make an appointment:** people will be able to select a location, date and time for their first dose. This can be done online or by phone.
- **Receive first dose:** on the appointment day people will attend the vaccination site and receive their first dose.
- **Receive second dose:** after receiving their first dose, people will be notified when they are eligible to book an appointment for their second dose. Again, booking will occur online or by phone and people will be asked to attend the selected vaccination site at the appropriate time.

In late January 2021, HLTH requested support from Service BC (SBC) in providing contact centre, front counter and identity solutions to support B.C.'s immunization rollout. Initially, SBC support was asked to focus on Phase 3 and 4 roll out. On February 23, SBC was asked to consider expansion of project scope to include Phase 2 roll out (pending decision by Cabinet). Phase two includes seniors aged 80 and over who are not immunized in Phase 1 and Indigenous (First Nations, Métis, and Inuit) seniors age 65 and over, Elders and additional Indigenous communities not immunized in Phase 1. Readiness issues with the Health online booking system has since surfaced a critical concern that this option will result in a possible three week vaccination delay to this Phase two high risk group. HLTH has indicated that other models (outside of SBC response) are now being explored that will mitigate the vaccination delay.

To support the original HLTH request, CITZ quickly mobilized staff from across the ministry to work in five major workstreams: governance and communications; contact centre; service delivery (in-person support); identity solutions; and privacy (see Appendix A). CITZ has worked in close collaboration with HLTH to ensure that the citizen journey is integrated, smooth and consistent; one province, one response.

SBC remains on track to provide telephone and online registration support to HLTH commencing March 8, 2021 with immunization booking starting on March 23, 2021 for phase three and four.

NEXT STEPS:

CITZ will continue to work with HLTH to ensure a successful launch of the registration system on March 8, and the subsequent launch of the online booking system. CITZ will monitor volumes and capacity to determine if additional staffing measures or infrastructure improvements are required to support B.C. residents during this unprecedented time.

Attachment(s): Appendix A – CITZ's Detailed Response
Contact: Bev Dicks, ADM Service BC Tel.:(250) 818-4674
Sophia Howse, Tel.: (250) 213-7855

APPENDIX A - CITZ's DETAILED RESPONSE

Governance and Communications

- Joint governance tables have been established at the ADM and working levels, ensuring key issues and questions are quickly escalated and resolved.
- There is active collaboration with GCPE (HQ and HLTH), GDX, HLTH and SBC communication leads to ensure people will receive the same message, whichever channel they choose.
- Post-launch monitoring, data analysis and reporting processes being developed.
- MoU between SBC and HLTH is being developed.

Contact Centres

- The existing 1-888-COVID19 will be the primary point of contact for telephone enquiries.
- People will be able to register and book appointments by phone, for both themselves and on behalf of others.
- Enquiries will be routed to Maximus, the existing provider of contact centre services for 1-888-COVID19, and TELUS, the existing provider for some COVID-19 Health Authority contact centres.
- The infrastructure and staff model will increase to support the expected high volume demand as the vaccination program rolls-out. Maximus and TELUS have provided estimates for additional staff and have started to recruit and train for the start of registration. Maximus is projecting an additional 90 staff by March 1, 150 by March 15 and another 100 by end of April. TELUS is targeting 125 by the end of March.

Service Delivery in Service BC Offices

- Staff in the SBC Offices will be able to assist people to register for Vaccination and book their specific immunization appt.
- It is expected that the mobile BC Services Card will be an option for people logging in to register, book and access digital immunization records. SBC is, therefore, expecting an increase in the volume of "Send Video" transactions that will allow people to activate a mobile card.

Identity Solutions

- Health has developed an online booking system called Salesforce. This program is the underlying system that will be used to support registrations and bookings, both on line and by the contact center. The mobile BC Services Card is being integrated with Salesforce to provide people the option of using a mobile card to authenticate. This will provide a high degree of confidence that the person is who they say they are and will reduce the amount of information that has to be manually entered at time of immunization appt.
- Other opportunities to support the on-site vaccination process are being explored, including scanning the barcode on the back of a physical BC Services Card, allowing identity to be confirmed.

Privacy

- The CITZ privacy team is working closely with HLTH to ensure that Privacy Impact Assessments are complete and the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner is briefed before program launch

Contact: Bev Dicks, Tel.:250 818-4674
Sophia Howse, Tel.: 250 213-7855

INFORMATION NOTE

Advice to Deputy Minister

DATE: February 17, 2021

CLIFF#: 114699

ISSUE: Upcoming Information Management Training Release Plan

BACKGROUND:

Beginning in 2017 all ministry employees have been required to take government's information management training (titled IM 117) every two years. The Corporate Information and Records Management (CIRMO) has updated the training materials for each new training requirement, 2021 will be the third round of mandatory training. The IM 117 course provides all government employees with training on the responsibilities and best practices for records management, freedom of information, security and protection of privacy. Since inception, IM 117 completion has been over 90% of all government employees.

A number of CIRMO and OCIO Branches have partnered to update the course content. In addition, the Public Service Agency (PSA) hired a course developer to support a modernized format. To support Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries, political staff and many ministry senior executives an equivalent information management training session is offered in person (or virtually) in a meeting format, with additional sessions provided over the last two years to further support positive information management practices.

DISCUSSION:

The course has been developed with the benefit of CIRMO training experience, and supported by the PSA, to encourage adult learning through components such as scenario-based learning. The course is intended to support a diverse range of learning preferences and is aimed at making the material engaging and easy to absorb. Employees can also access supplemental information to aid in effectively managing the government information they handle throughout the course of their work.

To ensure that the course remains relevant to employees, the Corporate Information and Records Management Office (CIRMO) actively monitors developments in information management that might be appropriate for inclusion in future versions of the course. CIRMO routinely monitors ministry compliance rates to ensure that new employees are well informed of their information management responsibilities.

NEXT STEPS:

Key Dates:

Fall 2020 – February 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Course content updated to leverage strengths of existing course to modernize the course with improved interactive components and user experience. New platform confirmed with PSA.
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February - March 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pilot refreshed IM117 with a sample of government employees and information management subject matter experts. • CIRMO will incorporate feedback from pilot into final course format.
Early April 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement communications plan. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CITZ Deputy Minister to notify all Deputy Ministers of upcoming launch of the course in mid-April. Draft email sent to DMO end of March. ○ CRO to send announcement (with an introductory video) via @Work website and an email to all government employees, in collaboration with PSA.
April 12, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch course in collaboration with the PSA
Ongoing to July 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course completion statistics are reported to ministry stakeholders to encourage compliance.

Contact: Sophia Howse, Executive Director 250 213 7855

INFORMATION NOTE

Advice to Deputy Minister

DATE: February 19, 2021

CLIFF#: 114705

ISSUE: Proposed items for inclusion in the *Better Regulations for British Columbians 2020/21 Annual Report*

BACKGROUND:

- The Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation (JERI) is seeking ministry success stories to include in the *Better Regulations for British Columbians 2020/21 Annual Report* (the Annual Report) which will be published in June.
- Success stories can include improvements to programs or processes, new or revised legislation or regulation, or innovative approaches that improve access to services.
- There is particular interest in celebrating government's response to COVID-19.

DISCUSSION:

- Strategic Policy and Legislation Branch canvassed divisions for items to propose for the Annual Report. The resulting items are described in the attached Item Submission Form (the Form).
- Following receipt of the Form, JERI's Better Regulations team will work with ministry contacts to develop accurate and detailed descriptions of each initiative, and GCPE will coordinate the required approvals from program areas and executive office contacts for the Annual Report's release in June.

NEXT STEPS:

- Please review the items proposed by CITZ divisions for inclusion in the *Better Regulations for British Columbians 2020/21 Annual Report* and submit the Form to BetterRegulations@gov.bc.ca by February 26, 2021.

Attachments: 1. Call for Items: 2020/2021 Better Regulations for British Columbians Annual Report
 2. Better Regulations for British Columbians Annual Report 2021: Item Submission Form CITZ

Contact: Matt Reed, Executive Director, Phone 778 698-5855

From: [Molyneux, Jennifer CITZ:EX](#)
To: [Ward, Iris K CITZ:EX](#)
Subject: FW: Call for Items: 2020/2021 Better Regulations for British Columbians Annual Report
Date: February 8, 2021 1:19:22 PM
Attachments: [Better Regulations for British Columbians Annual Report 2021 Item Submission Template CITZ.docx](#)

Hi Iris,

Do you know if Rebecca got to this one last week? Could you check the tracking log? If not, please create an eApp and send to GCIO Office for CIRMO. Due date to DM for approval is Feb 23rd.

Thanks.

From: Cook, Jeannette CITZ:EX <Jeannette.Cook@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: February 3, 2021 3:48 PM
To: Thacker, Rebecca CITZ:EX <Rebecca.Thacker@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Molyneux, Jennifer CITZ:EX <Jennifer.Molyneux@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: Call for Items: 2020/2021 Better Regulations for British Columbians Annual Report

Rebecca – can you please send an eApprovals to CIRMO for action. Template due for DM approval Feb 23.

Many thanks.

JC

From: Cameron, Tara D JEDC:EX <Tara.Cameron@gov.bc.ca> **On Behalf Of** JERI DM JERI:EX
Sent: February 2, 2021 10:23 AM
To: Brouwer, Shauna CITZ:EX <Shauna.Brouwer@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Little, Christine JEDC:EX <Christine.Little@gov.bc.ca>; Cocco, Angelo JEDC:EX <Angelo.Cocco@gov.bc.ca>; Cunningham, Sonja JEDC:EX <Sonja.Cunningham@gov.bc.ca>; Better Regulations JEDC:EX <BetterRegulations@gov.bc.ca>; Cook, Jeannette CITZ:EX <Jeannette.Cook@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Call for Items: 2020/2021 Better Regulations for British Columbians Annual Report

Dear Shauna,

Each year, the *Regulatory Reporting Act* requires government to publish a report outlining regulatory and service improvements made during the most recent fiscal period, as well as including an update on B.C.'s regulatory count. This is our opportunity to showcase stories from across government that have made life in B.C. better, safer and/or more affordable.

I am writing to request your assistance in identifying your ministry's success stories from the reporting period **April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021** to profile in this year's Annual Report. Initiatives can include improvements to programs or processes, new or revised legislation and regulation, or innovative approaches that improve access to services. Feel free to review last year's [Better Regulations for British Columbians Annual Report](#) for further inspiration.

It has been a truly extraordinary year. The COVID-19 pandemic has created unprecedented challenges for everyone, and I see this year's Annual Report as a way to celebrate and profile government's impressive work, coordinated efforts, and rapid response in delivering the innovative policies and programs that British Columbians depend on. Through your stories, I'm looking forward to promoting your ministry's achievements in supporting the wellbeing of the people, businesses and communities in B.C.

Please find attached an item submission template that includes some starter ideas identified by our ministry's Better Regulations team. To submit one or more initiatives for inclusion in this year's Annual Report, **please complete and return the submission template to BetterRegulations@gov.bc.ca by Friday, February 26, 2021.**

Once received, the Better Regulations team will work with ministry contacts to develop accurate and detailed descriptions of each initiative. Government Communications and Public Engagement (GCPE) will coordinate the required approvals from program areas as well as executive office contacts for the Annual Report's release in June 2021.

If you have any questions or concerns about this year's Annual Report, please contact Christine Little, Assistant Deputy Minister or Angelo Cocco, Executive Director (cc'd).

I want to thank you for your ongoing support of the Annual Report and the collective opportunity to profile government's efforts to improve services and build a better B.C. for everyone.

Sincerely,

Bobbi

Bobbi Plecas

Deputy Minister

Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation

Better Regulations for British Columbians Annual Report 2021

Item Submission Form

Thank you for your interest in submitting one or more initiatives for potential inclusion in this year's Better Regulations for British Columbians Annual Report. Please follow these steps to submit items for consideration:

- 1) Review the optional starter list below and remove or modify items as needed.
- 2) Add as many additional initiatives to the rows below that you would like to feature in the Annual Report. Initiatives can include improvements to programs or processes, new or revised legislation and regulation, or innovative approaches that improve access to services.
- 3) Ensure the projects were completed (or will be completed) within the fiscal year 2020/21 (**April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021**).
- 4) Submit this completed form to BetterRegulations@gov.bc.ca by **Friday, February 26, 2021**.

Once all submissions have been received, the Better Regulations team will work with ministries to finalize and approve the featured stories for publication by June 30, 2021.

Initiative	Description	Who does it help? How? How does it make life better, safer or more affordable for people or businesses? Does it make a process easier, faster, or better in some way?	Outcomes What outcomes have been observed to date (quantitative or qualitative)?	Contact Program area contact(s) for project background
Send Video	<p>Send Video, a remote identity-verification option for British Columbians, is the Province's newest way to verify a person's identity in order to activate a mobile BC Services Card.</p> <p>British Columbia is the first jurisdiction in North America to use an identity-verification solution using video. These services are another step forward in government's work to help British Columbians conveniently, safely, and quickly access services online. They also support B.C.'s new digital framework, which aims to improve the experiences and interactions people have with government.</p>	<p>People can use Send Video within the BC Services Card app from their iPhone, iPad, Android phone or tablet to send Service BC a photo and a short video of themselves at any time, day or night. A Service BC representative reviews and verifies the person's identity and activates their mobile BC Services Card for online use within just a few hours. This service eliminates the need to visit a Service BC Centre for in-person identity verification.</p>	<p>The Verify by Video channel has increased over 200% (from 100,000 to over 330,000 activations) since April 2020 and approximately 60% (190,000) of those activations have been completed using Send Video.</p> <p>People of British Columbia can access this list of services using their mobile and their BC Services Card: Available Online Services - Province of British Columbia (gov.bc.ca)</p>	<p>Claire Ashton, A/Executive Director, Provincial Identity and Information Management (IDIM) Program, 250 818-8825</p>

Initiative	Description	Who does it help? How? How does it make life better, safer or more affordable for people or businesses? Does it make a process easier, faster, or better in some way?	Outcomes What outcomes have been observed to date (quantitative or qualitative)?	Contact Program area contact(s) for project background
Multi-jurisdictional Registry Access Service: Supporting the growth of western Canadian business	<p>The Multi-jurisdictional Registry Access Service (MRAS), a new online service, simplifies the registration process across provincial lines, making it easier for owners to register their business(es) in multiple provinces. Until now, British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba had separate processes and systems for corporations and limited partnerships to complete their extra provincial business registrations and maintenance filings. Now, the four provinces were the first to implement the online MRAS, a hub that allows corporate information sharing between the provinces, making extra provincial registration faster and easier.</p>	<p>Makes it easier for businesses to register in multiple provinces and efficiently complete necessary paperwork through one central hub.</p>	<p>We have seen a 25% increase in the number of extra-provincial registrations from 248 registrations in the quarter (July '20- Sept '20) preceding the implementation of the MRAS initiative to 311 registrations in the quarter following the implementation of MRAS.</p> <p>We have also seen an increase in efficiency within our team associated with the ease of processing registrations as a result of the implementation of the MRAS new system.</p>	<p>Carol Prest, Registrar and Executive Director, BC Registries and Online Services, s.17</p>
<p>Ministerial order enables broader use of tech in COVID-19 response</p> <p>Temporary order extended to enable useful technologies during COVID-19</p>	<p>A temporary ministerial order under the <i>Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act</i> (FOIPPA), was issued March 26, 2020 to enable health-care workers who are responding to the COVID-19 state of emergency and other public sector staff to use communication and collaboration tools not normally permitted under the legislation. The ministerial order was extended twice during the 2020/21 fiscal year. The current order expires May 31, 2021. This order supports ensuring access to vital software and technology that can help in the fight against COVID-19.</p>	<p>Patient-care teams can use technology that makes it easier to communicate and coordinate care during this time of physical distancing.</p> <p>Post-secondary institutions can provide online and digital learning and exam options as an alternative to in-person classes.</p> <p>Other public servants are able to work from home with tools that allow them to follow the direction of the Provincial Health Officer.</p>	<p>The public sector has been able to continue its work for British Columbians while respecting the direction of the Provincial Health Officer to limit contact with others.</p> <p>The Information and Privacy Commissioner for BC has highlighted this as a responsible and measured means to ensure that privacy legislation remains responsive in unforeseeable circumstances.</p>	<p>Matt Reed, Executive Director and Chief Policy Officer, Strategic Policy and Legislation Branch, 778 698-5855</p>
<p>Gov.bc.ca/covid19</p>	<p>A centralized approach to provide information for residents of British Columbia about COVID-19, including topic areas like: COVID-19 immunization plan; provincial restrictions; K to 12 education; recovery benefit; travel restrictions; violation tickets; mental health; quarantine requirements; economic recovery; Provincial Health Officer orders and links to health information at the BC Centre for Disease Control.</p>	<p>Keep all British Columbians informed about programs and services they may be eligible for personally, to keep themselves healthy and financially sound, or for their business to keep them healthy, safe and viable.</p>	<p>The COVID-19 page (https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support) has had 4.5 million page views since launch.</p> <p>17,295 telephone townhall participants.</p> <p>Hundreds of thousands of citizens watched or participated in the COVID-19 virtual townhalls through Facebook or YouTube.</p>	<p>Tanya Twynstra, Executive Director, Public Engagement and Design, 778 698-2021</p>

Initiative	Description	Who does it help? How? How does it make life better, safer or more affordable for people or businesses? Does it make a process easier, faster, or better in some way?	Outcomes What outcomes have been observed to date (quantitative or qualitative)?	Contact Program area contact(s) for project background
<p>CleanBC Government Buildings Programs Environmental Stewardship Policy</p>	<p>CleanBC is the Province’s plan to put B.C. on a cleaner, more sustainable path. RPD is doing our part to contribute to this important work with the CleanBC Government Buildings Program. The purpose of this Program is to make government buildings greener and more energy efficient, by reducing greenhouse gas emissions through a combination of retrofits, innovative design and renewable energy systems. The Program is working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at courthouses, correctional centres, warehouses and ministry offices by 50% by 2030, and 80% by 2050, over 2010 levels.</p> <p>Beyond energy retrofits, other examples of pathways that the Real Property Division is taking to ensure government operations contribute to a cleaner environment include implementation of Electric Vehicle Charging Stations and continued roll-out of Leading Workplace Strategies.</p>	<p>CleanBC Government Buildings Program activities during FY2020/21 included capital investments in energy efficient building technology and other performance optimization strategies that were largely implemented by local tradespeople across the province. Triple bottom line building enhancements reduce greenhouse gas emissions that will avoid future liabilities associated with climate change, and also ensure buildings are safer and more productive for the people who use them - including sites that directly serve the public.</p>	<p>2020/21 results for the CleanBC Government Buildings Program will be available August 2021. Previous year results include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16 retrofits, including lighting upgrades, building control upgrades & envelope upgrades. New construction meets LEED Gold certification. • Proof-of-concept for Wi-Fi enabled HVAC controls. Increased remote mobility through VPN and unified communications. • Implementation of 10 Leading Workplace Strategy projects for six different ministries, enabling a better public service. • Studied clean energy opportunities in remote areas, electrification, and renewables. • Completed pilot climate risk assessments of three buildings. • Planned installation of 41 EV charging stations in 2020/21, 17 for government fleet vehicles and 24 for employee and visitor use - adding to the 96 chargers already installed over the past two years. <p>By 2030, the Province is committed to reducing greenhouse gases emissions from government building operations by 50%. Progress is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2017: 27% • 2018: 31% • 2019: 32% • 2020: [Available end of March] 	<p>Stef Jones, Sr. Manager, Sustainability and Energy, 604 398-4762</p>

Initiative	Description	Who does it help? How? How does it make life better, safer or more affordable for people or businesses? Does it make a process easier, faster, or better in some way?	Outcomes What outcomes have been observed to date (quantitative or qualitative)?	Contact Program area contact(s) for project background
<p><u>ShareSpace</u> (enabling the public service to work more effectively when delivering government programs)</p>	<p>ShareSpace is a new fully mobile, co-working model that provides government employees with alternative workplace options.</p> <p>The space is designed to promote collaboration, community and innovation and gives government employees in nearby communities the choice to work closer to home. This contributes to a positive work-life balance and reduces environmental impacts by reducing commute time.</p> <p>ShareSpace is designed to be environmentally and socially responsible, leveraging <u>Leading Workplace Strategies</u> to create energy efficient, accessible, inclusive and productive work environments.</p>	<p>Government employees are the primary beneficiary of ShareSpace. Enhancing government workspace enables better government services. Ensuring ShareSpace is accessible and inclusive for all employees and visitors is a key part of the ShareSpace design. Some examples of accessibility and inclusiveness include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • room signage throughout that includes braille and contrasting raised lettering/numbering; • a platform chair lift to the outdoor patio; • universal washrooms and shower facilities; • kitchen and break areas are designed to support people of all abilities; • all collaboration areas can accommodate wheelchairs or scooters; • a variety of chairs to support people with different needs; • manual and electric sit/stand desks that easily adjust to meet a person's needs; and • adjustable computer screens that can be tilted, rotated, and moved up/down and forward/backward to reduce eye strain and encourage healthy postures. 	<p>A test location has been implemented at Westhills ShareSpace in the Westshore community of Langford.</p>	<p><u>Lorne DeLarge</u>, Executive Director, Accommodations Management Branch, 250 952-8778</p>

Please complete and return this template to BetterRegulations@gov.bc.ca by **Friday, February 26, 2021**

DECISION NOTE

Advice to Minister Beare

Date: February 12, 2021

CLIFF#: 114713

ISSUE: Amendments to Schedule 3 of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* for Amalgamated Health Regulatory Colleges

BACKGROUND:

- Schedule 3 of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FOIPPA) lists the governing bodies of professions or occupations to which the Act applies. Section 76.1 (2) authorizes the Minister responsible for FOIPPA to amend Schedule 3 of the Act.
- The College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia and the College of Podiatric Surgeons of British Columbia are listed separately in Schedule 3. On June 8, 2020, the *Health Professions Designation Regulation* was amended to amalgamate these bodies effective August 31, 2020 as the College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia.
- The British Columbia College of Nursing Professionals and the College of Midwives of British Columbia are also listed separately in Schedule 3. On June 8, 2020, the *Health Professions Designation Regulation* was amended to amalgamate these bodies effective September 1, 2020 as the British Columbia College of Nurses and Midwives.

DISCUSSION:

- With the establishment of the amalgamated College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia and the British Columbia College of Nurses and Midwives under the *Health Professions Act*, amendments are required to Schedule 3 of FOIPPA for clarity that the Act continues to apply to the amalgamated bodies. The Ministry of Health has requested that these amendments be made.
- The Office of Legislative Counsel has drafted the attached tagged Ministerial Regulation to amend Schedule 3 for the signature of the Minister of Citizens' Services:
 1. Removing the College of Podiatric Surgeons of British Columbia, the British Columbia College of Nursing Professionals, and the College of Midwives of British Columbia; and
 2. Adding the British Columbia College of Nurses and Midwives.
- There will be no change to FOIPPA obligations for the amalgamated bodies—FOIPPA will continue to apply as it did when they were separate.
- The approval of the Lieutenant Governor in Council is not required. Once signed by the Minister and deposited by the Order in Council Office, the Ministerial Regulation will take effect.

OPTIONS:

Option 1: Sign the attached Ministerial Regulation to amend Schedule 3 of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* to reflect amalgamations of healthcare colleges made under the *Health Professions Designation Regulation*. [Recommended]

Implications:

- Ensures that the newly amalgamated bodies are captured by the legislation, and the former separate bodies are removed.
- Provides certainty with respect to which bodies are and are not covered under FOIPPA, which promotes transparency and openness.
- FOIPPA will apply the same way as it did prior to the amalgamations.
- Expected to be positively received by the Ministry of Health, the affected bodies and other stakeholders, including the Information and Privacy Commissioner.

Option 2: Do not sign the attached Ministerial Regulation to amend Schedule 3 of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

Implications:

- Schedule 3 will continue to be inaccurate with resulting confusion and lack of transparency.
- Will not meet the Ministry of Health request and stakeholders' expectations.

RECOMMENDATION: Option 1

(please circle)

APPROVED

NOT APPROVED

OPTION 1



Lisa Beare
Minister

February 26, 2021

Date

Attachment: Tagged Ministerial Regulation to amend Schedule 3 of FOIPPA
Contact: Matt Reed, Executive Director, 778 698-5855

PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
REGULATION OF THE MINISTER OF CITIZENS' SERVICES

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

Ministerial Order No. M089

I, Lisa Beare, Minister of Citizens' Services, order that Schedule 3 of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 165, is amended

(a) by adding the following:

British Columbia College of Nurses and Midwives , *and*

(b) by striking out the following:

British Columbia College of Nursing Professionals

College of Midwives of British Columbia

College of Podiatric Surgeons of British Columbia .

DEPOSITED

March 3, 2021

B.C. REG. 55/2021

February 26, 2021

Date



Minister of Citizens' Services

(This part is for administrative purposes only and is not part of the Order.)

Authority under which Order is made:

Act and section: *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 165, s. 76.1 (2)

Other:

R10491003