BRITISH COLUMBIA | Ministry of Citizens' Services

MEETING NOTE
Advice to Minister Beare

MEETING DATE: October 19, 2021 **CLIFF#:** 115591

ATTENDEES: Honourable Minister Lisa Beare
Shauna Brouwer, Deputy Minister
CJ Ritchie, Associate DM and Government Chief Information Officer
Hayden Lansdell, ADM, OCIO – Digital Platforms and Data Division
Alex MacLennan, ADM, OCIO – Enterprise Services Division
Laura Hartwell, Vice President, Enterprise & Public Sector, Western Canada
Eric Johnson, Partner - Client Partner, Western Canada, Public
Heather Telford, Client Executive, BC Public Sector

ISSUE: Meeting with representatives from IBM to discuss digital transformation

BACKGROUND:

International Business Machines Corporation (IBM)
IBM is a global leader in innovation and in solutions like AI, blockchain and cloud services. They have a strong partnership with the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) that began in 2004 with the implementation of a long-term service contract. Examples of services include:
- Crisis support during wildfire seasons, floods and during the recent pandemic.
- Workstation Support Services for the BC Public Service.
- Call centre support for the provincial Covid-19 vaccine roll-out.
- Private Cloud technology, consultation, and technical support through IBM's subsidiary RedHat and their OpenShift Containerized Platform technology.

IBM has helped governments in Canada and around the globe develop open-source, future-proof solutions that contribute to their digital transformation journeys. IBM Garage is an end-to-end model designed to accelerate digital transformation. It helps generate innovative ideas and equips an organization with the practices, technologies, and expertise to rapidly turn ideas into reality.

BC's Digital Transformation
BC Government is transforming service delivery to respond to digital era expectations. A digital government uses modern technology as well as the culture and practices of the internet age to deliver services that are deserving of citizens' trust.
- BC's Digital Framework was first shared in 2019. Along with Digital Principles, this piece of work outlines the Province's plan for becoming a digital government.

DISCUSSION:
Topics that may be of mutual interest include:

Digital Transformation accomplishments to date:
- BC's Digital Framework outlined important priorities for becoming a digital government like digital policies and standards, modern tools and infrastructure.

- Our Digital Principles provide direction on the types of digital products we want – products that are designed with people, products that express cultural and historical awareness.
- BC has also built a Common Components program to promote the building of digital services quickly. This will also assist in reducing the duplication and re-creation of common business functions such as payments.
- The BC Vaccine Card was developed and rolled out to 3 million British Columbians within a very short time frame. This is an example of what can be accomplished with common components.

Digital Transformation next steps:
- The OCIO is working on an updated, cross-government Digital Plan to guide our work to modernize government programs and services.
- The pandemic is driving the BC Public Service to reimagine how we work in a digital workspace and hybrid work model.
- With digital tools and artificial intelligence, the Freedom of Information (FOI) request process is being streamlined and modernized.
- We are also working to address mandate commitments on data related to anti-racism, evidence-based decision making and open data.

IBM and Public Sector Digital Transformation:
IBM has expressed interest in sharing their experience with digital transformation strategy in the public sector. IBM Garage is an end-to-end model designed to accelerate digital transformation. It helps generate innovative ideas and equips an organization with the practices, technologies, and expertise to rapidly turn ideas into reality.

SUMMARY:
- The Province values its partnerships with IBM and the current services and products that the company provides to government and the broader public sector.
- IBM has contributed to the digital transformation journeys of governments in Canada and around the globe.
- The Province continues to make progress towards digital transformation and there is a lot more work to come.
- There may be opportunities for collaboration in the area of digital transformation.

KEY MESSAGES:
- The Province appreciates the long-standing partnership with IBM Canada, and the critical services that they continue to provide.
- The Government of BC is moving quickly in our digital transformation and a great deal of work is under way.
- We look forward to continuing our relationship with IBM.
- We see some opportunities for IBM to support us with skill development in the BC Public Service, particularly with IBM Private Cloud Technology.

Attachments: ATT-1: Biographies
Contact: Catherine Chernoff, 778 677-1397

Attachment 1 – Biography: Susan Hartwell

Biography: Eric Johnson

BRITISH COLUMBIA | Ministry of Citizens' Services

INFORMATION NOTE
Advice to Minister Beare

Date: October 14, 2021   **CLIFF#:** 115954

ISSUE: The Personal Information Disclosure for Storage Outside of Canada Regulation

BACKGROUND:

With respect to disclosing personal information outside of Canada, B.C. currently has the strictest laws in the country. The *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act's* (the Act's) data-residency provisions restrict the B.C. public sector's ability to use many modern communications and collaboration tools, software and other technology. The Act mandates "blanket" data-residency protection for all personal information; however, that level of protection is not commensurate with the risk.

In October 2019, targeted amendments to the Act were passed to enable features associated with Canadian-based cloud technology. These amendments permit disclosure of personal information for temporary processing and disclosure and storage of metadata outside of Canada, but place conditions on the disclosures to ensure privacy is protected. However, feedback from public bodies covered by the Act indicated that the amendments were insufficient for enabling digital modernization.

s.12; s.13

s.12; s.13

Proposed amendments, expected to be enacted in Fall 2021, will repeal and replace the Act's data-residency provisions and introduce a new regulation-making authority, enabling the Minister to prescribe requirements related to disclosing personal information outside of Canada.

DISCUSSION:

s.13

s.13

CONCLUSION:

s.13

Contact: Kerry Pridmore, ADM
Appendix: s.14

Page 07 of 83 to/à Page 08 of 83

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.14

British Columbia | Ministry of Citizens' Services

MEETING NOTE
Advice to Minister Beare

MEETING DATE: November 10, 2021   **CLIFF#: 115588**

ATTENDEES: **Chima Nkemdirim,** Vice President of Government Relations, Shaw
Kiersten Enemark, Government Relations Director for BC, Shaw
Honourable Lisa Beare, Minister, Citizens' Services (CITZ)
Shauna Brouwer, Deputy Minister, CITZ
CJ Ritchie, Associate Deputy Minister & GCIO, CITZ
Susan Stanford, Assistant Deputy Minister, Connectivity Division, CITZ
Samantha Scott, Ministerial Advisor, Minister's Office, CITZ

ISSUE: Shaw Communications Inc. broadband expansion update, and access to passive infrastructure

BACKGROUND:
Shaw Communications Inc. would like to provide an update on network expansions and continued challenges with timely access to passive infrastructure.

With the support from the Connecting British Columbia program, Shaw is currently expanding its network infrastructure to increase network resiliency and connect underserved communities, including enhancing access to Indigenous communities. Approved projects include:

- Whistler to Cache Creek fibre transport;
- Prince George to Dawson Creek fibre;
- Highway 5 (Hope-Merritt-Kamloops-Pinantan Lake) fibre transport;
- Chetwynd to Fort St. John fibre transport; and
- Southern Gulf Islands radio transport upgrade.

Shaw has asked for an extension to December 31, 2021, to complete the work and upgrade service for the Southern Gulf Islands (Pender, Mayne and Galiano Islands) radio transport upgrade project due to supply chain challenges related to the pandemic.

s.13; s.16

Shaw believes that utility poles and other support structures should be utilized to encourage connectivity. Shaw's fibre network relies heavily on accessing existing utility poles, and most utility poles in B.C. are jointly owned by BC Hydro and TELUS.

DISCUSSION:
Shaw has stated that timely access to support structures such as utility poles are important for network expansion and provision of internet services to people. Shaw would like BC Hydro to:

- Adhere to specific reasonable timelines to process permit applications on utility poles.
- Share the costs of replacing distribution poles near the end of their useful life or have an existing deficiency.
- Not apply additional charges for wireless equipment attached to strand.

A recent article[1] explains that Shaw has repeatedly asked the provincial government to address issues related to speedier permitting processes and to share the costs of replacing poles.

CRTC/Innovation, Science and Economic Development (ISED) proceedings on passive infrastructure:
In fiscal 2021-2022, the CRTC is expected to issue decision(s) on two consultations:

- Potential barriers to building new broadband facilities or interconnecting to existing broadband facilities in underserved areas; and
- Potential regulatory measures to make access to poles owned by Canadian carriers more efficient.

ISED is currently reviewing the Telecommunications Act to determine what changes need to be made to modernize the legislation to reduce barriers to connectivity expansion. Access to support structures has been one of the biggest issues facing buildouts.

- One possible amendment that might be contemplated is to give the CRTC domain over utility poles and other structures on which companies use to attach their equipment to delivery connectivity to homes and businesses.

SUMMARY:
To further extend networks, industry needs timely access to physical structures, like utility poles, to attach its equipment. The company contends that delayed and costly access to this infrastructure has negative impacts on deploying networks, slowing down expansion, especially in areas that have limited or no access to such networks.

SUGGESTED RESPONSE / KEY MESSAGES:
- Thank you for sharing your update on connectivity expansion projects underway. I look forward to hearing more about the projects as they are nearing completion.
- We know that there are some barriers and challenges to expanding connectivity in British Columbia. That is why we are following the CRTC proceedings on pole infrastructure and barriers to network expansion closely.
- We are currently reviewing the matter of fair access to provincially regulated utility poles and ways to accelerate the delivery of high-speed internet to underserved homes and communities in B.C.
- I consider connectivity to be critical infrastructure and I will continue to be an advocate for connectivity expansion and the removal of barriers to network expansion.

Attachment: ATT 1 – MIN Shaw Meeting Agenda
Contact: Howard Randell, Executive Director, Network BC, 250 415-6867

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[1] Article dated September 3, 2021 titled 'Shaw urging BC government to share cost of replacing poles': Shaw urging BC government to share cost of replacing poles — (downup.io)

![British Columbia | Ministry of Citizens' Services]

Agenda

Shaw Communications Inc. Quarterly Meeting with Minister Beare

Wednesday, November 10, 2021

11:30am to 12:00pm

Virtual, MS Teams

Victoria, B.C.

Attendees: **Honourable Lisa Beare,** Minister, CITZ
Shauna Brouwer, Deputy Minister, CITZ
CJ Ritchie, Associate Deputy Minister and GCIO, CITZ
Susan Stanford, Assistant Deputy Minister, Connectivity Division, CITZ
Sam Scott, Ministerial Advisor, Minister's Office, CITZ

Guests: **Chima Nkemdirim**, Vice President Government Relations, Shaw
Kiersten Enemark, Government Relations Director for BC, Shaw

#	ITEM
1	**Update on Connecting Rural Communities**
2	**Passive Infrastructure** a) BC Hydro Application Process b) Telecommunications Policy

MEETING NOTE
Advice to Minister Beare

MEETING DATE: November 2, 2021   **CLIFF#:** 115762

ISSUE: 2021 NCLGA Resolution R2 - Government Investment in Ownership and Development of Capital Infrastructure for Broadband and Cellular Services

ATTENDEES:
- President, Cori Ramsay (Councillor, City of Prince George)
- First Vice-President, Steve Forseth (Area Director, Cariboo Regional District)
- Second Vice-President, Sheila Boehm (Councillor, City of Williams Lake)
- Executive Director, Terry Robert

MEETING REQUESTED BY: Stakeholder – NCLGA President & Vice-Presidents

MEETING CONTEXT / HISTORY: Minister's Office committed to meeting via email on September 23, 2021. No prior meetings noted.

BACKGROUND:
The North Central Local Government Association (NCLGA) is the voice of local governments in North Central British Columbia, representing over 240 elected officials in 39 local governments.

The 2021 NCLGA Resolution R2, titled 'Ensuring Access to Broadband and Cellular Services in B.C.' highlights the importance of provincial and federal governments investing in the capital infrastructure necessary to deliver cost-effective broadband services in rural and remote communities when the business case does not exist.

NCLGA recommends that the federal and provincial government build, maintain and own the infrastructure for rural and remote areas of B.C. that are not serviced by internet service providers (ISPs). NCLGA proposes the government lease the lines to ISPs to recover some of the costs to build the infrastructure.

Past NCLGA resolutions related to connectivity (that may be raised in the meeting) include:
- **2019 – R7 – Rural Broadband.** The NCLGA supports the Federation of Canadian Municipalities in its advocacy work for a specific timetable regarding the implementation of affordable broadband service in rural Canada, and in particular, the rural parts of north-central British Columbia.
- **2018 – B33 – Cellular Coverage for Rural Communities.** The NCLGA asks the Union of BC Municipalities to lobby the provincial government to ensure the increasingly essential infrastructure of cell phone coverage is made available to Port Clements and other rural areas of Highway 16 as soon as possible and without any further delay.

DISCUSSION:

The Connecting British Columbia program is designed to leverage federal funding which, together, can support up to 90 per cent of the infrastructure costs. This high funding ratio has allowed more communities to get connected to high-speed internet and cellular services. For those homes that are beyond the reach of fibre at the current funding rate, technologies such as Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite internet are becoming a viable alternative.

Our funding program supports competition and allows us to work with ISPs to encourage cooperation on private investments to serve as many British Columbians as possible. We believe this approach is working and that government is not best placed to build or operate infrastructure, which is very capital intensive. To build cellular infrastructure such as 5G, we would need access to spectrum licenses and would face many of the barriers that a small ISP does when entering the market, including high capital investment and having the right technical personnel and expertise.

Ministry staff monitor different models in Canada and globally to advance connectivity infrastructure—including government owned and operated infrastructure models. Alberta, as one example, created a government owned network called SuperNet that began construction in 2001. The network consists of over 13,000 kilometers of fibre optic lines and wireless links, serving 429 communities. However, the government operating model was not sustainable, and the government struck a multi-year deal with Bell Canada to assume operations of SuperNet in 2018.

New models that bring private sector expertise and investment with all three levels of government, while considering newer technologies such as low earth orbit satellite provides some of the best opportunities to reach the hardest to reach homes and communities.

Funding for cellular coverage along highways was first introduced into our program in 2020. Currently, out of 15,000 kms of provincial highway, 4,600 kms (or 31 per cent) is without cellular coverage, and 3,200 kms are also without available power needed by cellular towers.

While there are still gaps in coverage along Highway 16 near Port Clements and east of Prince George, there has been progress since the NCLGA resolution in 2018. A TELUS project has brought cellular service to Port Clements on Haida Gwaii. The service is currently limited, but when additional capacity is available through the Connected Coast project, cellular services from this project will increase.

SUMMARY:

The Province agrees that connectivity in rural areas and Indigenous communities is important. We believe the best way to do this is by supporting expansion through funding connectivity projects that do not have a business case and working more closely with Local Governments and Regional Districts. This is because we want to encourage a healthy marketplace that provides choice for consumers, that the approach is more cost effective, and we do not have the technical expertise to lease and operate infrastructure in government.

SUGGESTED RESPONSE / KEY MESSAGES:

- Government agrees that connectivity is vital to enabling and supporting the delivery of accessible and responsive services that people in B.C. count on.
- Since 2017 the government has invested $190 million into expanding high-speed internet and cellular connectivity. Many of these projects are in progress now and their benefits will be realized by rural and northern communities in the next few months to three years.
- We support funding for highway cellular projects through our Connecting British Columbia program. Since October 2020 approved projects will increase cellular coverage to 429 kms of highway.
- Thank you for your time and feedback as we plan the next iteration of the Connecting British Columbia program.

Attachment: ATT 1 - NCLGA Briefing Note
Contact: Jeanne Hollis, A/ED Connected Communities   Phone 250.516.3848

About the NCLGA

Established in 1955, the North Central Local Government Association (NCLGA) is the advocacy body for over 240 locally elected officials from 39 local governments in north-central BC. As a non-partisan, non-profit association, the NCLGA aspires to provide a voice for communities whose voices are often left unheard due to their size or location. NCLGA is one of five area associations in BC. It works closely with partner associations and our provincial counterpart, the Union of British Columbia Municipalities.

Context

- September 7, 2021 – NCLGA President Cori Ramsay emailed a letter to Minister Beare regarding NCLGA resolution R2, *Ensuring Access to Broadband and Cellular Services in BC*, and requested a meeting to further discuss the resolution.
- September 29, 2021 – Brianna Leppard confirmed a virtual meeting between members of NCLGA's Executive and Minister Beare.

Recommended Discussion Topic

Government Investment in Ownership and Development of Capital Infrastructure for Broadband and Cellular Services

Due to the high cost of installing fibre-optic or co-axial cables to individual homes and businesses in rural and remote communities, Internet Service Providers (ISPs) may decide not to invest in broadband infrastructure given the length of time to receive a return on their investment (ROI). Similar ROI concerns seem to exist for cellular infrastructure. When the business case is not strong enough for the private sector, the provincial and federal governments could build and maintain the necessary infrastructure and then lease the equipment to ISPs to help recover some costs.

Since the topic of ensuring access to broadband services falls within your Ministry's mandate, NCLGA wishes to raise this important issue with you. Your mandate letter notes that you will "*lead work to deliver high-speed connectivity throughout the province until all regions are connected to the high-speed network*". NCLGA member communities look forward to receiving reliable internet service.

NCLGA Delegates

- President Cori Ramsay (Councillor, City of Prince George)
- First Vice-President Steve Forseth (Area Director, Cariboo Regional District)
- Second Vice-President Sheila Boehm (Councillor, City of Williams Lake)
- Executive Director Terry Robert

NCLGA 2021 Resolutions

A summary of all member resolutions for 2021 are available on the NCLGA website.

Recent Resolutions Under Ministerial Responsibility

2021 - R2 – Ensuring Access to Broadband and Cellular Services in BC

Whereas broadband and cellular services are essential components of sustainable, resilient, and vibrant communities;

And whereas there are still considerable impediments to overcome in looking to the private sector providing meaningful, cost effective service to rural and remote communities:

Therefore be it resolved that NCLGA and UBCM lobby the federal and provincial governments to directly invest in the ownership and development of the needed capital infrastructure to facilitate effective, efficient and cost effective broadband services in rural and remote communities where a private sector business case does not exist.

2019 – R7 – Rural Broadband

Whereas nearly 40% of rural residents in North-Central BC do not have access to broadband internet services;

And whereas broadband service would enhance public safety, economic development, access to information, and social inclusion for rural residents and allow them to fully participate in the knowledge-based economy and society at a level enjoyed by other Canadians;

And whereas the Government of Canada has recognized the disparity and established a Ministry of Rural Economic Development that includes rural broadband as a top priority:

Therefore be it resolved that NCLGA support the Federation of Canadian Municipalities in its advocacy work for a specific timetable regarding the implementation of affordable broadband service in rural Canada, and in particular, the rural parts of north-central British Columbia.

2018 – B33 – Cellular Coverage for Rural Communities

Whereas there was a resolution passed at UBCM in 2004 to cover the Highway 16 corridor with cell phone service when 59% of Canadians had cell phones;

And whereas 14 years later, while 86% of Canadians have cell phones, Port Clements and other rural areas along Highway 16 still suffer from the impacts of having no cell phone service, emphasized for Port Clements residents by the stress and demands of the January 2018 earthquake and subsequent tsunami evacuation:

Therefore be it resolved that the Union of BC Municipalities lobby the provincial government to ensure that the increasingly essential infrastructure of cell phone coverage is made available to Port Clements and other rural areas of Highway 16 as soon as possible and without any further delay.

DECISION NOTE
Advice to Deputy Minister

DATE: October 5, 2021   **CLIFF#:** 115870

ISSUE: Connecting British Columbia program – Project Timeline Extension Request

BACKGROUND:

This decision note focuses on a request received from Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT) on September 15, 2021, for guidance on project extensions for certain projects funded by phase 4 Economic Recovery Intake.

Projects funded by the Economic Recovery Intake (ERI) are to be completed by October 31, 2021, however with supply chain issues due to the pandemic and the impact of wildfires, recipients have asked for project extensions that range from one month to more than one year (December 2022).

As of August 31, 2021, the program has committed $85.528M toward 54 projects. There is $4.678M remaining to be allocated to new and waitlisted projects.

DISCUSSION:

Project extension requests have been received from six service providers affecting 19 projects. See ATT 1, 2 and 3 for letters from BC Ferries, CityWest, Lytton Area Wireless Society, Minto, Nisga'a Nation, Shaw, and Rogers.

There is a wide recognition in the telecommunications industry that the pandemic has affected the supply chain for equipment required by service providers to enable completion of their projects. The wildfires have also impacted the completion timelines for some projects.

The request for guidance affects not only projects that are currently inflight, but also new applications that are seeking funding.

- An example of a new project is from the Lytton Area Wireless Society to build a new network for Lytton. In this case, the internet service provider is seeking a project completion date of December 31, 2022.
- Another example s.16
    s.16

OPTIONS
Option 1: NDIT to extend ERI Phase 4 project completion timelines to December 31, 2022.

   Implications:
- NDIT can extend project timelines on a case-by-case basis and respond back to service providers on a timely basis.
- Requires outreach to regional districts and local governments to advise that projects are in progress thereby managing community expectations.

s.13

RECOMMENDATION: Option 1: NDIT to extend ERI Phase 4 project completion timelines to December 31, 2022.

(please circle)

(APPROVED)   **NOT APPROVED**   **OPTION** ___1_____

October 12, 2021

_____   _____
Shauna Brouwer Deputy Minister   **Date**
Ministry of Citizens' Services

Attachment(s):   ATT-1, 2 and 3 NDIT Request for Guidance plus recipient extension requests
Contact: Howard Randell, Executive Director, Network BC, 250 415-6867

301 - 1268 Fifth Avenue
Prince George, BC V2L 3L2
Tel: 250-561-2525
Fax: 250-561-2563

info@northerndevelopment.bc.ca
www.northerndevelopment.bc.ca

NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT

September 15, 2021

Ministry of Citizens' Services
PO Box 9412 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9A0

Attention: **Susan Stanford**
Assistant Deputy Minister

Subject: **Connecting B.C. Program – Project Timeline Extension Request**

Dear Susan,

We are writing to you to request a timeline extension for Connecting B.C. Economic Recovery Intake (Phase 4 ERI) projects due to global supply chain interruptions and land acquisition and permitting delays that project recipients have experienced.

For your reference, we have included letters from the recipients outlining their timeline requests and rationales. The existing agreement between the Ministry and NDIT stipulates most ERI projects must be completed by October 31, 2021. In March, the Ministry provided the Trust (Ref letter 114821), with the ability to extend ERI project completion dates to October 31, 2022, for the Rogers Highway 16 cellular project and all other project applications received after March 15, 2021. We are requesting your permission to extend timelines on a case-by-case basis for the following projects:

Project Number	Proponent/Project	New Completion Date (Extension Amount)	Rationale
7122-85	Shaw/Pender, Mayne and Galiano Islands Microwave Upgrade	December 1, 2021 (1 month)	Supply chain
7569-85	Nisga'a Lisims/Dim Huxagat wil uya'ahl ts'amtx	January 31, 2022 (3 months)	Supply chain
7148-85	Rogers/FWA South	February 28, 2022 (4 months)	Supply chain, land acquisition
7147-85	Rogers/Hwy 14 Sooke to Port Renfrew	June 30, 2022 (8 months)	
7149-85	Rogers/Hwy 95 Harrogate to Nicholson	July 31, 2022 (9 months)	
7152-85	Rogers/Hwy 97 Pine Pass Cellular	July 31, 2022 (9 months)	
7461-85	BC Ferries/Terminal Wi-Fi	July 31, 2022 (9 months)	Supply chain
7115-85	CityWest/Burns Lake	October 31, 2022 (1 year)	Supply chain, permitting process
7201-85	CityWest/Cortes Island		
7304-85	CityWest/Quadra Island		
7313-85	CityWest/Haida Gwaii South		
7315-85	CityWest/Bella Coola		

Building a
Stronger North

301 - 1268 Fifth Avenue
Prince George, BC V2L 3L2
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info@northerndevelopment.bc.ca
www.northerndevelopment.bc.ca

7320-85	CityWest/Haida Gwaii North		
7331-85	CityWest/Zeballos		
7492-85	CityWest/Hornby Island		
7499-85	CityWest/Denman Island		
7528-85	CityWest/Haida Gwaii-Tlell		
7529-85	CityWest/Haida Gwaii-Tow Hill		

Additionally, we received a request for a project timeline extension from the Lytton Area Wireless Society for a wildfire recovery project that was recently submitted to the ERI funding intake for consideration. We have included the letter for your consideration as the proponent has requested a project completion date of December 31, 2022. Given the recent impacts to the Lytton area, we are comfortable and supportive of the timeline they have proposed, though the project remains subject to technical review prior to any approval decision from the Trust.

We request the Ministry provide us with guidance on whether this project should be considered eligible for ERI funding given the proposed construction timeline, as well as the other projects listed above.

Thank you for your consideration and continued partnership to expand broadband access to rural and remote communities through British Columbia.

Sincerely,

Joel McKay
Chief Executive Officer

c: Howard Randell, Executive Director, Network BC

Attachments: Shaw Communications Inc. Request for Extension Letter - September 10, 2021
Nisga'a Lisims Government Economic Recovery Intake Letter
Rogers FWA North/South Letter - September 10, 2021
Rogers Hwy 14 Sooke to Port Renfrew Letter - September 10, 2021
Rogers Hwy 95 Harrogate to Nicholson Letter - September 10, 2021
Rogers Hwy 97 Pine Pass Letter - September 10, 2021
BC Ferries Request for Project Extension Letter -September 10, 2021
CityWest Project Extension Letter - September 10, 2021
Lytton Area Wireless Society Project Extension Letter - September 10, 2021

Building a
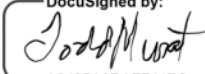**Stronger North**

Shaw)

September 10, 2021

Christine Gagne
Senior Partner Programs Manager
Northern Development Initiative Trust
1268 5 Ave, Prince George, BC V2L 3L2

Dear Ms. Gagne,

RE: Request for Extension
Connecting British Columbia Program, B.C. Economic Recovery
Pender, Mayne, Galiano Islands Microwave Capacity Upgrade

Copyright

Best,

DocuSigned by:

Todd Musat

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Todd Musat
Director, Critical Infrastructure and Standards

cc: Kiersten Enemark, Government Relations Director, B.C.

Nisg̱a'a Lisims Government

Ms. Christine Gagne
Senior Partner Programs Manager
Northern Development Initiative Trust
301-1268 Fifth Avenue, Prince George BC V2L 3L2

Re: Economic Recovery Intake – 7569-85

Dear Ms. Gagne:

Copyright

Yours very truly,
Nisg̱a'a Nation

Collier Azak – Chief Executive Officer

Northern Development Initiative Trust   September 10, 2021
Suite 301-1268 Fifth Avenue
Prince George, BC V2L 3L2
Attn: Christine Gagne

_____ FWA North/South _____

Dear Christine,

Copyright

Sincerely,

Victoria Smith
Senior Director, Service Expansion West
Victoria.smith@rci.rogers.com

1900-4710 Kingsway, Burnaby BC V5H 4W4

ROGERS.

Northern Development Initiative Trust   September 10, 2021
Suite 301-1268 Fifth Avenue
Prince George, BC V2L 3L2
Attn: Christine Gagne

Highway 14 – Sooke to Port Renfrew – #7147-85

Dear Christine,

Copyright

Sincerely,

Victoria Smith
Senior Director, Service Expansion West
Victoria.smith@rci.rogers.com

1900-4710 Kingsway, Burnaby BC V5H 4W4

ROGERS.

Northern Development Initiative Trust   September 10, 2021
Suite 301-1268 Fifth Avenue
Prince George, BC V2L 3L2
Attn: Christine Gagne

Highway 95 – Harrogate to Nicholson – #7149-85

Dear Christine,

Copyright

Sincerely,

Victoria Smith
Senior Director, Service Expansion West
Victoria.smith@rci.rogers.com

1900-4710 Kingsway, Burnaby BC V5H 4W4

ROGERS

Northern Development Initiative Trust   September 10, 2021
Suite 301-1268 Fifth Avenue
Prince George, BC V2L 3L2
Attn: Christine Gagne

Highway 97 – Pine Pass – #7152-85

Dear Christine,

Copyright

Sincerely,

Victoria Smith
Senior Director, Service Expansion West
Victoria.smith@rci.rogers.com

1900-4710 Kingsway, Burnaby BC V5H 4W4

ROGERS.

BCFerries

September 10, 2021

Ms. Christine Gagne
Senior Partner Programs Manager
Northern Development Initiative Trust
301 – 1268 Fifth Avenue
Prince George, BC V2L 3L2

Dear Ms. Gagne,

RE: BC FERRIES TERMINAL CUSTOMER WI-FI PROJECT (#746185) – REQUEST FOR PROJECT EXTENSION

Copyright

Yours sincerely,
BRITISH COLUMBIA FERRY SERVICES INC.

Cheta

Chetan Sondagar
Director, Technology Services

Christine Gagne
Senior Partner Programs Manager
Northern Development Initiative Trust
301-1268 Fifth Ave.
Prince George, BC
V2L 3L2

September 10, 2021

Dear Christine,

1

Copyright

Copyright

Sincerely yours,

SgWoloszyn

Stefan Woloszyn, CEO
CityWest

4

September 10, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

Copyright

Regards,

Robert Richards
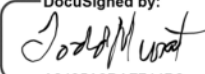Vice President

Shaw)

September 10, 2021

Christine Gagne
Senior Partner Programs Manager
Northern Development Initiature Trust
1268 5 Ave, Prince George, BC V2L 3L2

Dear Ms. Gagne,

RE: **Request for Extension**
Connecting British Columbia Program, B.C. Economic Recovery
Pender, Mayne, Galiano Islands Microwave Capacity Upgrade

Copyright

Best,

DocuSigned by:

A8435A9DAF744D8...

Todd Musat
Director, Critical Infrastructure and Standards

cc: Kiersten Enemark, Government Relations Director, B.C.

MINTO COMMUNICATIONS SOCIETY
104 HAYLMORE AVE • GOLD BRIDGE • BC • V0K1P0
www.mintocomm.ca

September 21, 2021

Christine Gagne
Northern Development
Senior Partner Programs Manager

Re: Extension Request for Connecting British Columbia Program – Economic Recovery Intake
Northern Development Project Number 7265 85

Dear Christine,

Marilyn Hampton

Marilyn Hampton, Treasurer/Secretary

INFORMATION NOTE
Advice to Deputy Minister

DATE: October 1, 2021   **CLIFF#: 115876**

ISSUE: Connecting Rural Communities – Ontario's Reverse Auction Process

BACKGROUND:

Ontario is looking to bring high speed internet to all rural and indigenous communities by the end of 2025. On September 9, 2021, Ontario announced a reverse auction "procurement" process, led by Infrastructure Ontario (IO) to provide grant subsidies to connect remaining rural communities (see ATT-1). IO is a Crown agency in Ontario, reporting to the Minister of Infrastructure. Funding for this program is part of $4B that Ontario has committed to connect all Ontarians by 2025, which includes $1.2B of federal-provincial matching investment.

Infrastructure Ontario is leading a two-part procurement process for the reverse auction:
1. **A Request for Qualification (RFQ)** to identify qualified internet service providers (ISPs); and
2. **A Request for Proposal (RFP)** process for qualified ISPs to bid on infrastructure builds in designated areas of Ontario.

For the RFP reverse auction process:
- Infrastructure Ontario has divided underserved areas into defined "geographical lots;"
- Each lot is prescribed a technology (e.g., "Lot ## requires a fibre solution");
- A reserve price is set for each lot; and
- The winning proponent is the one who bids the lowest on each lot.

B.C. has discussed the reverse auction process with Ontario's Broadband and Digital Strategy division, also, part of the Ontario Ministry of Infrastructure, and is aiming to meet with IO in the near future.

DISCUSSION:

The Connectivity Division is evaluating available options to administer grant programs for remaining rural and indigenous communities. Ontario's reverse auction process provides one possible model that B.C. could use in the development of its own program.

Providing B.C. rural and indigenous communities with high-speed internet will likely require harnessing multiple available internet technologies – e.g., fibre, satellite, fixed wireless. The reverse auction process allowed Ontario to divide the province into geographical lots and to identify the best fit technology and approach for each area.

Utilizing Infrastructure Ontario (a Crown agency) to administer the subsidy process provides the Province with arms' length from adjudication of proposals. The Province of Ontario will retain:
- Funding agency and oversight for connectivity projects;
- Contract oversight (likely to be done as a combined effort with IO); and
- Coordination of parallel funding streams for connectivity.

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SUMMARY:

- B.C. is evaluating available models for effective administration of grant funds to provide high speed internet to remaining underserved areas in the Province.
- Ontario's reverse auction process provides one model being considered for connecting rural and Indigenous populations.
- Connectivity Division continues to evaluate this approach and will keep the Deputy Minister's office updated on program knowledge and next steps.

Attachment: ATT-1: Ontario Takes next Step to Expand High-Speed Internet Access
Contact: Howard Randell, Phone #250 953-3978

INFORMATION NOTE
Advice to Minister Beare

Date: October 19, 2021   **CLIFF#:** 116008

ISSUE: Infrastructure Ontario Procurement Process

BACKGROUND:

Ontario has committed nearly $4 billion to connect every region of the Province (an estimated 700,000 unserved or underserved homes and businesses) to reliable, high-speed internet by the end of 2025. This is the largest single investment in high-speed internet, in any province, by any government in Canadian history.

- In July 2021 Ontario and Canada announced a joint funding arrangement of $1.2 billion to connect 280,000 households through defined major projects that also included Canada Infrastructure Bank funding.
- Ontario has entered into an agreement with Telesat for a number of communities in the province that they have determined to be satellite communities. Additional information about this arrangement is forthcoming by the Ontario Ministry of Infrastructure.
- On September 9, 2021, Ontario launched a "new, innovative and transparent process", led by Infrastructure Ontario, to give service providers the opportunity to bid on connecting communities across Ontario through an open and competitive process.

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BRIEFING NOTE
Meeting Date: October 28, 2021
Location: Virtual (TBC)

Briefing Note

What: Meeting with TELUS regarding spectrum auction

Who: Andy Balser, VP Home Solutions, Community & Channels, Western
Canadian Government Affairs, TELUS (TBC)
Kyle Marsh, Director, B.C. Government Affairs, TELUS (TBC)

Executive Summary:

TELUS is expected to raise concerns about the 3500 MHz auction, specifically, the negative impact of set-asides on rural connectivity and the excessive costs of spectrum, which impact the speed of roll-out of 5G and consumer affordability.

The Province supports a 'use-it or lose-it' position to have spectrum reallocated if not benefitting British Columbians.

Background:

Canada recently completed an auction for 3500 MHz spectrum[1] used for cellular services by companies such as TELUS, Rogers, Shaw, Bell and Videotron. The goals of the 3500 MHz auction are to increase coverage and competition. **ATT-1** is a summary of the 3500 MHz auction results for B.C.

In February 2020, a letter was sent from Premier Horgan to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau regarding key issues related to the 3500 MHz auction and the importance of taking a balanced approach to auction set-aside rules, enabling competition and the expansion of connectivity to rural areas (see **ATT-2**).

Recently, Minister Lisa Beare met with various companies, including Videotron, who were keen to acquire the 3500MHz spectrum for 5G cellular deployments.

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[1] Spectrum are airwaves used to transit wireless signals. Airwaves in the 3500 MHz range are considered premium because they combine capacity (the ability to carry large amounts of data) with coverage (the ability to travel long distances).

1

Connectivity Division – Network BC | Ministry of Citizens' Services

BRIEFING NOTE

Meeting Date: October 28, 2021
Location: Virtual (TBC)

Two other spectrum bands, 3800 MHz and millimetre wave (MM wave) are also key for 5G, with auctions expected in 2023 and 2024, respectively. See **ATT-3** for a Grid Analysis of Spectrum Topics.

In September 2021, TELUS filed an injunction at Federal Court prohibiting the Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) from issuing licenses to Videotron.

Also, in September 2021, the federal Attorney General of Canada filed a letter that ISED will not issue any spectrum licenses related to the 3500 MHz spectrum auction before late October 2021.

TELUS believes that Canada did not follow the 3500 MHz auction rules and wants the Federal Court to revoke any spectrum licenses acquired by Quebecor's Videotron. TELUS believes if it could deploy the spectrum licence awarded to Videotron, 3,600 households could benefit in B.C.

Minister Beare will also be meeting with the new federal minister responsible for managing spectrum auctions as soon as sworn in and will address the spectrum auction results and a 'use it or lose it' policy.

Recommendations:
The Province cannot comment on the results of the auction or ISED's decisions as this is now before the federal court to decide. Regarding future auctions, the Province supports a 'use-it or lose-it' position in British Columbia and to have spectrum licences reallocated if not benefitting residents for all service providers.

Summary of 3500 MHz Auction Results

- 15 Canadian companies were awarded 1,495 licenses, 757 of which went to small and regional players, increasing spectrum holdings of small and regional players by over 50% across Canada.

- Of the 757 licenses for small and regional players, 294 went to Videotron (owned by Quebecor) and 263 went to Xplornet, leaving 200 licenses to 10 companies.

- Rogers (325), Bell (271) and TELUS (142) won the remaining 738 licenses. Rogers spent $3.33B, the most of any company. Bell spent $2.07B, and TELUS spent $1.95B.

- 420 licenses were won in B.C. with Rogers spending more and acquiring more licenses.

Company	Licenses won in BC	Percentage of total 3500MHz licenses won in BC
TELUS	115	27.38%
Rogers	151	35.95%
Bell	58	13.80%
Videotron	69	16.42%
Xplornet	23	5.47%
Thomas Communications	4	0.95%

- CityWest was unsuccessful in their bid for spectrum.

- Videotron paid $829M paying 92 cents on a megahertz-per-population (MHz/pop).

- TELUS paid $1.95B paying an average of $3.36 MHz/pop.

BRITISH
COLUMBIA

February 27, 2020

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Prime Minister: *Justin*

.../2

Sincerely,

John Horgan
Premier

pc: Honourable Navdeep Bains
        Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry

        Honourable Michelle Mungall
        Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Competitiveness

        Honourable Anne Kang
        Minister of Citizens' Services

        Honourable Mike Farnworth
        Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General

        MLA Bob D'Eith
        B.C. Lead on Telecommunications

1) Spectrum Auctions	Decision/Issue	BC Position	Service Provider views
3500mhz auction results and status	- **July 23:** Auction concluded. - **Sep 20:** TELUS filed an application seeking an injunction to prohibit the Minister of ISED from issuing licenses to Videotron. - **Sep 22:** Canada submitted a letter to the court stating that the Minister of ISED will not be issuing any 3500 MHz spectrum licenses before late Oct 2021. - ISED extends deadline for comments to the 3500 MHz technical consultation process from Aug 23 to Oct 15. - This consultation is part of the review looking at the use of 5G services using 3500 MHz spectrum near airports due to its potential to interfere with aircraft's radio altimeters and other navigation equipment. - **Oct 4:** Was the original deadline for successful bidders to make final payment before license is issued. **No 3500 MHz spectrum licenses have been issued to date.**	Attorney General of Canada and Federal Court of Canada to work through the on-going process to resolve issues.	1) TELUS has filed applications asking the courts to block issuance of spectrum licenses to Videotron in British Columbia, Alberta, and Manitoba as TELUS believes they do not meet the required spectrum framework eligibility criteria in those provinces. 2) TELUS in its submission to ISED has expressed its disappointment in technical review of the 3500MHz spectrum near airports as it believes the proposed restrictions will hamper its ability to deliver services to industries located near airports.
Upcoming Auctions: 3800 MHz (early 2023) Milli-meter wave (early 2023)	3800 Mhz and MM wave bands to be auctioned in the support of 5G expansion across Canada.	Spectrum should be allocated to support both urban and rural expansion of 5G.	1) TELUS has indicated its objection to any set-aside rules in auctions and is presently lobbying to have these rules overturned. 2) Industry views both the 3800 MHz and mmWave spectrum as key to their 5G expansion and deployment plans. 3) Smaller and new entrants are lobbying for continuation ISED auction rules to support competition.

MEETING NOTE
Advice to Minister Beare

MEETING DATE: October 28, 2021   **CLIFF#:** 116017

ATTENDEES: Minister Beare
MLA Babchuk
Parliamentary Secretary Rice
Parliamentary Secretary Russell
Stefan Woloszyn, City West
David Leitch, Strathcona Regional District
Shauna Brouwer, Deputy Minister
CJ Ritchie, Associate Deputy Minister
Susan Stanford, Assistant Deputy Minister
Howard Randell, Executive Director

ISSUE: Connected Coast Update

MEETING REQUESTED BY: Minister Lisa Beare's office

MEETING CONTEXT/HISTORY: Update on milestones for project

BACKGROUND:

The Connected Coast Network scope involves the installation of a 3,400 km undersea cable with 159 landing sites in proximity to communities. The project is led by CityWest and Strathcona Regional District (SRD), and Canada is the lead funder. Funding has been secured for the project and it is planned to be completed by March 31, 2023.

Weather and mechanical delays hampered the arrival of the cable vessel in British Columbia until its arrival in Campbell River on October 20, 2021. Construction of landing sites, required in advance of landing the subsea fibre, began in September 2021. A media event is being planned while the vessel is in Campbell River.

DISCUSSION:

Upcoming project progress:
- Construction started on September 1, 2021 on some initial landing sites. Cable landings are now in place at Oona River, Kitkatla, and Bonilla Island and are ready for the marine cable when deployed in later October.
- The cable lay vessel being used on the project, the CanPac Valour, is has arrived in Campbell River where it will be outfitted for the project before heading north for its first cable lay campaign.
- Cable is onsite at Campbell River and ready to load when the ship arrives.
- Additional cable landing construction in Haida Gwaii, Prince Rupert, Metlakatla, and Lax Kw'alaams is scheduled to commence early November.
- The first cable lay campaign is also scheduled to begin mid-November and will focus on connecting completed landing sites.

Media Event
- A media event is being planned in Campbell River for October 29 (date to be determined) with Minister Beare and other invitees.
- Locations are currently being chosen but could include the Maritime Heritage Museum & Discovery Fishing Marina/Wharf in Campbell River.
- Vessel may be staged offshore (due to water depth). Participants could be shuttled via water taxi to and from the vessel.
- A photo opportunity may be available with the ship, participants and the subsea cable.

CityWest and Haida Nation Partnerships
- Leveraging the Connected Coast project, CityWest has recently announced a partnership agreement with Haida Nation to utilize fibre on Haida Gwaii to support connecting communities on the island.

NEXT STEPS:

- CITZ GCPE is leading the event coordination.
- The Connectivity Division and the Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada funding team continue to meet with CityWest and SRD on a weekly basis to address issues and monitor progress.
- The Connectivity Division continues to support CityWest resolve issues as they arise and where additional assistance is required.
  - The Division is currently facilitating discussions to support the landing site on Cortes Island and the Port of Vancouver.
- CityWest is investigating if they require assistance with the Transport Canada permit for the vessel to work in Canadian waters.

SUGGESTED RESPONSE / KEY MESSAGES:

N/A

Contact: Howard Randell, ED Network BC (250 415-6867)

MEETING NOTE
Advice to Minister Beare

MEETING DATE: November 22, 2021   **CLIFF#: 116022**

ATTENDEES: **Margo Wagner**, Board Chair, Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT)
Joel McKay, Chief Executive Officer, NDIT
Shauna Brouwer, Deputy Minister, CITZ
CJ Ritchie, Associate Deputy Minister and GCIO, CITZ
Susan Stanford, Assistant Deputy Minister, Connectivity Division, CITZ
Howard Randell, Executive Director, Network BC, Connectivity Division, CITZ

ISSUE: Northern Development update on the Connecting British Columbia program

MEETING REQUESTED BY: Northern Development via email dated October 22, 2021.

MEETING CONTEXT/HISTORY: Standing quarterly meetings with the Province.

BACKGROUND:

The Connecting British Columbia program Phases 2, 3 and 4 have substantially allocated funding to infrastructure connectivity projects. As of October 31, 2021, there is approximately $1.8M remaining to be allocated.

All successful applicants have received approval letters and NDIT is in the process of negotiating binding agreements between the Trust and the recipients, with several agreements expected to be fully executed over the next few weeks. For approved projects that require more time, NDIT has sent project extensions letters to the applicants.

DISCUSSION:

NDIT has authority to allocate remaining funds to address waitlisted and new applications
Northern Development continues to review and approve unfunded applications. As well, new applications continue to arrive and will be reviewed as they are received.

One notable project recently approved by NDIT's Grant Committee is the rebuild of Lytton's network that burned due to the devastating fire of June 30, 2021. This project will be ready to announce shortly. See ATT-1 for a project overview.

Project completion dates have been extended
Applicants have reached out to NDIT requesting extensions to their approved projects. Reasons for this request range from supply chain issues because of the COVID-19 pandemic to delays in construction because of wildfires, to waiting on federal government funding decisions for applications submitted to the Universal Broadband Fund core funding stream.

Project completion dates for most approved projects funded by NDIT have been extended to October 31, 2022. Applications that will leverage the federal Universal Broadband Fund core funding stream will have up to March 31, 2027, depending on the project complexity.

$10M Top-Up Funding to be transferred by end of December 31, 2021
The Ministry has received Treasury Board approval and authority to convey an additional $10 million top up funding for Economic Recovery projects. This will allow the NDIT to fund viable unfunded applications as well to fund new applications that are continuing to arrive to the program.

Ministry staff is working with the Attorney General, Legal Services Branch and Ministry of Finance, Risk Management Branch to conclude a conditional grant agreement to transfer $10M top-up funding for Phase 4 Economic Recovery Intake Projects. The Ministry is working to transfer the new funds by end of December 31, 2021.

A modest increase to NDIT Fee
NDIT's Board of Directors met on October 27, 2021 and agreed to administer the additional top-up funding. NDIT has also confirmed the additional fee of $500K to administer the existing program to March 31, 2027. The Phase 4 fee of 1% will be modified to 1.4% on the value of $100M allocated to Phase 4.

Project Announcements
As program administrator, NDIT has posted a current list of approved and announced projects to their website. The list is structured to filter by Economic Region and can be viewed at this link: <u>Connecting British Columbia | Funding Programs | Northern Development</u>.

NEXT STEPS:

NDIT continues to review and approve viable applications, providing additional future announcement opportunities.

The Ministry is finalizing its due diligence process to transfer an additional $10M top-up funding. The funds are expected to be transferred by end of December 31, 2021.

A list of immediate announcement opportunities has been identified for Government Communications and Public Engagement (GCPE).

SUGGESTED RESPONSE / KEY MESSAGES:

Thank NDIT for its on-going work in managing multiple intakes concurrently and meeting or exceeding the program targets.

Inquire regarding any feedback NDIT is receiving from internet service providers and regional and local governments.

Mention to NDIT that the Ministry is working to transfer the $10M no later than December 31, 2021.

Attachment(s): ATT-1 Connecting British Columbia program Performance Summary
Contact: Howard Randell, Executive Director, Network BC, 250 415-6867
                Susan Stanford, Assistant Deputy Minister, 778 698-2349

Project Summary: Lytton & Lytton First Nation FTTH Recovery

Summary

The project will re-build the fibre to the home ("FTTH") network in Lytton and two surrounding First Nation communities of Klahkamich 17 and Klickkumcheen 18 that was destroyed in the June 2021 wildfire. The proposed underground build will be less susceptible to fire damage in the future.

At a Glance

Applicant Name	Lytton Area Wireless Society ("Lyttonnet")
Total Project Cost	$1,585,150
Connecting British Columbia Contribution	$1,359,270
Applicant Contribution	$225,880
Other Funding	$0
Communities Benefitting	3
Households Benefitting	151
Estimated Completion Date	December 31, 2022
Proposed Service Start Date:	December 31, 2022

Table 1 - Metrics for the Lyttonnet's Lytton recovery application.

Current State of Connectivity and Anticipated Benefits

Before the network infrastructure was destroyed in June 2021, Lytton and surrounding areas were serviced by a FTTH network operated by Lyttonnet. In addition, TELUS also provided DSL and fixed wireless services. A federal Connect to Innovate project co-funded by the Province in a neighbouring community is dependent on the destroyed network being in-place and operational.

Northern Development Initiative Trust ("NDIT") approved the Lytton & Lytton First Nation FTTH Recovery project. The FTTH infrastructure will provide a minimum of 50/10 Mbps service to approximately 151 households within the town of Lytton and two surrounding First Nations communities of Klahkamich 17 and Klickkumcheen 18. *Appendix 1* displays an overview of the proposed service area.
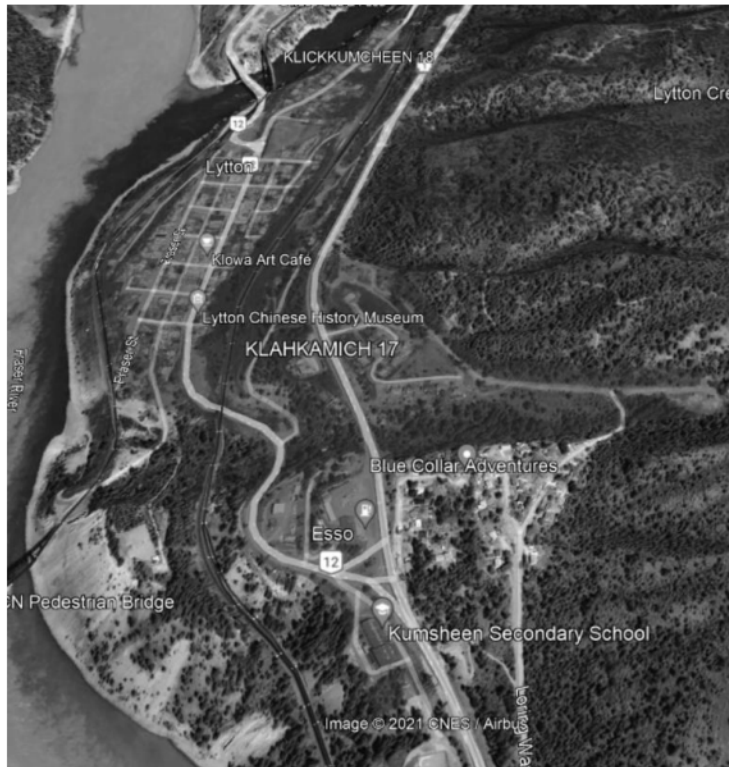
Band Council Resolutions (BCR)

A BCR from the Lytton Indian Band in support of Lyttonnet was provided by the applicant.

Appendices & Mapping

Appendix 1- Proposed last mile service area for Lytton (purple) and surrounding First Nation communities of Klahkamich 17 and Klickkumcheen 18.

Contact Information

Internet Service Provider

Contact Name	Ward Bowman
Organization	Lytton Area Wireless Society
Position	Project Manager
Phone Number	604.808.1650
E-mail	pm@lyttonnet.com

Provincial Contact

Contact Name	Jeanne Holliss
Organization	Ministry of Citizens' Services
Position	A/Executive Director, Connected Communities
Phone Number	250.516.3848
E-mail	jeanne.holliss@gov.bc.ca

Disclaimer: Content is current as of 2021-11-08 and subject to change without notification. Please contact the internet service provider identified in this document to obtain the most current information.

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MEETING NOTE
Advice to Minister Beare

MEETING DATE: October 25, 2021   **CLIFF#: 116025**

ATTENDEES: Minister Lisa Beare
Parliamentary Secretary Russell
CJ Ritchie, Associate Deputy Minister and Government Chief Information Officer
Pierre Karl Péladeau, President and CEO Quebecor Inc. and Videotron
Pierre Bonin, Senior Vice-President, Market expansion and development
Jad Barsoum, Senior Director, Institutional Affairs

ISSUE: Meeting with Videotron President and CEO Pierre Karl Péladeau.

MEETING REQUESTED BY: Jad Barsoum, CEO Quebecor Inc. and Videotron, sent email to K. Lawal on October 5, 2021, requesting to meet regarding Videotron's acquisition.

MEETING CONTEXT/HISTORY: This is a follow-up meeting to the meeting on August 3, 2021.

BACKGROUND:

Quebecor is a diversified Canadian telecommunications and media (news, sports, entertainment, and culture) family business founded in 1950. Former Prime Minister, The Right Honourable Brian Mulroney, P.C., C.C., LL.D, is Chairman.

- Headquartered in Montreal
- Publicly traded on the Toronto Stock Exchange
- 10,400+ employees
- $4.32B revenues in 2020, up slightly (0.6%) from 2019
- $1.31B cash flow from operations in 2020, up 14.7% from 2019
- Nearly 1.5M mobile subscriber connections, an 11.3% increase from 2019

Videotron is a division of Quebecor and provides mobile wireless (cellular) and broadband services, primarily serving Quebec as well as the Francophone communities of New Brunswick and some parts of eastern Ontario. Its's primary competitors in eastern Canada are Bell Canada and TELUS Communications Inc.

Videotron plans to enter the B.C. cellular provider market following the purchase of 16.42% of the 3500 Mhz spectrum auction earlier this year. Videotron is also vying to purchase the Freedom Mobile component of Shaw should the Rogers acquisition go forward next year making Videotron the 4th cellular provider in B.C.

Quebecor, through its Videotron division, believes it is well positioned to become a strong fourth player in the mobile wireless services. The Competition Bureau has noted that Quebecers pay the lowest mobile rates in Canada, 35% to 40% less than the rest of Canada.

DISCUSSION:

Background:

The company is planning to run two advertising campaigns that will focus on cellular affordability. This initial campaign which has already started in both national and BC-based publications will precede a larger campaign expected in spring 2022.

The extent of investment expected by Videotron in B.C., or their bid for Shaw's Freedom Mobile, is currently unknown. Videotron's plans for investment in 5G and rural and indigenous connectivity in B.C. is also unknown.

Videotron has indicated that they plan to invest substantially in B.C., contributing to economic recovery and growth. Cellular competition could also support greater affordability of cellular services to British Columbians.

SUGGESTED RESPONSE / KEY MESSAGES:

- Videotron CEO is visiting multiple cities while in B.C. and is meeting with business and academic leaders.
- The visit to B.C. is meant to be an introduction to the company direct from the leadership. It is an opportunity to hear directly their intent to enter the B.C. market and serve British Columbians.
  - Extent of Videotron's planned investment in telecommunications infrastructure in B.C. including how quickly they will deploy acquired spectrum.
  - Plans, if any, does the company have to support expanding services to underserved rural and First Nations communities.

Attachment:	ATT 1 – Big 3 Mobile Providers
Contact:	Susan Stanford, ADM Connectivity 250-580-7459

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MEETING NOTE
Advice to Minister Beare

MEETING DATE: November 16, 2021   **Ref #:** 116138

ATTENDEES: Rob Gay, Chair
Mayor Owen Torgerson, Valemount
Shawn Tomlin, CAO
Garry Jackman, Director
Karen Cathcart, Director
Shauna Brouwer, DM
CJ Ritchie, Associate DM
Susan Stanford, ADM
Howard Randell, ED
Jeanne Holliss, A/ED

ISSUE: UBCM follow-up meeting with East Kootenay Regional District

MEETING REQUESTED BY: Minister's office

MEETING CONTEXT/HISTORY: Follow-up meeting to UBCM

BACKGROUND:

- The Regional District of East Kootenay (RDEK) requested a UBCM meeting to provide an update on the Southeast B.C. Regional Connectivity Committee (RCC) and application for funding to Connecting British Columbia program and UBF.
- RCC Committee members include the regional districts of East Kootenay, Central Kootenay, Kootenay Boundary and Columbia Shuswap, the Village of Valemount and the Ktunaxa Nation and Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) and Columbia Basin Broadband Corporation (CBBC).
- s.13

- Through the Connecting British Columbia program, the Province has invested over $42 M for broadband infrastructure projects in the Columbia Basin Region since 2015 (ATT-1).
- At the UBCM meeting the RDEK proposed a government-to-government partnership model with Province for the expansion of broadband service to connect the remaining areas that are not included in the CBBC's "Connected the Basin" application.
- The RDEK made a UBCM resolution to petition the Province of British Columbia and BC Hydro as a crown corporation to establish affordable pole rental rates in a fair and equitable manner to accelerate the roll-out of broadband connectivity in rural communities.

DISCUSSION:

Staff Follow-Up Sessions: Post UBCM, Connectivity staff have followed up with members of the RDEK and CBT on multiple occasions:

September 22 – meeting with Regional District of East Kootenay
- s.13

- The Province has shared that they have also recently completed a gap analysis and will work with the region to compare their information. This work to be completed in November 2021.
- The region has expressed a preference to explore opportunities to work with the Province that reduce the burden of the current competitive application process to address the remaining underserved areas.

October 18 – Regional Connectivity Committee Strategic Planning Session
- Reviewed completed projects in the area and provided an opportunity to input into the next 3-year strategic plan. A regional gap analysis was shared along with a desire to include the importance of emerging technologies was discussed i.e., LEO satellites and last-mile solutions.

October 18 – meeting with Johnny Strilaeff, CEO of the Columbia Basin Trust and Regional District Chair Rob Gay to discuss opportunities for collaborative opportunities
- Actions to be taken together to support addressing the remaining underserved in the region including highway segments without cellular coverage.
- While the Regional Connectivity Committee works with multiple providers in the region, the Regional District and the Trust understand the desire that future planning is inclusive of all 28 regional service providers in the Columbia Basin.

October 28 – meeting with the Trust to align gap analysis data

Government-to-Government Partnership Model
- During the 2021 UBCM meeting, the RDEK proposed a new government-to-government partnership rather than a grant-based approach for funding that may reduce the burden of the current competitive application process.
- As Columbia Basin Broadband Corporation (CBBC) is a registered service provider with the CRTC, the Connectivity Division must exercise caution when dealing with telecommunications market competition issues. The (CBBC) has no employees and the rationale for a separate corporation was premised on legal and governance considerations. CBBC is included within the Provincial government reporting entity and defined as a "government corporation" under the Financial Administration Act.

Columbia Basin Broadband Study
- In partnership with NDIT and Columbia Basin organizations and communities, a case study of the economic and social benefits of connectivity was undertaken in September with an expected completion date by the end of December 2021.
- The study will provide an initial baseline economic value calculation of connectivity projects in the Columbia Basin area.
- The region was selected based on the maturity of connectivity planning in the area, and the role of the Columbia Basin Broadband Corporation which has contributed substantially to the advancement of connectivity infrastructure in the region.

NEXT STEPS:

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- The Province will continue to participate in RCC meetings with the RDEK.
- The RDEK has advised they would be willing to act as the designated lead for the region regarding government-to-government partnerships given the service provider status of CBBC and the need to mitigate any perception of anti-competitive actions.
- s.13

SUGGESTED RESPONSE / KEY MESSAGES:

- Acknowledge the work of the Regional District of the East Kootenay's and their leadership role in advancing connectivity priorities and taking collaborative approaches to overcoming barriers to access.
- Acknowledge their participation in participating at the local government calls this past year with Minister Beare as well as their participation in the RCKN.
- Invite Rob Gay as Chair of the RCC and RDEK to function as lead for the future discussions regarding future government-to-government partnership opportunities.
- Taking a regional approach that is inclusive of multiple service providers is appreciated.

Contact: Jeanne Holliss, A/ED (250) 516-3848
              Susan Stanford, ADM (250) 580-7459
ATT – 1:   Connecting British Columbia Program Project List

Columbia Basin Broadband Benefits Study

Connecting British Columbia Program Project List

Not for distribution

Legend	Projects not announced - Projects awaiting UBF funding decisions or other considerations
	Conditionally Approved - Projects that are approved pending decision from other funder (i.e. ISED, CRTC), submission of documents (i.e. Band Council Resolution, letter of support), etc.

Phase	Federal Funding Source	Project #	Applicant	Project Title	Project Type	Project Description	BC Funding Request	Federal Funding	Applicant Amount	Other Funding (Regional district, local government, etc.)	Total Project Budget	Communities and Locales Total Count	Indigenous Communities	Project Locations	Household Count (If LM Project)	Targeted Households (To check against)	Highway km	Rest Areas	Status	ISP Contact Name	ISP Contact Email	Proposed Start Date	Proposed Completion Date
Phase 1		3962	A.B.C. Allen Business Communications Ltd.	Deploy TD-LTE Rural Broadband Networks in BC		Project will deploy LTE technology to provide wireless internet at increased speeds.	$ 2,239,826	$ 2,391,275	$ 1,920,549	$ 212,900	$ 6,764,549			Beaverdell, Rock Creek	12507				Complete	Falko Kadenbach Rey Sonico Chris Allen	falko.kadenbach@abccomm.com rey@abccommunications.com chris.allen@abcomm.com	2015-07-15	
Phase 1		3961	Columbia Basin Broadband Corporation	Columbia Basin-Boundary Rural and Remote Broadband Connectivity		Project will develop a fibre optic network to span over 700 kms.	$ 2,287,305		$ 6,335,556	$ 8,622,861				Ainsworth Hot Springs, Baynes Lake, Beaver Valley, Blewett, Boswell, Boundary (Bridesville to Christina Lake), Bountiful, Brisco, Canal Flats, Canyon, Crawford Bay, Deer Park, Edgewater, Edgewood, Elk Valley, Elko, Fairmont Hot Springs, Ferguson, Field, Fruitvale, Genelle, Glade, Grasmere, Gray Creek, Harrogate, Harrop, Jaffray, Kingsgate, Kitchener, Lister, Moyie Lake, Northern Kootenay Lake communities, Parson, Renata, Riondel, Ross Spur, rural Rossland, Salmo, Sirdar, Slocan Valley, Spillimacheen, South Slocan, Tarrys, Thrums, Wasa, West Creston, Whatshan Lake and surrounding area, Wilmer, Windermere, Wynndel, Yahk and Ymir	12100				Complete	Aimee Ambrosone	cbcc@ourtrust.org weisses@cbt.org		
Phase 1		4738	Columbia Basin Broadband Corporation	Kootenay Lake Fibre		Project will establish a fibre-optic link between Kaslo and Balfour by deploying fibre-optic cable in Kootenay Lake.	$ 365,009		$ 119,850	$ 25,000	$ 810,169			Ainsworth, Argenta, Cooper Creek, Fletcher Creek, Johnstons Landing, Kaslo, Lardeau, Mirror Lake, Pineridge, Schroeder Creek, Shutty Bench, Woodbury Creek Resort, Woodbury Village	797				Complete	Aimee Ambrosone	cbcc@ourtrust.org weisses@cbt.org	2016-08-01	2017-05-01
Phase 1		4929	Red Mountain Internet Society	Upper Slocan Valley Radio Upgrade		Project will upgrade backhaul infrastructure to offer increased internet speeds.	$ 12,046		$ 16,225	$ 28,271				Upper Slocan Valley, Hills	78				Complete			2017-04-01	2017-07-31
Phase 2		6071	Columbia Basin Broadband Corporation	Slocan Valley Fibre - Shoreholme to Playmor Junction	Transport	Project will establish a backbone fibre network capable of supporting internet speeds of 50/10.	$ 3,378,000			$ 7,204,000	20	0		Appledale Brouse Crescent Valley Hills Lebahdo Lemon Creek Nakusp New Denver Passmore Perrys Playmor Junction Rosebery Shoreholme Silverton Slocan Slocan Park South Slocan Summit Lake Vallican Winlaw	0				Underway	Aimee Ambrosone	cbcc@ourtrust.org weisses@cbt.org	2019-10-01	2023-03-31
Phase 2		6072	Columbia Basin Broadband Corporation	Roosville Valley Fibre - Jaffray to Roosville	Transport	Project will establish a backbone fibre network capable of supporting internet speeds of 50/10.	$ 1,403,500			$ 2,946,000	6	1		(clarify name of community/nation for) Tobacco Plains Baynes Lake Grasmere Jaffray Kragmont Roosville	0				Underway	Aimee Ambrosone	cbcc@ourtrust.org weisses@cbt.org	2019-03-14	2023-03-30
Phase 2		6145	Kaslo InfoNet Society (KiN)	North Kootenay Lake Fibre Backhaul and Last-Mile	Transport and Last-Mile	Fibre backbone and last-mile project expected to enable speeds of 50/10 or greater.	$ 120,322			$ 278,645	8	0		Seven for Transport: Argenta, Cooper Creek, Howser, Johnsons Landing, Lardeau, Meadow Creek, Shutty Bench One for Last-Mile: Woodbury Creek.	42				Complete	Tim Ryan Rob McLennan	tim@kaslovia.com robmclennan@kaslo.org thamilton@kin.bc.ca dscarlett@kaslo.org	2019-07-03	2019-10-31

Phase		ID	Company	Project	Technology	Description								Communities	HH		Status	Contact	Email	Date 1	Date 2
Phase 3		6829	Swift Internet	Arrow Creek	Last Mile - Wi-Fi/Wireless	Infrastructure upgrade project to provide internet speeds of 50/10.	$ 18,026	$ -			$ 25,219	$ 43,244	1	0	Arrow Creek (East of Creston)	120		Complete	Kitt Satano / Laura Francis	kitt@swiftinternet.ca / contact@swiftinternet.ca / laura@swiftinternet.ca	2020-05-05	2020-06-30
Phase 3		6838	Burton Internet Society	Wireless System Improvements	Last Mile - Wi-Fi/Wireless	Infrastructure upgrade project to provide internet speeds of 50/10.	$ 33,086	$ -	$ 3,677	$ 28,472	$ 65,235	2	0		Arrow Park (50HH); Burton (50HH)	101		Complete	Gjordi McIntyre / Robin Campbell / Rosalie Cranna	gjordi@burtoninternetsociety.ca / robin@allpointswireless.ca / rjcranna@burtoncity.ca / cranna.rosalie@gmail.com	2020-05-05	2020-06-30
Phase 3		6839	Telus Communications Inc.	Duncan Lake, Malakwa (not Boston Bar)	Last Mile - DSL	Installation of DSL equipment to improve internet speeds to 50/10 in Duncan Lake and Malakwa.	$ 50,000	$ -	$ 63,900	$ -	$ 113,900	1	0		Duncan Lake (92HH)	300		Complete	Barry Farynuk / Ben Bajaj / Derek Gale / David Geske / David Thomson	barry.farynuk@telus.com / ben.bajaj@telus.com / derek.gale@telus.com / david.geske@telus.com / david.thomson@telus.com	2020-05-11	2020-06-26
Phase 3		6840	FlexiNet Broadband Inc.	Kimberley, Six Mile	Last Mile - LTE	Infrastructure upgrade project to improve internet speeds in Kimberley and Six Mile.	$ 41,002	$ -	$ 4,556	$ 29,866	$ 75,424	1	0		Kimberley, Six Mile	54		Complete	David Monson	dmonson@flexinet.ca	2020-05-11	2020-06-26
Phase 3		6841	Columbia Wireless	Access Point, Backhaul Upgrades - West Kootenay Region	Last Mile - Wi-Fi/Wireless	Infrastructure upgrade project to improve internet speeds to the West Kootenay region.	$ 35,498	$ -			$ 78,653	7	0		Appeldale (60HH); Lemon Creek (20HH); Passmore (100HH); Perrys (50HH); Slocan Park (100HH); Vallican (40HH); Ymir (80HH)	507		Complete	Benjamin Leslie	ben@columbiawireless.ca	2020-05-20	2020-06-15
Phase 3		6843	South Kountry Cable Ltd.	Jaffray Capacity Increase	Last Mile - Coax/Wireless	Infrastructure upgrade project to improve internet speeds in Jaffray.	$ 30,288	$ -			$ 44,173	1	0		Jaffray (575HH)	600		Complete	Ric Behan	southkountrywireless@skcmail.ca / ric@skcmail.ca	2020-05-20	2020-06-25
Phase 3		6868	Tough Country Communications	COVID-19 Last Mile Upgrades - East Kootenays	Last Mile - Wi-Fi/Wireless	Infrastructure upgrade project to improve fixed wireless internet service to five communities in the East Kootenays.	$ 24,249	$ -	$ 39,382	$ 26,220	$ 89,851	4	0		Wardner(38HH), Kragmont (31HH), Elko (38HH), Sparwood (84HH)	191		Complete	Paul McLean	pmclean@toughcountry.ca / bthielen@toughcountry.ca	2020-05-20	2020-06-26
Phase 3		6873	Peak Broadband Solutions Inc.	Access Point Upgrade - Field	Last Mile - Wi-Fi/Wireless	Infrastructure upgrade project to improve fixed wireless internet speeds in Field.	$ 12,254	$ -			$ 30,439	1	0		Field	74		Complete	Kevin Christy	peakbroadband@gmail.com	2020-05-20	2020-06-26
Phase 3		6898	Wink Wireless Inc.	LTE 4G Upgrade - Brisco, Spillimacheen	Last Mile - LTE	LTE expansion and upgrade project to improve wireless internet speeds in two communities.	$ 29,775	$ -			$ 69,783	2	0		Brisco (45HH); Spillimacheen (12HH)	52		Complete	Warner Einer	wee@winkwireless.ca	2020-06-01	2020-06-30
Phase 3		6924	Rogers Communications Canada Inc.	Creston	Last Mile - Wi-Fi/Wireless	Fixed wireless upgrade project to improve internet speeds in two communities.	$ 19,075	$ -			$ 26,839	2	0		Lister; Huscroft (10HH)	10		Complete	Glenn Alsaker / Victoria Smith / Amy Edwards / Andrew Beddow	glenn.alsaker@rci.rogers.com / Victoria.Smith@rci.rogers.com / Amy.Edwards@rci.rogers.com / Andrew.Beddow@rci.rogers.com	2020-06-01	2020-06-30
Phase 3		6928	Rogers Communications Canada Inc.	Kimberley	Last Mile - Wi-Fi/Wireless	Fixed wireless upgrade project to improve internet speeds in Meadowbrook.	$ 19,075	$ -			$ 26,839	1	0		Meadowbrook (10HH)	10		Complete	Glenn Alsaker / Victoria Smith / Amy Edwards / Andrew Beddow	glenn.alsaker@rci.rogers.com / Victoria.Smith@rci.rogers.com / Amy.Edwards@rci.rogers.com / Andrew.Beddow@rci.rogers.com	2020-06-01	2020-06-30
Phase 3		6090	Edgewood Community Internet Society	Inside The Edge - Edgewood, Faquier and Area	Last Mile - Wi-Fi/Wireless	Fixed wireless upgrade project to improve internet speeds in seven communities.	$ 51,066	$ -			$ 83,729	7	0		Edgewood/Applegrove (259HH); Faquier/Whatshan Settlement Road (275HH); Jordan Road/Calder Road-Selkirk View (42HH); Naumaulten Mountain/Highway 6 SW (55HH); Needles/Inonoakin Valley Road (120HH); Whatshan First Lake (2BHH); Whatshan Second Lake (92HH); Whatshan Third Lake/Lindsey Lake Road and Pre-emption (61HH)	723		Complete		jean@edgeconnection.ca	2020-06-08	2020-06-30
Phase 3		6723	Swift Internet Inc.	Swift Internet Boosting Connectivity in Wynndel	Last Mile - LTE	Fixed wireless project expected to deliver internet speeds of 50/10.	$ 105,212	$ -	$ 127,933	$ 32,900	$ 266,045	1	0		Wynndel	279		Complete	Kitt Satano / Laura Francis	kitt@swiftinternet.ca / contact@swiftinternet.ca / laura@swiftinternet.ca		
Phase 3		6721	Kaslo InfoNet Society (KiN)	North Kootenay Lake Last Mile Fibre Projects	Last Mile - Fibre	Fibre to the home last-mile project expected to provide speeds of 50/10.	$ 276,834	$ -	$ 354,635	$ -	$ 631,469	4	0		Argenta / Johnsons Landing / Kaslo / Shutty Bench	375		Approved	Tim Ryan / Rob McLennan	tim@kaslovia.com / robmclennan@kaslo.org / thamilton@kin.bc.ca / dscarlett@kaslo.org		

| Phase 3 | | 7015 | South Kountry Cable Ltd. | Caithness - Elko LTE | Last-Mile | Last mile LTE project to provide internet speeds of 50/10 in Elko. | $ 40,850 | $ - | $ 63,797 | $ - | $ 104,647 | 1 | 0 | Elko | 50 | | | Approved | Ric Behan | southkountrywireless@skcmail.ca ric@skcmail.ca | 2020-12-01 | 2021-08-15 |

s.13; s.17