

DECISION NOTE

Cliff #: 149605

Date: June 11, 2020

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Michelle Mungall, Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Competitiveness

ISSUE: Regional Digital Acceleration Roundtables

DATE DECISION REQUIRED BY: N/A

BACKGROUND:

JEDC has the lead role for COVID-19 economic recovery response, economic development, innovation, growing the technology sector and nurturing small business. Connectivity is foundational to these roles and recognized by rural residents and small businesses as the key infrastructure enabling rural BC's economy and society to avoid collapse during the COVID-19 pandemic.

DISCUSSION:

Collaborative approaches to rural connectivity are required to eliminate barriers and create the conditions for digital adoption, adaption and proliferation. Approaching connectivity as a catalyst for recovery and future resiliency, within the context of rural recovery, can provide a public focus and proactively leverage energy to set the conditions for collaborative solutions to emerge.

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Creating a shared understanding of common issues, connectivity interdependencies and collective opportunities, can encourage cross-sector relationships to form around short, medium- and long-term regional solutions, thereby positioning rural communities to better attract and leverage recovery funds and supports.

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OPTIONS:

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RECOMMENDATION:

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ATTACHMENTS: Regional Digital Acceleration Roundtables proposed participants

Approved / Not Approved	Date:
Minister's Signature:	

ADM Contact: Susan Stanford, Phone 778 698-2349

Prepared by: Colleen McCormick, Director, Connected Communities

Reviewed by			
Dir:	ED:	ADM: SS	DM: CK

Attachment 1: Proposed Participants

Participation is based on the ability of individuals to represent broad perspectives, speak to areas of interest and insight, clearly articulate issues and participate in constructive dialogue.

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MEETING NOTE

Cliff #: 150409

Date: August 18, 2020

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Michelle Mungall, Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Competitiveness

DATE AND TIME OF MEETING: Wednesday, September 9, 2020, 2:30-3:00 PM

ATTENDEES: Mr. Jesse Dougherty, Vice President of Amazon Web Services, Western Canada; Amazon Web Services staff TBC

ISSUE: Meeting to discuss how Amazon Web Services can support the growth of BC's innovation ecosystem and align to government's COVID-19 recovery efforts.

BACKGROUND:

Amazon Web Services (AWS) is a subsidiary of Amazon providing on-demand cloud computing platforms. AWS has a growing tech hub in Vancouver at "The Post" which is the old Canada Post building on West Georgia Street in Downtown Vancouver which is being redeveloped.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, AWS reports they've been deploying people and technology to support B.C. and to enable remote learning and working, both in the public sector and with small and medium-sized business.

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DISCUSSION:

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AWS has been actively engaging in discussions related to economic recovery, including attending government led events and engaging directly with their existing network.

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Amazon is also seeking Provincial participation at an upcoming virtual announcement event scheduled for September 28. The event, which is in collaboration with the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade, will announce an expansion in Vancouver. The number of jobs is commercially confidential (3,000). The jobs are all high skilled IT positions and will be permanently located in Vancouver. s.21

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The event will also include local small businesses, B.C. universities, non-profits and senior Canadian leaders from Amazon who will communicate the various community initiatives they are supporting as well as how they are supporting the growth of small business.

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Staff have also discussed s.21

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SUGGESTED RESPONSE/KEY MESSAGING:

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ATTACHMENTS:

ADM Contact: Susan Stanford, Technology, Connectivity & Distributed Growth,

Prepared by: Meghan Hilton, Research Analyst, Technology and Innovation

Reviewed by			
Dir: MD	ED: NN	ADM: SS	DM: CK

Attachment A – Attendee Biography

Mr. Jesse Dougherty, VP of Amazon Web Services (AWS), Western Canada

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