

Rioux, Luke MUNI:EX

From: Young, Kerry JERI:EX
Sent: April 26, 2021 11:25 AM
To: Meyer, Melissa JERI:EX; Taylor, Andrew JERI:EX
Subject: FYI, Article: BCE lost bid for Shaw because of concerns over regulatory risk

BCE lost bid for Shaw because of concerns over regulatory risk

Globe and Mail

Monday, April 26, 2021

Page B01

By Alexandra Posadzki & Tim Kiladze

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Kerry Young (she/her)

Director

Economic & Regulatory Analysis Branch

Small Business, Economic Development & Innovation Division

Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery & Innovation

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Respectfully acknowledging that I live and work in the traditional territories of the Lekwungen peoples.

MEETING NOTE

Cliff #: 153598

Date: April 26, 2021

PREPARED FOR: Brenda Bailey, Parliamentary Secretary for Technology and Innovation

MEETING WITH: Rogers Communications

DATE AND TIME OF MEETING: May 3, 2021; 10:00am - 10:30am via MS Teams

ATTENDEES:

- Neel Dayal, Director of Innovation and Partnerships, Rogers
- Cindy Grauer, Independent Consultant
- Ange Valentini, Independent Consultant

ISSUE(S): Introductory meeting with Rogers Communications and an update on Rogers' investments in 5G and innovation.

KEY POINTS:

- Founded in 1960, Rogers Communications is a leading Canadian communications and mass media company. It is Canada's largest provider of wireless communications services and one of the leading providers of cable television, high-speed Internet, information technology, and telephony services to consumers and businesses.
- Rogers has Canada's largest 5G network.

BACKGROUND:

Rogers has a highly skilled and diversified workforce of approximately 23,500 employees in 2020. The company's head office is in Toronto, with numerous offices across Canada. Rogers' shares are publicly traded on the Toronto Stock Exchange and on the New York Stock Exchange.

Rogers Communications reports that it directly contributed \$14.1 billion in economic value to the Canadian economy in 2019, through investments in Canadian jobs, content, communities and networks. According to a PwC Canada study, Rogers' economic output footprint in British Columbia (B.C.) was roughly \$1.7 billion in 2019, including over 5,500 full-time jobs generated and supported.

Rogers Communications has several areas of contact with the B.C. Government, managed through the Ministry of Citizens' Services:

- Rogers enables connectivity in B.C.:
 - Rogers is one of three service providers that have a substantive cellular footprint in the province, the others being TELUS and Shaw.
 - s.13 expand cellular services to smaller communities and along primary and secondary highways. This is particularly important for emergency alerting capabilities.
- Rogers as a vendor:
 - The Province has a Corporate Supply Arrangement (CSA) with Rogers, available to government ministries and the broader public sector, for cellular equipment and service rate plans.
 - The CSA contract was initially signed on June 1, 2012, and will end on May 31, 2021.
 - s.13; s.16; s.17
 - The Information Communications Technologies Branch within the Office of the Chief Information Officer Division (OCIO) regularly meets with Rogers in the management of the cellular CSA.
 - s.13; s.16; s.17

s.13

s.13 it is worth noting that Rogers does not use Huawei equipment pervasively in its digital infrastructure, s.13; s.16; s.17 s.13; s.16; s.17

DISCUSSION:

With the internet embedded into all aspects of our day-to-day lives, connectivity is critical for British Columbians and Government encourages its expansion in rural and remote areas across the province, enabling a broad spectrum of possibilities, including healthcare, education, culture, public safety and economic activity.

The Rogers-University of British Columbia (UBC) partnership announced in November 2019, is an example of Canada's first 5G network as a 'living-lab' testbed for 5G innovation. With funding from Rogers, a round of research projects, including an earthquake-early warning system of 5G and a 5G-enabled-digital-mine, were also announced. UBC brings world renowned researchers and facilities to co-develop applications.

In December 2020, Rogers announced it had expanded its 5G network to 26 cities and now reaches 160 communities across Canada.

In March 2021, Rogers announced a \$26 billion partnership with Shaw, creating new jobs and investment in Western Canada and accelerating Canada's 5G rollout. Rogers also committed to the establishment of a new \$1 billion Rogers Rural and Indigenous Connectivity Fund to connect rural, remote and Indigenous communities across Western Canada to high speed internet.

Connecting BC:

The Connecting BC program is funded by the Province and administered by the Northern Development Initiative Trust. The program helps fund infrastructure required to deliver high-speed internet connectivity to rural and remote areas of the province.

In April 2020, Government invested \$50 million for Phase Three of Connecting BC – the largest single allocation since the creation of the program in 2015 (Phase One totalled \$10 million, followed by \$40 million in Phase Two). Connecting BC is currently accepting applications for Phase Three, with funds available for internet service providers and local governments to do immediate network equipment upgrades to improve capacity and connect rural and Indigenous communities with high-speed internet.

Rogers continues to invest in B.C. and by leveraging support from the Connecting BC program, they have announced a number of expansions in 2021:

- February (from the provincially funded COVID-19 Response Intake) – 29 existing cellular towers have been upgraded to provide additional cellular coverage and broadband services to 52 B.C. communities (in and around Vancouver Island, Okanagan, Cariboo, Central and Northern B.C.).
- April – Providing reliable connectivity along Highways 16 (also known as the Highway of Tears) and 14, with construction beginning in the Spring of 2021.
 - Highway 16 – building 12 new cellular towers to close key gaps and provide 252 kms of new highway cellular coverage, and coverage at three provincial highway rest stops. This helps close key gaps along this corridor and means that there will now be near continuous coverage along all 720 km of this northern highway through to Prince George.
 - Highway 14 – seven new cellular towers to be built along the route from Sooke to Port Renfrew, providing essential connectivity to those who live, work and visit this area of Vancouver Island.

Regulatory

- Rogers is very interested in passive utility infrastructure¹ and future considerations would help implement 5G including:
 - s.13
 - s.13
- Rogers holds valuable spectrum³ in B.C. and is very interested in the upcoming federal 3500 MHz spectrum auction anticipated to open in June 2021.
- Regulatory challenges exist that could impede Rogers' expansion efforts in B.C.
 - In December 2020, and January and February 2021, Rogers responded to a Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) proceeding regarding regulatory measures to make access to poles owned by Canadian carriers more efficient.

SUGGESTED RESPONSE/KEY MESSAGING:

s.13

ATTACHMENTS: Attachment A – Attendee Biographies

¹ Passive Infrastructure refers to the non-electrical elements needed for network development. Examples included telephone poles, underground ducts or conduit towers.

² 5G stands for fifth generation and is the latest advance in cellular technology. Experts predict 5G can connect 500 times the number of devices versus 4G. These devices will help governments manage natural disasters, potentially saving lives and businesses. 5G will bring us the 'real-time' economy with low latency and high capacity.

³ Spectrum are the airwaves used to transmit sounds (voice) and data wirelessly.

ADM Contact: Christine Little, SBEDI 250-953-3479

Prepared by: Krysta Dey, Policy Analyst, Planning and Innovation Branch

Reviewed by		
Dir: NN	A/ED: MD	ADM: CL

Attachment A: Attendee Biographies

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**Neel Dayal, Director of Innovation & Partnerships,
Rogers**

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**Cindy Grauer, Principal,
GR Strategies Inc. Public Affairs and Issue Management**

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Ange Valentini, Independent Consultant

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ID: 4567, Title: PS Bailey meeting with Rogers Communications on May 3rd

Approval Route:

Assigned To: Cowden, Samantha **Rush:** No **Category:** Briefing Note - Meeting **Signature:** Parliamentary Secretary
JTT:EX

Branch: SBEDI - Planning & Innovation **Other Number:** 153598 **Link:**

Due Date: 2021-04-26 **Date Completed:** 2021-04-29 **Date Initiated:** 2021-04-16

Title	Comments	Date
Liu, Teresa [Assignee] has closed this item for the following reason: Completed.	Uploading to CLIFF and closing log.	2021-04-29
Albrecht, Christine JTT:EX [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Liu, Teresa for action	Teresa - please close, save to LAN and CLIFF and share with staff.	2021-04-29
Ponting, Rebecca [Assignee] approved the item and forwarded it to Albrecht, Christine JTT:EX for action	Thanks! Shared w PSB	2021-04-29
Albrecht, Christine JTT:EX [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Ponting, Rebecca for action	MN for PS Bailey, Maija Duffy to staff pre-brief and mtg on May 3.	2021-04-28
Cameron, Tara D JEDC:EX [Assignee] approved the item and forwarded it to Albrecht, Christine JTT:EX for action	adm approved	2021-04-28
Albrecht, Christine JTT:EX [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Cameron, Tara D JEDC:EX for action	PSB MN reviewed - For your review/approval	2021-04-27
Liu, Teresa [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Albrecht, Christine JTT:EX for action	Hi Christine, MN for PSB meeting Rogers on May 3 for review please. Thanks, Teresa	2021-04-27
Rioux, Luke JTT:EX [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Liu, Teresa for action	Hi Teresa, ADM-approved MN for PS Bailey's meeting with Rogers Communications on May 3rd, for DM approval. Thanks	2021-04-27
Little, Christine JTT:EX [Assignee] approved the item and forwarded it to Rioux, Luke JTT:EX for action	No Comment	2021-04-27
Rioux, Luke JTT:EX [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Little, Christine JTT:EX for action	Hi Christine, MN for PS Bailey's meeting with Rogers Communications on May 3rd, for your approval. Thanks	2021-04-27
Rioux, Luke JTT:EX made some changes to this item's details		2021-04-27
Duffy, Maija JTT:EX [Assignee] approved the item and forwarded it to Rioux, Luke JTT:EX for action	Hi Luke - sending to you directly s.22 Thanks, Maija	2021-04-26
Nixon, Nicholas JERI:EX [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Duffy, Maija JTT:EX for action	For review - this draft includes content from CITZ	2021-04-26
Dey, Krysta JTT:EX [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Nixon, Nicholas JERI:EX for action	Included input from OCIO. Ready for your review/approval	2021-04-26
Dey, Krysta JTT:EX added a document: 153598 - MN - PS Bailey with Rogers Communications.doc		2021-04-26
Duffy, Maija JTT:EX [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Dey, Krysta JTT:EX for action	Hi Krysta - pls prep the note for PSB. Contact the connectivity team at CITZ for any input they may have (ED is Joann Holliss). Rogers recently won one of the Hwy connectivity contracts. Thanks, Maija	2021-04-16
		2021-04-16

Title	Comments	Date
Cowden, Samantha JTT:EX added a document: BN-Meeting Note CLIFF ID 153598 - due in ADMO April 27th.msg		
Cowden, Samantha JTT:EX added a document: re 153598 psb meeting - rogers communications.msg		2021-04-16
Cowden, Samantha JTT:EX has created a new eApprovals item and assigned it to Duffy, Maija JTT:EX		2021-04-16
Cowden, Samantha JTT:EX added a document: 153598 psb meeting - rogers communications.msg		2021-04-16
Cowden, Samantha JTT:EX created this item	please assign	2021-04-16

Rioux, Luke MUNI:EX

From: Ponting, Rebecca JERI:EX
Sent: April 14, 2021 3:03 PM
To: 'Ange Valentini'
Subject: RE: 153598 PSB Meeting - Rogers Communications

Hello Ange,

Wonderful. Let's move forward with **Monday, May 3rd, at 10am-10:30am**. Here is the MS Teams link:

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

[Learn More](#) | [Meeting options](#)

Let me know if there is anything else I can do for you.

Thanks!

Rebecca Ponting
Administrative Assistant
Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation

From: Ange Valentini
Sent: April 14, 2021 2:53 PM
To: Ponting, Rebecca JERI:EX
Subject: Re: 153598 PSB Meeting - Rogers Communications

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Thanks for all the options Rebecca -

Can we request 30 minutes on Monday May 3rd, anytime between 10 am - 1 pm?

Let us know what works best for Parliamentary Secretary Bailey.

All the best,
Ange

ANGE VALENTINI

 ange@angevalentini.ca

 604.970.4877



*I am grateful to live and work on Gabriola Island,
part of the traditional territories of the Snuneymuxw
First Nation and Coast Salish people.*

pro-nouns: she/her

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On Wed, 14 Apr 2021 at 08:28, Ponting, Rebecca JERI:EX <Rebecca.Ponting@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hi Ange,

I should mention that PS Bailey has open availability on Monday and Wednesday most of the day, and Thursday afternoon. She is all booked up on Tuesday and Friday.

Cheers,

Rebecca Ponting

Administrative Assistant

Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation

From: Ponting, Rebecca JERI:EX
Sent: April 14, 2021 8:26 AM
To: 'Ange Valentini' <ange@angevalentini.ca>
Subject: RE: 153598 PSB Meeting - Rogers Communications

Hello Ange,

Unfortunately PS Bailey is now busy until 3:45 that day. Would you be free anytime from 3:45 to 4:45? If that doesn't work, she has quite open availability the following week. Could you suggest some dates/times and I can confirm one with you?

Many thanks!

Rebecca Ponting

Administrative Assistant

Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation

From: Ange Valentini <ange@angevalentini.ca>
Sent: April 13, 2021 6:00 PM
To: Ponting, Rebecca JERI:EX <Rebecca.Ponting@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Re: 153598 PSB Meeting - Rogers Communications

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Thanks for the quick reply Rebecca.

We would be happy to meet with Parliamentary Secretary Brenda Bailey on April 29th. Would 3:15 - 3:45 pm work for a 30-minute MS Teams meeting?

If you can send a link that would be great.

All the best,

Ange

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 ange@angevalentini.ca

 604.970.4877



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pro-nouns: she/her

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On Mon, 12 Apr 2021 at 10:13, Ponting, Rebecca JERI:EX <Rebecca.Ponting@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Good morning Ange,

On behalf of Parliamentary Secretary Brenda Bailey, thank you for your meeting request. I am happy to assist in finding a time for this meeting.

Might you be available on **Thursday, April 29**, between 3-4:30pm for a **30 minute MS Teams meeting**? If that time does not work, we can look into the following week. Once we find a time, I can provide an MS Teams link, unless you would prefer to use another platform.

Thank you very much!

Rebecca Ponting

Administrative Assistant

Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation

From: Ange Valentini <ange@angevalentini.ca>
Sent: April 9, 2021 3:27 PM
To: Minister, JERI JERI:EX <JERI.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: 153598 PSB Meeting - Rogers Communications

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Dear Parliamentary Secretary Bailey,

On behalf of Rogers Communications we would like to request a meeting with you. The purpose of the meeting is to provide an update on Rogers investments in 5G and innovation and answer any questions you may have about current operations and recent announcements

We look forward to connecting with you. If you can advise on your availability, I will be happy to coordinate the team from Rogers which will include Neel Dayal, Cindy Grauer, and myself.

You can reach me by reply by email or by phone at 604-970-4877.

Many thanks,
Ange

ANGE VALENTINI

 ange@angevalentini.ca

 604.970.4877



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