



Date: 19/06/2018

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

To: Chair and Directors, Cariboo Regional District Board

And To: John MacLean, Chief Administrative Officer

From: Alice Johnston, Corporate Officer

Date of Meeting: Cariboo Regional District Board_Jun22_2018

File: 1855-01

Short Summary:

Request for Support from ABC Communications to Preserve Broadband Connectivity in Rural Areas

Voting:

Corporate Vote - Unweighted

Memorandum:

The attached letter from ABC Communications advises of a consultation currently underway by Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) who plans to reclaim a portion of the spectrum in the 3500 MHz band and offer it to mobile carriers at auction. Details regarding the effect this may have on services currently provided by ABC Communications in rural communities are outlined in the letter.

ABC Communications is therefore requesting support from the CRD to preserve the spectrum that enables broadband connectivity in this region. Two example letters have been included for the Board's consideration in its response to ISED.

This request has been added as a late agenda item as the deadline for submissions is July 12, 2018.

Attachments:

Letter from Falko Kadenbach, Vice-President, ABC Communications, dated June 12, 2018

Financial Implications:

n/a

Policy Implications:

n/a

Alignment with Strategic Plan:

Ensuring Sufficient and Sustainable Funding

- Building on our Relationships
- Providing Cost Effective High Quality Services
- Focusing on Being Well Governed

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CAO Comments:

The Board should be very concerned with any proposal that is going to negatively affect an already sparse rural broadband environment. From the Staff perspective we freely admit that we do not fully understand the difference between the two proposals and what the ramifications of each option are.

Options:

- 1) Receipt and provide letter of support;
- 2) Receipt.

Recommendation:

That the agenda item summary from Alice Johnston, Corporate Officer, dated June 19, 2018, regarding a request from ABC Communications for the CRD's support for the preservation of the spectrum that enables broadband connectivity in rural areas, be received. *Further action at the discretion of the Board.*