



June 25, 2018

Ref: 108682

Margo Wagner  
Chair & Director of Electoral Area H  
Office of the Chair  
Cariboo Regional District  
Suite D, 180 N Third Avenue  
Williams Lake, BC V2G 2A4  
Email: [mwagner@cariboord.ca](mailto:mwagner@cariboord.ca)

Cariboo Regional District  
File No. 400-20

JUN 28 2018

Referred To CAO/Chair

Dear Chair Margo Wagner and Board of Directors,

Thank you for your letters dated May 22, 2018, regarding the importance of internet connectivity to the Cariboo region. I am pleased to respond to your request.

More than ever, we have seen how critical it is to have reliable internet connectivity, especially during a major event such as forest fires. Connectivity allows for instant communication and necessary resources for emergency responders such as GPS mapping, image sharing and natural disaster monitoring. This is especially important for first responders and workers on the front lines as well as for citizens and businesses that may be affected. Connectivity is also essential for full participation in our growing digital economy.

This is why the provincial government committed \$40 million to the Connecting British Columbia program. This program, administered by the Northern Development Initiative Trust, has been assisting local and regional internet service providers to expand and extend high-speed internet service to underserved regions here in BC. New program intakes are scheduled to open on July 1, 2018 and September 1, 2018. Intake details will be posted on Northern Development's website at <https://www.northerndevlopment.bc.ca/funding-programs/partner-programs/connecting-british-columbia/>.

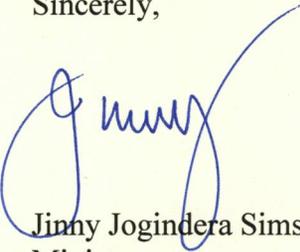
I do recognize the need for improved connectivity in communities in the Cariboo region because in this day and age, people, businesses and local governments, need to be connected. My ministry will continue to work with the federal government, the national telecommunications regulator and the private sector to find new ways of expanding internet coverage with a focus on rural, First Nations and Indigenous communities.

Ministry staff are monitoring Telecom Notice of Consultation CRTC 2017-112 (<http://crtc.gc.ca/eng/archive/2017/2017-112.htm>), where the CRTC is currently examining accountability frameworks, eligibility and assessment criteria for a new regulatory funding mechanism that could include support for the expansion of internet services. We understand a decision will be made later this year and a program intake will open up next year.

I encourage the Cariboo Regional District to reach out to Network BC in my ministry to discuss potential projects and areas in need of improved connectivity. If you have a project in mind or would like to receive further information on the Province's activities to expand high-speed internet connectivity, please contact Howard Randell, Executive Director, Network BC at 250 415-6867, or by email at [NetworkBC@gov.bc.ca](mailto:NetworkBC@gov.bc.ca).

Thank you for taking the time to write to me about this important issue.

Sincerely,



Jinny Jogindera Sims  
Minister

pc: Ted Armstrong, Director of Electoral Area A, Red Bluff - Quesnel South  
[tarmstrong@cariboord.ca](mailto:tarmstrong@cariboord.ca)

Jerry Bruce, Director of Electoral Area B, Quesnel West - Bouchie Lake  
[jbruce@cariboord.ca](mailto:jbruce@cariboord.ca)

John Massier, CRD Vice Chair & Director of Electoral Area C, Bowron Lake - Barlow Creek – Barkerville [jmassier@cariboord.ca](mailto:jmassier@cariboord.ca)

Steve Forseth, Director of Electoral Area D, Commodore Heights - McLeese Lake  
[sforseth@cariboord.ca](mailto:sforseth@cariboord.ca)

Angie Delainey, Director of Electoral Area E, South Lakeside - Dog Creek  
[adelainey@cariboord.ca](mailto:adelainey@cariboord.ca)

Joan Sorley, Director of Electoral Area F, Horsefly - Likely - 150 Mile House  
[jsorley@cariboord.ca](mailto:jsorley@cariboord.ca)

Al Richmond, Director of Electoral Area G, Lac la Hache – 108 Mile Ranch  
[arichmond@cariboord.ca](mailto:arichmond@cariboord.ca)

Roger William, Director of Electoral Area J, West Chilcotin  
[rwilliam@cariboord.ca](mailto:rwilliam@cariboord.ca)

Betty Anderson, Director of Electoral Area K, East Chilcotin  
[banderson@cariboord.ca](mailto:banderson@cariboord.ca)

Brian Coakley, Director of Electoral Area L, Lone Butte - Interlakes  
[bcoakley@cariboord.ca](mailto:bcoakley@cariboord.ca)

John MacLean, Chief Administrative Officer, Cariboo Regional District  
[jmaclean@cariboord.ca](mailto:jmaclean@cariboord.ca)

Howard Randell, Executive Director, Network BC, Ministry of Citizens' Services  
[NetworkBC@gov.bc.ca](mailto:NetworkBC@gov.bc.ca)

File: 400-20

May 22, 2018

The Honourable Jinny Sims  
Minister of Citizens' Services  
PO Box 9068, Stn. Prov. Govt.  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Sims:

Re: Internet Connectivity in Rural Areas

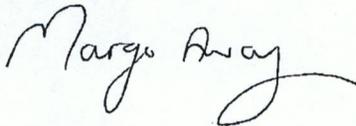
Lack of internet connectivity is a serious problem that affects rural areas throughout the Cariboo Regional District and, specifically, Electoral Area "A".

In cases of emergencies, such as the forest fires that affected an extensive area of the Cariboo in 2017, internet connectivity provides access to vital information through email, Facebook, emergency websites, Twitter, etc. In areas that do not have internet connectivity, our communications teams face great challenges in providing timely, potentially life-saving information to our residents

In today's world of ever-changing technology, internet connectivity is becoming more and more important for conducting business and home activities. Not having this important service, continues to hamper our rural residents and business owners.

On behalf of the constituents of Area "A", we urge you to do whatever you can to ensure that internet connectivity can be provided to all areas of the Cariboo Regional District.

Yours truly,



Margo Wagner  
Chair

Yours truly,



Ted Armstrong  
Director, Electoral Area "A"

c: Coralee Oakes, MLA, Cariboo North  
Donna Barnett, MLA, Cariboo-Chilcotin



Cariboo  
Regional  
District

## OFFICE OF THE CHAIR

Suite D, 180 N Third Avenue, Williams Lake, BC V2G 2A4  
Tel: 250-392-3351 TF: 1-800-665-1636  
Fax: 250-392-2812

File: 400-20

May 22, 2018

The Honourable Jinny Sims  
Minister of Citizens' Services  
PO Box 9068, Stn. Prov. Govt.  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Sims:

Re: Internet Connectivity in Rural Areas

Lack of internet connectivity is a serious problem that affects rural areas throughout the Cariboo Regional District and, specifically, Electoral Area "B".

In cases of emergencies, such as the forest fires that affected an extensive area of the Cariboo in 2017, internet connectivity provides access to vital information through email, Facebook, emergency websites, Twitter, etc. In areas that do not have internet connectivity, our communications teams face great challenges in providing timely, potentially life-saving information to our residents.

In today's world of ever-changing technology, internet connectivity is becoming more and more important for conducting business and home activities. Not having this important service, continues to hamper our rural residents and business owners.

On behalf of the constituents of Area "B", we urge you to do whatever you can to ensure that internet connectivity can be provided to all areas of the Cariboo Regional District.

Yours truly,

Margo Wagner  
Chair

Yours truly,

Jerry Bruce  
Director, Electoral Area "B"

c: Coralee Oakes, MLA, Cariboo North  
Donna Barnett, MLA, Cariboo-Chilcotin

building communities together

File: 400-20

May 22, 2018

The Honourable Jinny Sims  
Minister of Citizens' Services  
PO Box 9068, Stn. Prov. Govt.  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Sims:

Re: Internet Connectivity in Rural Areas

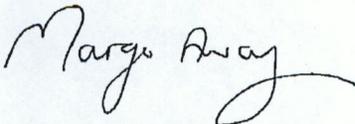
Lack of internet connectivity is a serious problem that affects rural areas throughout the Cariboo Regional District and, specifically, Electoral Area "C".

In cases of emergencies, such as the forest fires that affected an extensive area of the Cariboo in 2017, internet connectivity provides access to vital information through email, Facebook, emergency websites, Twitter, etc. In areas that do not have internet connectivity, our communications teams face great challenges in providing timely, potentially life-saving information to our residents

In today's world of ever-changing technology, internet connectivity is becoming more and more important for conducting business and home activities. Not having this important service, continues to hamper our rural residents and business owners.

On behalf of the constituents of Area "C", we urge you to do whatever you can to ensure that internet connectivity can be provided to all areas of the Cariboo Regional District.

Yours truly,



Margo Wagner  
Chair

Yours truly,



John Massier  
Director, Electoral Area "C"

c: Coralee Oakes, MLA, Cariboo North  
Donna Barnett, MLA, Cariboo-Chilcotin

File: 400-20

May 22, 2018

The Honourable Jinny Sims  
Minister of Citizens' Services  
PO Box 9068, Stn. Prov. Govt.  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Sims:

Re: Internet Connectivity in Rural Areas

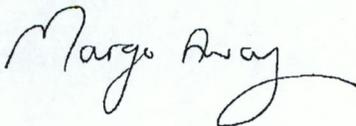
Lack of internet connectivity is a serious problem that affects rural areas throughout the Cariboo Regional District and, specifically, Electoral Area "D".

In cases of emergencies, such as the forest fires that affected an extensive area of the Cariboo in 2017, internet connectivity provides access to vital information through email, Facebook, emergency websites, Twitter, etc. In areas that do not have internet connectivity, our communications teams face great challenges in providing timely, potentially life-saving information to our residents

In today's world of ever-changing technology, internet connectivity is becoming more and more important for conducting business and home activities. Not having this important service, continues to hamper our rural residents and business owners.

On behalf of the constituents of Area "D", we urge you to do whatever you can to ensure that internet connectivity can be provided to all areas of the Cariboo Regional District.

Yours truly,



Margo Wagner  
Chair

Yours truly,



Steve Forseth  
Director, Electoral Area "D"

c: Coralee Oakes, MLA, Cariboo North  
Donna Barnett, MLA, Cariboo-Chilcotin



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File: 400-20

May 22, 2018

The Honourable Jinny Sims  
Minister of Citizens' Services  
PO Box 9068, Stn. Prov. Govt.  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Sims:

Re: Internet Connectivity in Rural Areas

Lack of internet connectivity is a serious problem that affects rural areas throughout the Cariboo Regional District and, specifically, Electoral Area "E".

In cases of emergencies, such as the forest fires that affected an extensive area of the Cariboo in 2017, internet connectivity provides access to vital information through email, Facebook, emergency websites, Twitter, etc. In areas that do not have internet connectivity, our communications teams face great challenges in providing timely, potentially life-saving information to our residents

In today's world of ever-changing technology, internet connectivity is becoming more and more important for conducting business and home activities. Not having this important service, continues to hamper our rural residents and business owners.

On behalf of the constituents of Area "E", we urge you to do whatever you can to ensure that internet connectivity can be provided to all areas of the Cariboo Regional District.

Yours truly,

Margo Wagner  
Chair

Yours truly,

Angie Delaney  
Director, Electoral Area "E"

c: Coralee Oakes, MLA, Cariboo North  
Donna Barnett, MLA, Cariboo-Chilcotin

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File: 400-20

May 22, 2018

The Honourable Jinny Sims  
Minister of Citizens' Services  
PO Box 9068, Stn. Prov. Govt.  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Sims:

Re: Internet Connectivity in Rural Areas

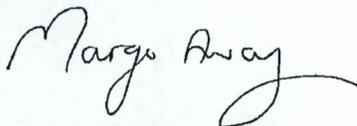
Lack of internet connectivity is a serious problem that affects rural areas throughout the Cariboo Regional District and, specifically, Electoral Area "F".

In cases of emergencies, such as the forest fires that affected an extensive area of the Cariboo in 2017, internet connectivity provides access to vital information through email, Facebook, emergency websites, Twitter, etc. In areas that do not have internet connectivity, our communications teams face great challenges in providing timely, potentially life-saving information to our residents

In today's world of ever-changing technology, internet connectivity is becoming more and more important for conducting business and home activities. Not having this important service, continues to hamper our rural residents and business owners.

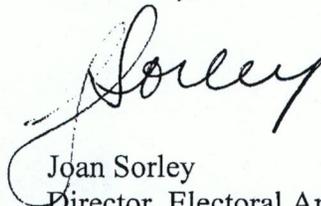
On behalf of the constituents of Area "F", we urge you to do whatever you can to ensure that internet connectivity can be provided to all areas of the Cariboo Regional District.

Yours truly,



Margo Wagner  
Chair

Yours truly,



Joan Sorley  
Director, Electoral Area "F"

c: Coralee Oakes, MLA, Cariboo North  
Donna Barnett, MLA, Cariboo-Chilcotin

File: 400-20

May 22, 2018

The Honourable Jinny Sims  
Minister of Citizens' Services  
PO Box 9068, Stn. Prov. Govt.  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Sims:

Re: Internet Connectivity in Rural Areas

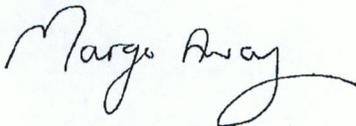
Lack of internet connectivity is a serious problem that affects rural areas throughout the Cariboo Regional District and, specifically, Electoral Area "G".

In cases of emergencies, such as the forest fires that affected an extensive area of the Cariboo in 2017, internet connectivity provides access to vital information through email, Facebook, emergency websites, Twitter, etc. In areas that do not have internet connectivity, our communications teams face great challenges in providing timely, potentially life-saving information to our residents

In today's world of ever-changing technology, internet connectivity is becoming more and more important for conducting business and home activities. Not having this important service, continues to hamper our rural residents and business owners.

On behalf of the constituents of Area "G", we urge you to do whatever you can to ensure that internet connectivity can be provided to all areas of the Cariboo Regional District.

Yours truly,



Margo Wagner  
Chair

Yours truly,



Al Richmond  
Director, Electoral Area "G"

c: Coralee Oakes, MLA, Cariboo North  
Donna Barnett, MLA, Cariboo-Chilcotin

File: 400-20

May 22, 2018

The Honourable Jinny Sims  
Minister of Citizens' Services  
PO Box 9068, Stn. Prov. Govt.  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Sims:

Re: Internet Connectivity in Rural Areas

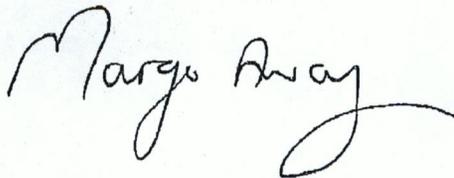
Lack of internet connectivity is a serious problem that affects rural areas throughout the Cariboo Regional District and, specifically, Electoral Area "H".

In cases of emergencies, such as the forest fires that affected an extensive area of the Cariboo in 2017, internet connectivity provides access to vital information through email, Facebook, emergency websites, Twitter, etc. In areas that do not have internet connectivity, our communications teams face great challenges in providing timely, potentially life-saving information to our residents

In today's world of ever-changing technology, internet connectivity is becoming more and more important for conducting business and home activities. Not having this important service, continues to hamper our rural residents and business owners.

On behalf of the constituents of Area "H", I urge you to do whatever you can to ensure that internet connectivity can be provided to all areas of the Cariboo Regional District.

Yours truly,



Margo Wagner  
Chair & Director, Electoral Area "H"

c: Coralee Oakes, MLA, Cariboo North  
Donna Barnett, MLA, Cariboo-Chilcotin



# OFFICE OF THE CHAIR

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File: 400-20

May 22, 2018

The Honourable Jinny Sims  
Minister of Citizens' Services  
PO Box 9068, Stn. Prov. Govt.  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Sims:

Re: Internet Connectivity in Rural Areas

Lack of internet connectivity is a serious problem that affects rural areas throughout the Cariboo Regional District and, specifically, Electoral Area "J".

In cases of emergencies, such as the forest fires that affected an extensive area of the Cariboo in 2017, internet connectivity provides access to vital information through email, Facebook, emergency websites, Twitter, etc. In areas that do not have internet connectivity, our communications teams face great challenges in providing timely, potentially life-saving information to our residents

In today's world of ever-changing technology, internet connectivity is becoming more and more important for conducting business and home activities. Not having this important service, continues to hamper our rural residents and business owners.

On behalf of the constituents of Area "J", we urge you to do whatever you can to ensure that internet connectivity can be provided to all areas of the Cariboo Regional District.

Yours truly,

Margo Wagner  
Chair

Yours truly,

Roger William  
Director, Electoral Area "J"

c: Coralee Oakes, MLA, Cariboo North  
Donna Barnett, MLA, Cariboo-Chilcotin

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File: 400-20

May 22, 2018

The Honourable Jinny Sims  
Minister of Citizens' Services  
PO Box 9068, Stn. Prov. Govt.  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Sims:

Re: Internet Connectivity in Rural Areas

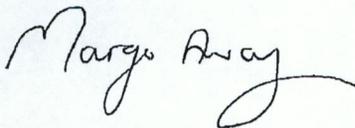
Lack of internet connectivity is a serious problem that affects rural areas throughout the Cariboo Regional District and, specifically, Electoral Area "K".

In cases of emergencies, such as the forest fires that affected an extensive area of the Cariboo in 2017, internet connectivity provides access to vital information through email, Facebook, emergency websites, Twitter, etc. In areas that do not have internet connectivity, our communications teams face great challenges in providing timely, potentially life-saving information to our residents

In today's world of ever-changing technology, internet connectivity is becoming more and more important for conducting business and home activities. Not having this important service, continues to hamper our rural residents and business owners.

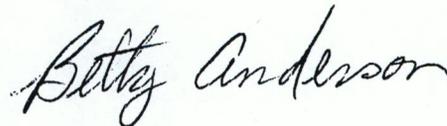
On behalf of the constituents of Area "K", we urge you to do whatever you can to ensure that internet connectivity can be provided to all areas of the Cariboo Regional District.

Yours truly,



Margo Wagner  
Chair

Yours truly,



Betty Anderson  
Director, Electoral Area "K"

c: Coralee Oakes, MLA, Cariboo North  
Donna Barnett, MLA, Cariboo-Chilcotin

File: 400-20

May 22, 2018

The Honourable Jinny Sims  
Minister of Citizens' Services  
PO Box 9068, Stn. Prov. Govt.  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Sims:

Re: Internet Connectivity in Rural Areas

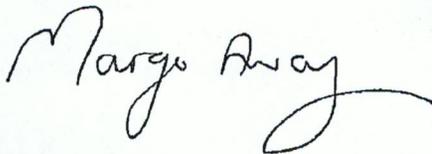
Lack of internet connectivity is a serious problem that affects rural areas throughout the Cariboo Regional District and, specifically, Electoral Area "L".

In cases of emergencies, such as the forest fires that affected an extensive area of the Cariboo in 2017, internet connectivity provides access to vital information through email, Facebook, emergency websites, Twitter, etc. In areas that do not have internet connectivity, our communications teams face great challenges in providing timely, potentially life-saving information to our residents

In today's world of ever-changing technology, internet connectivity is becoming more and more important for conducting business and home activities. Not having this important service, continues to hamper our rural residents and business owners.

On behalf of the constituents of Area "L", we urge you to do whatever you can to ensure that internet connectivity can be provided to all areas of the Cariboo Regional District.

Yours truly,



Margo Wagner  
Chair

Yours truly,



Brian Coakley  
Director, Electoral Area "L"

c: Coralee Oakes, MLA, Cariboo North  
Donna Barnett, MLA, Cariboo-Chilcotin