

Cariboo Regional District
File No. 400-50-02

From: NCLGA Admin <admin@nclga.ca>
Sent: August 20, 2019 9:31 AM
To: admin@nclga.ca
Subject: Minister Jordan response to Resolution R7 - Rural Broadband

AUG 20 2019

Referred To CAO
Board CC - Aug 23

Good morning Members,

Please find attached correspondence from Bernadette Jordan, Minister of Rural Economic Development in response to Resolution R7 – Rural Broadband (City of Prince George).

Moving forward, we welcome your thoughts or replies to this correspondence and we encourage you to add it to your next agenda package for further discussion.

For more information on the original letter sent by NCLGA please contact admin@nclga.ca.

Best regards,

Hannah Wasstrom
Executive Coordinator
T: 250-564-6585
E: hwasstrom@nclga.ca
www.nclga.ca



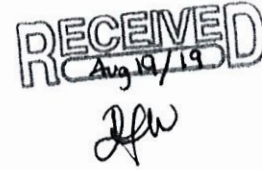
Minister of Rural
Economic Development



Ministre du Développement
économique rural

Ottawa, Canada K1P 0B6

AUG 12 2019



Ms. Lara Beckett
President
North Central Local Government Association
206-155 George Street
Prince George, British Columbia V2L 1P8

Dear Ms. Beckett:

Thank you for your letter of June 18, 2019, regarding broadband Internet access in north-central British Columbia.

As Minister of Rural Economic Development, I am committed to fulfilling the responsibilities entrusted to me in this portfolio, to work with Canadians and champion economic opportunity and quality of life in rural Canada. I am also pleased to lead the rollout of infrastructure and broadband investments in rural Canada, and to work with other federal ministers to advance important priorities benefitting rural Canada.

Recently, I announced two strategies: *Rural Opportunities, National Prosperity: An Economic Development Strategy for Rural Canada* (www.infrastructure.gc.ca/rural/strategy-eng.html) and *High-Speed Access for All: Canada's Connectivity Strategy* (www.canada.ca/get-connected). Together, these strategies demonstrate our government's commitment to a prosperous, competitive and thriving rural Canada, and to ensuring that, over time, all Canadians have access to affordable high-speed Internet.

These strategies set out our government's roadmap for the future of rural Canada, and to achieve our connectivity goals. They build on insights from rural Canadians, and provide a roadmap for addressing challenges and capitalizing on the opportunities in rural Canada.

Canadians know high-speed Internet access is no longer a luxury – it is a necessity for success. Students, families and businesses require reliable high-speed Internet to participate in today's economy. Too many Canadians, especially those living in rural and remote communities, do not have the connectivity they need to grow their business, access government services, pursue online education, or connect with family and friends.

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Canada

Since our first budget in 2016, the Government of Canada has been making major investments in broadband infrastructure. Through the successful Connect to Innovate program, over 900 Canadian communities will gain access to faster Internet speeds by 2021.

In Budget 2019, the Government made an ambitious new commitment to ensure that, over time, every single household and business in Canada, no matter how rural and remote, has access to high-speed Internet (50 Mbps download and 10 Mbps upload).

To achieve this target, the Government will work with provinces, territories and industry, and leverage new investments from many sources:

- Budget 2019 committed \$1.7 billion in new broadband investments, including a new Universal Broadband Fund, as well as a top-up for the Connect to Innovate program and support for low-latency Low Earth Orbit satellite capacity – technology that can help connect Canada's most remote communities.
- Broadband infrastructure projects are eligible for funding under the \$2-billion Rural and Northern Communities stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program.
- The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission's \$750-million Broadband Fund will help to improve connectivity services across the country.
- The Canada Infrastructure Bank will seek to invest \$1 billion to further leverage private sector investment to increase broadband access for Canadians.

Using these resources, we will ensure all Canadians have access to the baseline speed recommended by the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission: 50 Mbps download and 10 Mbps upload. We expect to have connected 95 percent of Canadians to these speeds by 2026 and 100 percent by 2030.

I look forward to working together with you.

Sincerely,



The Honourable Bernadette Jordan, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Rural Economic Development