



OCT 09 2019
BRITISH COLUMBIA CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION mcs

Representing the Beef Cattle Industry of British Columbia

AGRI CENTRE - #4 - 10145 DALLAS DRIVE, KAMLOOPS, B.C. V2C 6T4 PHONE (250) 573-3811 FAX (250) 573-5155

October 4, 2019

ATTN: Mayor / Regional District Chair

Our File: 2019-035
SENT BY MAIL

RE: Request to Improve High-Speed Internet in Rural Communities

The BC Cattlemen's Association is a provincial organization comprised of 56 local and regional cattlemen's organizations. We represent almost 1,200 rancher members many of whom operate in rural and remote regions throughout the province.

There have been advancements in technology and society has grown accustomed to having high-speed internet access at their finger tips at all times. Ranchers face a much different reality. Most areas not have high-speed internet, satellite internet is expensive and often the topography in rural areas limits the signal quality. Cell coverage is also intermittent in rural areas.

At the same time, the province is moving toward a paper-less, digital system for authorizations that affect our daily activities for grazing, water licences, woodlots etc. In some cases, the province isn't even creating paper applications, a good example of this is the recent implementation of groundwater licensing requirements. Ranchers cannot be expected to operate in digital world for their daily business, if they are not given the tools to do so.

Rural resident need high-speed internet access.

There are only a few months left in this decade, let's help the agricultural community move out of the 90s and into 2020 with improved access to internet.

The BC Cattlemen's Association asks the regional district to work to improve rural connectivity and immediately apply for a grant from the CRTC Broadband Fund (<https://crtc.gc.ca/eng/internet/internet.htm>).

Best regards,

Larry Garrett,
BCCA President

cc: Hon. Lana Popham, Minister of Agriculture
Arjun Singh, Chair UBCM