

**From:** [Samarasinghe, Mohan \(Doherty, Todd - MP\)](#)  
**To:** [Lore Schick](#)  
**Cc:** [Bailey, Michael \(Doherty, Todd - MP\)](#); [Lukoni, Mitchell \(Doherty, Todd - MP\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Regional District Inclusion in Federal Announcements  
**Date:** July 16, 2024 6:59:53 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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You don't often get email from [mohan.samarasinghe.804@parl.gc.ca](mailto:mohan.samarasinghe.804@parl.gc.ca). [Learn why this is important](#)

Good morning Lore,

Thank you for your email. MP Todd Doherty was deeply disappointed at the news of how the Cariboo Regional District was treated at last month's federal funding announcement for highspeed internet improvements. Thank you for bringing this to his attention. MP Doherty has written to the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs Hon. Dominic LeBlanc about this matter and requested his office to reach out to the district with amends. He has also copied his letter to Hon. Guide Hutchings, Minister of Rural Economic Development and to Hon. Harjit Sajjan, Minister for the Pacific Economic Development Agency.

We will be sure to communicate to you any responses we get from them. Thank you again and here's wishing you and your colleagues a enjoyable and relaxed summer!

Regards

**Mohan Samarasinghe**  
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**From:** Lore Schick <[LSchick@cariboord.ca](mailto:LSchick@cariboord.ca)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 11, 2024 11:39 AM  
**To:** Doherty, Todd - M.P. <[Todd.Doherty@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Todd.Doherty@parl.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Regional District Inclusion in Federal Announcements

Please see attached correspondence from Chair Margo Wagner.

**Lore Schick**  
*Deputy Corporate Officer / Executive Assistant*  
*FOI Coordinator*

[lschick@cariboord.ca](mailto:lschick@cariboord.ca)



**Cariboo Regional District**

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July 12, 2024

VIA EMAIL: [todd.doherty@parl.gc.ca](mailto:todd.doherty@parl.gc.ca)

MP Todd Doherty, Cariboo-Prince George  
1520 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue  
Prince George BC V2L 3G4

Dear MP Doherty:

Re: Regional District Inclusion in Federal Announcements

I am writing on behalf of the Cariboo Regional District Board which passed the following resolution at its June 20, 2024 meeting.

*"That a letter be sent to MP Todd Doherty, encouraging appropriate recognition of regional districts in federal announcements."*

This resolution was passed in response to a June 13 Federal Funding announcement that took place in Williams Lake regarding \$37 million being committed for high-speed internet improvements in Central Interior B.C. The majority of this funding will affect Cariboo Regional District residents, and there has been a tremendous amount of work and advocacy on the part of our Connectivity Committee to raise awareness about the internet coverage gaps in our region and pursue opportunities to close them. Despite this, as you can see by the attached newspaper article, the City of Williams Lake and the Williams Lake Indian Band were the local political bodies who were the focal point of the announcement. Director Maureen LeBourdais, Chair of our Connectivity Committee, was in attendance, but her participation was limited to an acknowledgment by Mayor Rathor that she was there.

As the Cariboo's federal representative, we ask that you advocate for federal funding announcements to include recognition and participation of regional districts, when and where applicable, so that our constituents can be properly informed of the work and advocacy that is being done on their behalf.

Thank you for considering this request. I look forward to hearing back from you.

Yours truly,



Margo A. Wagner  
Chair

Attachment

cc: Coralee Oakes, MLA, Cariboo North  
Lorne Doerkson, MLA, Cariboo-Chilcotin  
Jerrilyn Kirk, UBCM Electoral Area Representative

# THE WILLIAMS LAKE TRIBUNE

## \$37M to improve high-speed internet in Central Interior B.C.



[Monica Lamb-Yorski](#)

Jun 14, 2024 11:14 AM



Federal and provincial funding totalling \$37 million for high speed internet for Central Interior B C is announced Thursday, June 13 in Williams Lake | Monica Lamb Yorski/Williams Lake Tribune

[Listen to this article](#)

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A total of \$37 million has been committed for high-speed internet improvements in Central Interior B.C.

Federal Minister of Rural Economic Development Gudie Hutchings made the announcement in Williams Lake on Thursday, June 13.

The investment, which involves federal and provincial funding, will connect more than 1,900 homes in 12 rural communities.

In the communities of Big Lake and Horsefly, east of Williams Lake, 522 households will be getting fibre with a federal investment of \$6,933,590.

Another \$30,679,996 of combined federal and provincial funding will bring fibre and fixed wireless to 1,454 households, 54 of which are Indigenous.

This includes the communities of Alkali Lake (Esk'etemc), Lac la Hache, Williams Lake, Mahood Falls, McLeese Lake, Wildwood, 150 Mile House, 108 Mile Ranch, Bridge Lake and Nazko.

Hutchings told people gathered for a press conference at Thompson Rivers University Williams Lake Campus the projects should all be completed by December 2026.



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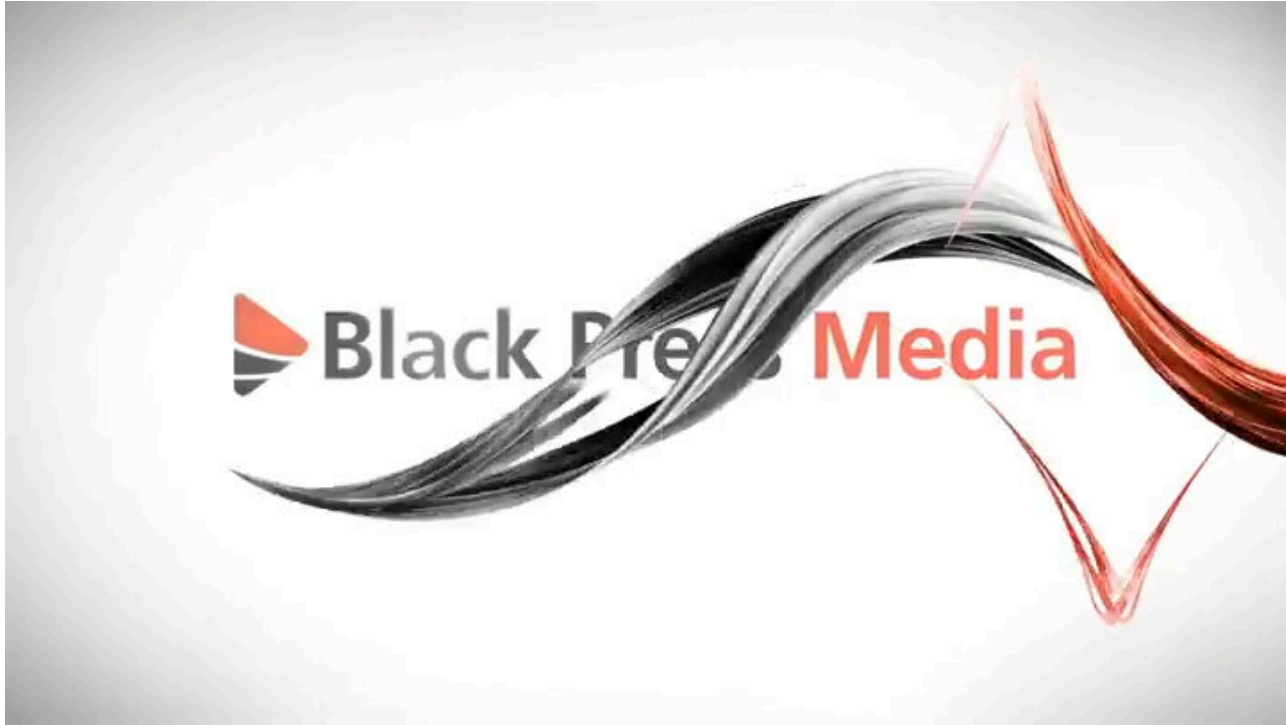
"Internet is no longer a luxury," she said. "Everybody needs to access reliable and affordable high-speed internet."

Ninety-four per cent of Canadians have access to high-speed internet and the goal is by 2030 this statistic will be 100 per cent, she noted.

Having high-speed internet opens communities to "work at the speed of business," and be able to endorse and hold up and incubate small businesses, said Williams Lake Nation Chief Willie Sellars.

"It means we have more access to education. There are so many benefits that come with having high-speed internet in rural communities," Sellars said, adding Indigenous people want to stay home in their

communities to work because it is specifically important to the health and wellness of Indigenous communities.



B.C. Minister of Citizen Services George Chow said people need online services to access such things as government services, skills training, education, business opportunities and employment.



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"Nowadays we are meeting online and that allows people from remote areas to participate whereas before they were always wondering how they could get to Vancouver or Victoria," Chow said. "We are doing all we can to level the field, especially in B.C. where the geography is so challenging."

TELUS has started work in the Horsefly area already and customers should be receiving a flyer informing them that fibre will be coming to them.