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October 19, 2022

File No.: 3026-01-20-04-2022

By email: Michael.Krenz@rci.rogers.com

Michael Krenz,
Government Relations Director,
Real Estate and Municipal Affairs,
Rogers Communications

Dear Mr. Krenz

Re: Galiano Island CREST Site 1228 Montague Road

Pursuant to a motion of the Galiano Island Local Trust Committee (LTC), I am responding somewhat belatedly to your letter of April 20, 2022. It is my turn to apologize for the delay.

On behalf of the Galiano Island Local Trust Committee, I would like to thank Rogers Communications for starting to provide factual information to the Galiano Island community on their project to enhance cellular service co-locating antennas on the CREST (Capital Region Emergency Service Telecommunications Inc.) facility at 1228 Montague Road. We would point out that the type of information that was provided in your letter was the exact information the LTC expected Rogers to share with the community when they were in the planning stages of the project in the fall of 2021. I would also note that there remain concerns in the community about not having a complete information package on the project and this lack of timely information is leading to continuing unease among some residents.

The Galiano Antenna Siting Protocol, which is compatible with Federal communications and consultation protocols, would have provided a template for communicating with the community. There appears to be unfounded apprehensions by some that the protocol is somehow designed to frustrate service providers and your assertion that the project is exempt is being challenged: the community is simply seeking more information on the technical details, service enhancements and benefits to the Island community. As we indicated in our previous correspondence, even if a proposal is technically exempt, the LTC and community expect that a civic-minded and sensitive provider would voluntarily communicate the details of its proposal in a timely manner. The LTC is here to act as a conduit for that information and for questions.

As to the CREST tower, it was constructed, without reference to the land use mandate of the LTC, to provide critical emergency communications in a particular band of radio frequencies used by first responders across the island. That tower is now being used to co-locate commercial radio communications in a different band of radio frequencies to primarily serve Rogers' roaming customers on BC Ferries in Active Pass. Further information would help address concerns harboured by neighbours of the CREST tower and the wider community.

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Bowen Denman Hornby Gabriola Galiano Gambier Lasqueti Mayne North Pender Salt Spring Saturna South Pender Thetis

The LTC would appreciate further information from Rogers on the improved coverage for island residents, when it is realized, as well as some of the basic technical details involving the CREST co-location.

The LTC also looks forward to continuing the dialogue with Rogers on their island services and coverage and any future antennas siting proposals. The antenna protocol offers a roadmap for dialogue and better understanding of the evolving nature and technology of telecommunications.

Following the local government elections on October 15th, I will no longer be the Chair of the Galiano LTC as of mid-November but you can respond to southinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca.

Regards,



Dan Rogers,

Chair, Galiano Island Local Trust Committee.

Cc:

Galiano Island Local Trust Committee
Islands Trust Executive Committee
Islands Trust website