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March 31, 2021

File No.: 5590-30; 6410-03

Via email: CITZ.Minister@gov.bc.ca
The Honourable Lisa Beare
Minister of Citizens' Services

Via email: dleitch@srd.ca
David Leitch, Chief Administrative Officer
Strathcona Regional District

Via email: josie.osborne.MLA@leg.bc.ca
Hon. Josie Osborne
Minister of Municipal Affairs &
MLA, Mid Island-Pacific Rim

Via email: jwarren@comoxvalleyrd.ca
James Warren, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Comox Valley Regional District

Via email: reachme@danielarbour.ca
Daniel Arbour
Director, Electoral Area A

Re: Support for Connected Coast by Hornby Island LTC

Dear Minister Beare, CAO Leitch, Deputy CAO Warren, Minister Osborne and Director Arbour,

This letter is written in support of the application by the Connected Coast fibre internet project (<https://connectedcoast.ca/>) to install landing sites on Hornby Island. The application will be submitted with the collaboration of the Comox Valley Regional District, and Hornby and Denman Islands, we understand.

The Hornby Island Local Trust Committee passed the following resolution:

“That the Hornby Island Local Trust Committee express support for efforts to attract funding to provide internet connectivity to all homes on Hornby Island by requesting staff to draft letters to be signed by the Chair on behalf of the Local Trust Committee to advise the Hornby Island Economic Enhancement Corporation, the Comox Valley Regional District Board, Strathcona Regional District, and the Minister of Citizen Services of the Local Trust Committee's interest and that it supports funding for a fibre connection to Hornby Island, as well as funding for Internet Service Provider (ISP) supported last mile fibre connections to all homes on Hornby Island, including advising the Comox Valley Regional District that the Local Trust Committee supports their interest in providing the 10% funding requirement by community for a Government of Canada Universal Broadband Fund grant.”

Currently most households on Hornby Island receive substandard internet service, and in some areas, none at all. Hornby and Denman Island have been identified by the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) as an “underserved area.” Poor internet service is a barrier to educational opportunities, future health care services, family enjoyment, emergency preparedness, conducting business, and also for economic diversification from attracting new residents.

Preserving and protecting over 450 islands and surrounding waters in the Salish Sea

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

HICEEC informs us that the installation of the landing sites is time-sensitive in order to align with the subsea fibre cable being deployed in Lambert Channel, understanding that a retro fit would be costly. It is also understood, that these landing sites will then be available for installation of the “last mile” service which is so badly needed on the Islands.

As the Local Trust Committee on Hornby Island, our understanding is that fibre optics is the best option for our island. Should this version change, we ask that we and our community be informed of any changes in delivery and also be part of the discussion of ownership of this service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sue Ellen Fast". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sue Ellen Fast,
Chair, Hornby Island Local Trust Committee

cc: Hornby Denman Internet Working Group, info@hornbydenmaninternet.com
Hornby Island Community Economic Enhancement Corporation, karen@hiceec.org
Hornby Island Local Trust Committee