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February 8, 2021

File No.: 5590-30; 0400-30; 0400-50

Via email: [CITZ.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:CITZ.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

The Honourable Lisa Beare  
Minister of Citizens' Services  
PO Box 9068, Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria BC V8W 9E2

Via email: [Barry.Oriordan@cvrld.bc.ca](mailto:Barry.Oriordan@cvrld.bc.ca)

Barry O'Riordan  
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Lesley Buhr, Denis Gagnon, Rebecca Andison  
Thetis Island Community Economic Enhancement  
Corporation, Thetis Island

**Re: Letter of support for efforts to attract funding to provide internet connectivity to all homes on Thetis Island**

Dear Minister Beare, CAO Leitch, Manager O'Riordan, and Thetis Island Community Economic Enhancement Corporation,

The Thetis Island Local Trust Committee (LTC) recognizes the need for improved internet connection on Thetis Island and fully supports the efforts of Economic Development Cowichan (CVRD) and the Thetis Island Community Economic Enhancement Corporation (TICEEC) in their pursuit of funding to facilitate internet connectivity to all homes on Thetis Island.

On February 1, 2021, the Thetis Local Trust Committee passed the following resolution:

"That the Thetis Island Local Trust Committee express support for efforts to attract funding to provide internet connectivity to all homes on Thetis Island by requesting staff to draft letters to be signed by the Chair on behalf of the Local Trust Committee to advise the Thetis Island Economic Enhancement Corporation, the Cowichan Valley Regional District Board, the 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 Thetis Island, as well as funding for Internet Service Provider (ISP) supported last mile

fibre connections to all homes on Thetis Island, including advising the Cowichan 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.”

The LTC understands the underlying principles that improved, high-speed broadband internet connections for residents in rural and remote communities will in turn help to improve their quality of life. Improved connectivity can help community members to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions via reduced travel, access education and health services, participate in economic opportunities that are compatible with the conservation of island resources, and better participate in the decision-making processes of all levels of government.

The LTC, through the [Islands Trust Reconciliation Declaration](#) and the [Thetis Island Standing Resolution](#) on First Nations relationships, encourage any efforts to improve connectivity on the island to involve engagement with First Nations at a government-to-government level, and that any solutions avoid impacts to cultural heritage and archaeological sites.

As the local government responsible for land use planning on Thetis Island, the LTC strongly supports the work of the CVRD and TICEEC and their efforts to secure funding to pursue solutions for a fibre connection to the Thetis Community and for Internet Service Provider (ISP) supported last-mile fibre connections. Additionally, the LTC supports the CVRD’s interest in providing the 10% funding requirement by community for a Government of Canada Universal Broadband Fund grant.

Sincerely,



Laura Patrick  
Chair, Thetis Island Local Trust Committee

pc: Lisa Wilcox, Senior Intergovernmental Policy Advisor, Islands Trust  
Jim Chisholm, Band Manager, Penelakut Tribe  
Clare Frater, Director, Trust Area Services, Islands Trust  
Thetis Local Trust Committee  
Marnie Eggen, Island Planner, Islands Trust  
Judy Mills, Economic Development Cowichan

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