



# PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

## Broadband Internet and Mobility Committee Meeting Agenda

July 16, 2025, 10:00 a.m.  
1981 Alaska Avenue, Dawson Creek, BC

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1. CALL TO ORDER	
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## BROADBAND INTERNET AND MOBILITY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

**April 30, 2025, 10:00 a.m.**  
**1981 Alaska Avenue, Dawson Creek, BC**

Directors Present:	Chair Quibell, District of Hudson's Hope (via Zoom) Director Dober, City of Dawson Creek (via Zoom) Director Graham, Electoral Area B (via Zoom) Director Hansen, City of Fort St. John (via Zoom) Chair Hiebert, Electoral Area D Alternate Director Norbury, District of Tumbler Ridge (via Zoom) Director Sperling, Electoral Area C Director Veach, Village of Pouce Coupe Director Zabinsky, City of Fort St. John
Directors Absent	Director Courtoreille, District of Chetwynd Director Rose, Electoral Area E Director Taillefer, District of Taylor
Staff Present:	Shawn Dahlen, Chief Administrative Officer Tyra Henderson, Corporate Officer Joanne Caldecott, Deputy Corporate Officer Trevor Ouellette, IT Manager Terri Henrickson, Regional Connectivity Coordinator/Recorder
Invited Guest:	<b><u>Network BC Ministry of Citizens' Services</u></b> Rachel Greenspan, Executive Director, Network BC (via Zoom)
Delegations:	<b><u>Ministry of Citizens' Services Re: Internet Affordability Presentation</u></b> Ian Hobbs, Executive Director Project Management (via Zoom)  <b><u>Northwest Re: Northern Rockies Project Update Presentation</u></b> Kerry Newkirk, Director, Indigenous and Stakeholder Relations (via Zoom)

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- 1. CALL TO ORDER**  
The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.
  - 2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**  
MOVED Director Veach  
SECONDED Director Hiebert  
That the Broadband Internet and Mobility Committee adopt the April 30, 2025 agenda:
    - 1. CALL TO ORDER**
    - 2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**



**3. GALLERY COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS**

**4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

a. Broadband Internet and Mobility Committee Draft Meeting Minutes of January 24, 2024

**5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**6. DELEGATIONS**

6.1 Ministry of Citizens' Services Re: Internet Affordability Presentation

6.2 Northwestel Re: Presentation

**7. CORRESPONDENCE**

7.1 Request for Support - BC First Nations Network - Connecting the Disconnected Project

**8. REPORTS**

**9. NEW BUSINESS**

**10. CONSENT CALENDAR**

10.1 CRTC Extends 911 System Transition Deadline. ADM-BIMC-034

10.2 Prophet River First Nation Data Centre Letter of Intent (LOI), ADM-BIMC -035

10.3 CRTC Broadband Internet Subsidy and its impact on Northern BC, ADM-BIMC-036

10.4 Broadband Internet and Mobility Committee Terms of Reference

10.5 Broadband Internet and Mobility Committee Guiding Principles

10.6 Regional Connectivity Service Establishment Bylaw No. 2487, 2022

**11. RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION**

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

**CARRIED**

**3. GALLERY COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS**

**4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**4.1 Broadband Internet and Mobility Committee Draft Meeting Minutes of January 24, 2025**

MOVED

Director Dober

SECONDED

Director Hiebert

That the Broadband Internet and Mobility Committee Meeting Minutes of January 24, 2025 be adopted.

**CARRIED**

**5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**6. DELEGATIONS**

**6.1 Ministry of Citizens' Services Re: Internet Affordability Presentation**

The Chair welcomed Ian Hobbs, Executive Director, Project Management with the Ministry of Citizens Services who gave a presentation regarding Internet Affordability.

The following topics were included in the presentation:

- Shared Learning from Affordability Activities
- Canadian telecom dilemma - ubiquitous access for all citizens vs competition to drive service innovation and price
- Elements of achieving Digital Equity
- Two differing "internet affordability" focuses
- Internet Affordability Supports - Current State

#### **6.1 Ministry of Citizens' Services Re: Internet Affordability Presentation (Cont'd)**

- Federal Connecting Families Initiative (CFI)
- Internet Affordability Supports - The Gaps
- Low-income household's internet affordability supports gap analysis
- Telecom Federally Regulated in Canada
- CRTC National Contribution Fund (NCF)
- Internet Affordability Supports - Desired Outcome & Actions
- CRTC 2025-9/10

Six percent of homes that do not have internet fall under three categories: Those who are culturally not interested, those who lack digital skills, and those who can't afford it (or low-income homes). Low-income homes are considered to be those that can't afford the average \$75 price per month for Internet. This average affordability price is set by the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) which is a division of the United Nations, and it uses a formula of 2% of income as its affordability target price for low-income affordability. A person with an income of \$25,000 who pays \$75 a month for internet is paying twice the ITU target for the Internet. The desired internet rate for affordability for low-income users is approximately \$20 - \$25 per month.

The presenter advised that generally, Canada is doing well in an affordability perspective in that the large Internet Service Providers (ISPs) do provide \$10 - \$35 plans. The challenge is that the eligibility criteria differs between Internet Service Providers, and Satellite Internet Service Providers do not typically provide low-income plans.

Marketing of the low-income internet service plans needs to be addressed, and more awareness of those plans needs to be brought to the public's attention. All levels of government should have a plan to draw awareness to these plans. Telecom providers do not have access to citizen income information therefore they use the federal ministries to make contact with the public to let those who are on federal income assistance programs know that they are eligible for low-income plans. Federal Connecting Families Initiative (an ISED program) is a marketing program; its only focus is to market what the Internet Service Providers (ISPs) have available. Direct mailout campaigns are used by the federal government to inform those who are eligible for the low-income plans, like those receiving a guaranteed income supplement benefit and those receiving a Canada Family Benefit supplement from the government.

The Connecting Families Initiative Program (CFI) needs to update their information to match the new rates and plans available from ISPs. There are 2.8 million homes living below the poverty line in Canada and only 85,000 homes participating in the CFI program. There is a lot of room for growth or increase to the program and marketing and awareness is likely the key to increasing participation in the program. There are also homes that are within the service footprint of service providers, but they don't meet the low-income requirements of the larger ISPs. Additionally, there are others that are served by smaller ISP's or satellite ISPs that don't offer low-income plans.

#### **6.1 Ministry of Citizens' Services Re: Internet Affordability Presentation (Cont'd)**

There is a need to make ISPs low-income plan eligibility criteria consistent across the board and to get smaller ISPs assistance to provide the same types of low-income plans. Local government and provincial government cannot interfere with ISP rates because they are federally regulated and managed.

Innovation Science and Economic Development (ISED) has collected over \$20 Billion in spectrum revenues and continues to make money from spectrum and spectrum renewal revenues from the industry. Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunication (CRTC) has the National Contribution Fund (which is like a tax and collects about \$200 Million with a portion of that used to fund the Universal Broadband Fund). National Contribution Funds (NCF) that are collected year after year should be used for addressing affordability issues, while the Spectrum revenues should continue to be used for the Universal Broadband Fund and the building of infrastructure.

A question-and-answer period ensued which included discussion on the following topics:

- Highspeed Internet and pricing plans that are available from ISPs such as TELUS and Rogers to low-income homes.
- Discussed the opportunity for Directors to share the information about the plans to their residents.
- Discussed informing seniors of the low-income plans. It was noted that seniors also struggle with the ability and competency to even be able to access or apply for the low-income plans and the technology that surrounds that process.
- Citizens Services is working to collaborate with various ministry departments and local facilities like libraries to form a plan that will educate seniors in the digital realm and skills. Cyber security and fraud protection advocacy is a main priority in assisting seniors.

Director Veach left the room at 10:35 a.m. and returned at 10:37 a.m.

Rachel Greenspan left the meeting at 10:43 a.m.

Chair Quibell thanked Ian Hobbs for presenting and he left the meeting at 10:46 a.m.

#### **6.2 NorthwTel Re: Northern Rockies Project Update Presentation**

The Chair welcomed Kerry Newkirk, Director Indigenous and Stakeholder Relations with NorthwTel who gave a presentation update titled "Northern Rockies Project Update".

The following topics were included in the presentation:

- Northern Canada's fibre network
- Northern BC - Planned FTTH expansion
- Northern BC 2025 Community Activities
- Northern BC Communities like Royal Lodge, Buffalo Loge, Wonowon and Halfway River First Nation
- Final Agreements with CCBC and BC Hydro and 'make ready' or pole preparations for fibre attachment.

## 6.2 NorthwesTel Re: Northern Rockies Project Update Presentation (Cont'd)

NorthwesTel reaches as far as Nunavut and serves over 97 households across the north. Halfway River is the furthest south community they serve. There is a Fibre loop owned and managed by NorthwesTel; it comes down through Mackenzie Valley, up through Dawson City and up to Nunavik. This has helped immensely in helping to maintain service in these areas. A few years back the fires caused damage to the fibre line connection points and cell service was out for two days in the Yukon because of fire damage. The remedy was a line built in Alaska and another in Alberta to prevent outages if fires happen again.

NorthwesTel has been working with Connecting Communities BC (CCBC) and Innovation, Science and Economic Development (ISED) for approximately eight years now to try to get fibre into the communities. Because Fort Nelson meets the minimum standards of 50/10, it does not meet the criteria needed to get funding for fibre builds in that area to further expand fibre affordably. Delays have occurred on projects because of permitting of BC Hydro Poles and “make ready” pole requirements and these delays cost money. Currently, NorthwesTel, Connecting Communities and BC Hydro are currently in the final stages of working through pole readiness for fibre connecting and currently the responsibility for the pole readiness is now back on BC Hydro at this time. Funding is now available for BC Hydro to ready the poles and will help them to do that.

The transport fibre that runs through the Peace River Regional district is not normally cut into because once it is cut into, the integrity of the fibre transport line is compromised. So individual residences that are nearby still may not get fibre because the fibre transport was not built to branch off to individual residences.

2026 Fibre Construction plans include Wonowon, Liard River, Toad River, Muncho Lake, Prophet River, and Upper Halfway River etc. Ideally, NorthwesTel would like to get everyone off copper lines because it costs more to maintain them and it is an outdated infrastructure that can't carry the telecommunication needs of the future.

NorthwesTel is a part of the Federal program Connecting Families and offers \$10 - \$20 low income plans for its customers and relies on the CRA to notify anyone who receives the child care benefit subsidy or receives an old age pension and inform them of their eligibility for the program and provide instructions to take their letter to NorthwesTel to connect to internet with the cheaper plan and service. Currently however this is only available where fibre plants are available.

A question-and-answer period ensued which included discussion on the following topics:

- Discussion about what exactly is “High speed” fibre? The national standard is 50/10 and is really only capable of a zoom call and a small amount of downloading or data exchange. But the national standard should actually be doubled or 6 times that for future technology and usage to allow for streaming and downloading ease.
- Concerns were raised regarding Upper Halfway Hall and Band office and that is not currently connected to the NorthwesTel fibre line. Upper Halfway is looking at Starlink as an option. Kerry Newkirk confirmed that he would follow up on this with his sales department. The issue could be that Upper Halfway is expected to pay business rates

**6.2 NorthwesTel Re: Northern Rockies Project Update Presentation (Cont'd)**

and may not want to pay the price and see Starlink as an affordable option that gives them the service they need.

- NorthwesTel will become a wholly indigenous company this year.

Chair Quibell thanked Kerry Newkirk for presenting. Kerry Newkirk offered his assistance and availability anytime for any questions that Directors may have.

**7. CORRESPONDENCE**

**7.1 Request for Support - BC First Nations Network - Connecting the Disconnected Project**

MOVED Director Sperling

SECONDED Director Zabinsky

That the Broadband Internet and Mobility Committee recommend that the Regional Board send a letter of support to the First Nations Telecom Network to assist with their funding application to the Canada Infrastructure Bank for the 'Connecting the Disconnected Project', an initiative to enhance connectivity by providing reliable, secure and culturally respectful digital infrastructure in Indigenous and remote communities, including Tsay Keh Dene and Kwadacha Nation, to secure long term benefits to education, healthcare, governance, and economic development in the impacted communities.

**CARRIED**

**8. REPORTS**

**9. NEW BUSINESS**

**10. CONSENT CALENDAR**

MOVED Director Sperling

SECONDED Director Veach

That the Broadband Internet and Mobility Committee receive the April 30, 2025 Consent Calendar.

**CARRIED**

**11. RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION**

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:10 a.m.

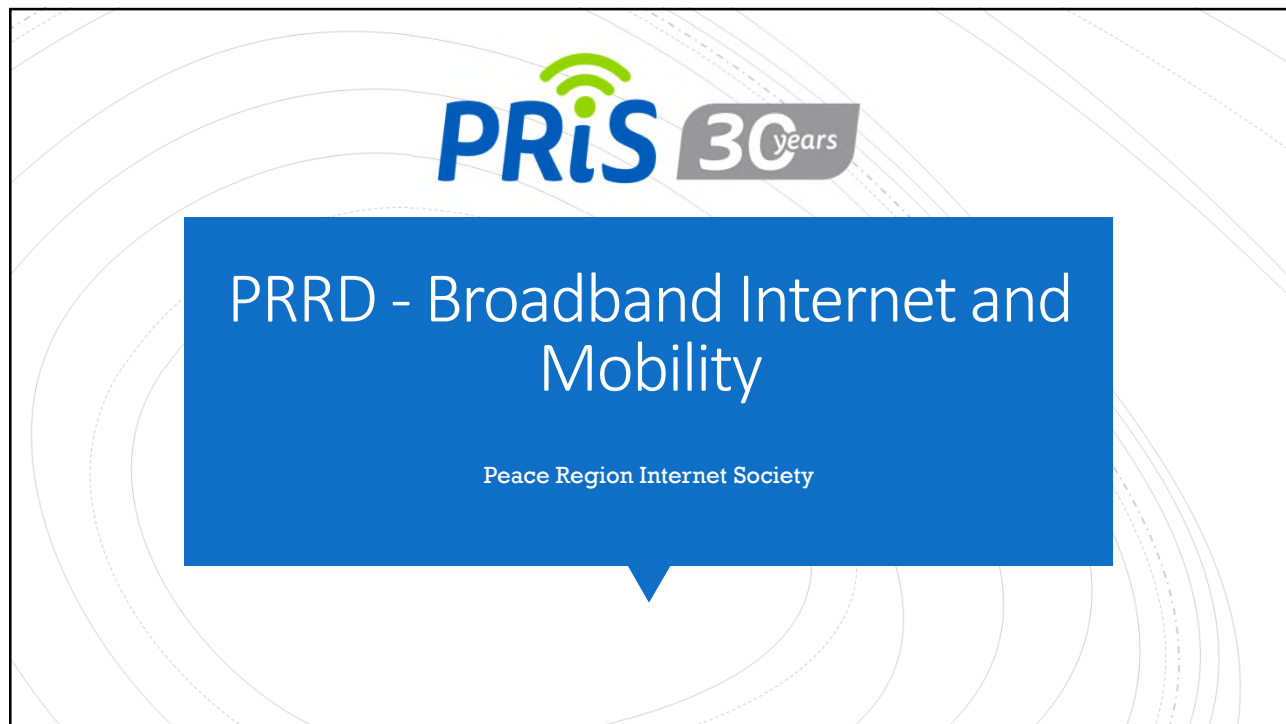
CERTIFIED a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Peace River Regional District Broadband Internet and Mobility Committee Meeting held on April 30, 2025 in the PRRD Board Room, 1981 Alaska Avenue, Dawson Creek, BC.

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Travous Quibell, Chair

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Terri Henrickson, Regional Connectivity  
Coordinator/Recording Clerk



1

What is PRiS?

**Peace Region Internet Society (PRiS)**

- PRiS is a non-profit internet service provider, formed in 1994.
- We are owned by our membership, which includes residents throughout the Peace Region of British Columbia and Saddle Hills County, Alberta.
- As a non-profit, all revenues are re-invested directly into our network to improve service quality and support for our members.

2

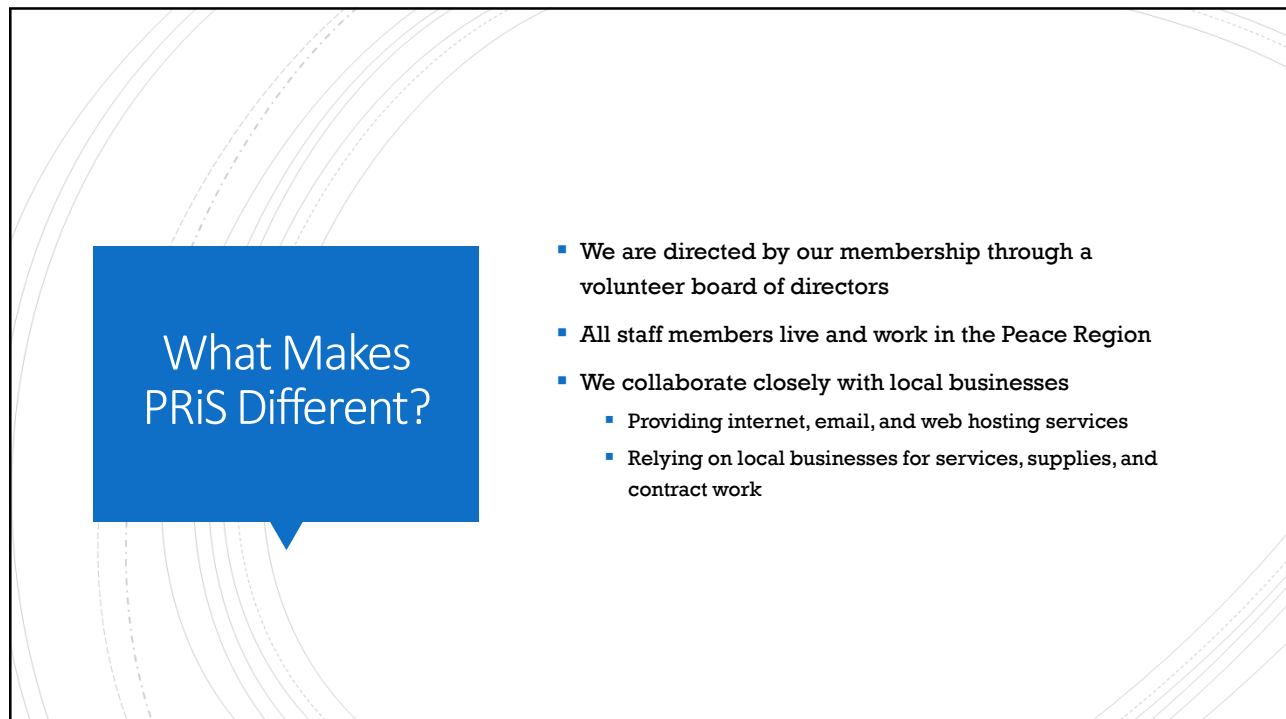


The slide features a light gray background with faint, curved, concentric lines. On the left, there is a blue speech bubble pointing downwards, containing the text "Our Mission". To the right of the speech bubble, there is a single bullet point.

Our Mission

- To provide high-quality, affordable internet access to residents and businesses in the Peace Region, bridging the digital divide and supporting community growth, education, and economic development.

3

The slide features a light gray background with faint, curved, concentric lines. On the left, there is a blue speech bubble pointing downwards, containing the text "What Makes PRiS Different?". To the right of the speech bubble, there are three bullet points, with the third one having two sub-bullet points.

What Makes PRiS Different?

- We are directed by our membership through a volunteer board of directors
- All staff members live and work in the Peace Region
- We collaborate closely with local businesses
  - Providing internet, email, and web hosting services
  - Relying on local businesses for services, supplies, and contract work

4

## What Makes PRiS Different?

- No contracts
  - All plans are month-to-month with no long-term commitments
- No hidden fees, upsells, or required deposits
- Hardware is included at no extra cost
  - Equipment is kept up to date — no extra fees
  - WiFi routers are provided and fully supported
- No deposits required to get services

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## What Makes PRiS Different?

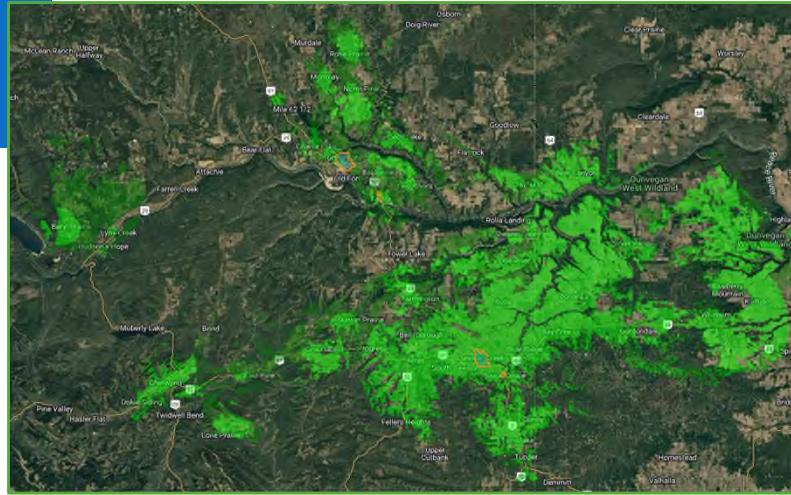
- Install costs are affordable
  - Standard residential install rate is \$149 for rural service
  - No surprises or hidden fees
- Service guarantee:
  - Full refund available within the first 30 days
- Technical Support and Call Outs
  - Helpdesk is done by local technicians
  - Service calls are done within 1-2 business days, sometimes the same day.

6

## Our Service Area

### Communities served:

Dawson Creek  
Fort St. John  
Chetwynd  
Pouce Coupe  
Tomslake  
Progress  
Rose Prairie  
Arras  
North Pine  
Lone Prairie  
Clayhurst  
Montney  
And many, many more...



*A lot of places!*

7

## What kinds of services does PRiS Provide?

- **Rural Wireless**
  - The majority of our members connect through our rural wireless network
  - Service reaches farms, acreages, and remote households throughout the Peace Region
- **Cable Services**
  - Resell DOCIS cable based services for members in Dawson Creek, Fort St. John, Taylor and Pouce Coupe.
  - Providing a similar service to our members, but at an affordable monthly cost – no contracts or hidden fees.
- **Urban Wireless**
  - Internet access for in-town locations where other providers fall short
  - Tailored for members in areas with poor or inconsistent service

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## Our Challenges

- **Lack of Fibre Access**
  - Fibre infrastructure is unavailable in many of the areas we serve
  - Where fibre is present, gaining access is often cost-prohibitive due to high transport fees, expensive buildout requirements, and ongoing monthly charges set by major telecom providers
  - These costs make it fiscally unworkable for a non-profit provider to sustainably deliver service using existing fibre networks
- **Regulatory and Licensing Barriers**
  - Accessing licensed spectrum or gaining approvals can delay projects

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## Our Challenges

- **Small membership base**
  - Economies of scale, high costs to provide services to low density areas
  - Aggressive marketing by incumbents to specific members

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## New Projects for 2025

- Briar Ridge/Rolla Upgrades
  - Download Speeds upgraded to 200Mbps
  - 36 Homes Upgraded, Approx. 250 km2 of coverage
  - Completed June 2025
- North Pine Upgrade
  - New Download Speeds up to 200Mbps
  - 45 Homes to be Upgraded, Approx. 100 km2 of coverage
  - Scheduled for Completion August 2025
- Bear Mountain/Arras Upgrades
  - New Download Speeds up to 200Mbps
  - 67 Homes to be Upgraded, approx. 550 km2 of coverage
  - Scheduled for Completion September 2025

11

## Thank you!

We appreciate the PRRD's continued support.

12



# REPORT

To: Broadband Internet and Mobility Committee

Report Number: ADM-BIMC-037

From: Administration

Date: July 16, 2025

**Subject: Seniors Aging in Place - Low Income Internet and Mobility Plans**

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## **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Broadband Internet and Mobility Committee recommend the Regional Board authorize that informational pamphlets detailing the cellular and internet plans available in the Peace Region for low income residents be provided to Seniors Aging in Place clients as program delivery allows, to raise awareness for seniors of low-cost access to internet services.

## **BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:**

On April 30, 2025, the Broadband Internet and Mobility Committee (BIMC) received a presentation from Ian Hobbs from the Ministry of Citizens' Services regarding internet affordability. The presentation highlighted the importance of promoting low-income programs offered by Internet Service Providers (ISPs) within the Peace River Regional District (PRRD) and encouraged the PRRD to explore additional outreach methods.

Subsequently, on May 28, 2025 staff met with TELUS to review its low-income "Internet for Good" initiative and corresponding senior mobility plans. During a follow-up meeting with Rogers on June 25, 2025 the details of the Rogers "Connected for Success" program were discussed. For both programs, eligibility is required through a Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) data match for Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) or the CPP Disability Benefit.

While broad provincial-wide outreach is helpful, local promotion remains necessary to ensure all eligible seniors are aware of—and can easily apply for—these discounted services.

To strengthen local awareness, staff propose distributing printed pamphlets through the PRRD Seniors Aging in Place (SAIP) Program. PRRD staff have been provided pamphlets summarizing low-income internet and cellular options from TELUS and Rogers. Agencies and contractors who deliver SAIP services and who have direct contact with clients could share the pamphlets — not more than twice per year — when conducting regular meal deliveries, housekeeping or snow-removal visits and in the welcome packages given to new SAIP clients in Electoral Areas D and E. This low-impact approach places cost-saving information directly in the hands of local seniors, some of whom may be low-income, or have friends and associates with whom they could share the information as well. Program staff may be able to help eligible seniors navigate application processes and enroll in the programs, thereby reducing monthly connectivity expenses. Affordable, reliable internet and mobile service are key supports that enable seniors to remain safely and comfortably in their homes, and the SAIP bylaw authorizes non-medical services related to technology support.

**ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:**

1. That the Broadband Internet and Mobility Committee provide further direction.

**STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:**

- ☒ Not Applicable to Strategic Plan

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):**

Function 135 – Regional Connectivity has a \$5,000 advertising services budget (01-2-1000-5010-135) that allows for allocating a modest portion to print the PDF brochures supplied by the internet service providers.

**COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):**

If approved, Staff will supply the Seniors Aging in Place Program delivery staff with brochures provided by TELUS and Rogers for distribution to clients.

**OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):**

The Dawson Creek Society for Community Living is contracted by Peace River Regional District to deliver SAIP services. They will be asked to distribute the brochures to their contractors for delivery to clients.

**External Links:**

1. [Seniors Aging in Place Information \(PRRD web page\)](#)
2. [Seniors Aging In Place Program Brochure \(DC Society for Community Living web page\)](#)
3. [TELUS Internet for Good or Mobility for Good](#)
4. [Rogers Connected for Success](#)
5. [Internet Affordability Presentation](#) (April 30, 2025 BIMC Meeting, Agenda Item 6.1)



## **Broadband Internet and Mobility Committee Terms of Reference**

### **1. Committee Vision**

- 1.1 Residents, businesses, and organizations within the PRRD will have access to reliable, redundant, high-speed Broadband Internet services in their homes, businesses and public buildings, at performance levels that meet all of their needs for health, education, economic development, that are delivered now and into the future.

### **2. Purpose**

- 2.1 The purpose of the Committee is to implement the PRRD's Connectivity Strategy.

### **3. Definitions**

**"Delegation"** means any person who has requested to speak or make a presentation to the Committee.

**'Invited Guest'** means a person who has been requested by the Committee to participate in a Committee Meeting or make presentation to the Committee.

**"Member"** includes Directors, and persons who are not Directors whom have been appointed by the Board to the Committee.

### **4. Role of the Committee:**

- 3.1 The roles of the Committee include:
- a) Engage with service providers and stakeholders;
  - b) Research and review current technologies and market trends;
  - c) Develop a Broadband Internet and Mobility connectivity work plan,
  - d) Identify specific projects to enhance Broadband Internet and Mobility connectivity within the PRRD;
  - e) Examine funding opportunities,
  - f) Recommend to the Regional Board formal or informal partnership opportunities that would enhance the success of connectivity related projects;
  - g) Make recommendations to the Regional Board in the development and implementation of policies, procedures, bylaws, reports and actions plans to enhance Broadband Internet and Mobility connectivity;
  - h) Recommend grant applications for connectivity projects for the Board's review and submission; and
  - i) Complete community consultation on the development and implementation of broadband connectivity plans and projects, and report back to the Regional Board.



## **5. Structure of the Committee**

- 5.1 The Broadband Internet and Mobility Committee will consist of all 12 Regional Board Directors, or their appointed alternates.
- 5.2 The Regional Board Chair may appoint additional Members who are not Directors to the Committee.
- 5.3 The Committee may make recommendations to the Regional Board to appoint additional Members who are not Directors to the Committee.
- 5.4 The Regional Board may, by Board resolution, change the Members of the Committee as needed.
- 5.5 The Committee Meetings will be chaired by a Committee Member elected by the Committee on an annual basis at the first Meeting of the calendar year.
- 5.6 A Vice-Chair will be elected by the Committee on an annual basis at the first Meeting of the calendar year.
- 5.7 In the absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chair will chair the Meeting.
- 5.8 The Committee or Committee Chair, may invite guests to attend and participate in Meetings.

## **6. Meetings**

- 6.1 The Committee shall meet annually in January, April, July and October.
- 6.2 A Special Meeting may be called at the request of the Committee Chair, by any two Directors named to the Committee, or by Board resolution.
- 6.3 Notice of a Special Meeting must be delivered in writing to each Director at least five days before the date of the Meeting.
- 6.4 Regular Committee Meetings may be cancelled by Committee Resolution, or when the Committee Chair determines there is insufficient business to convene a meeting, provided that at least two days written notice is given.
- 6.5 Meetings will be open to the public, unless authorized to be closed as per Section 90 of the *Community Charter*.

## **7. Meeting Agendas**

- 7.1 Agendas for Regular Committee Meetings will be published to the PRRD website the Friday before the Meeting.
- 7.2 Items for the regular agenda must be provided to Administration by noon the Monday prior to agenda publishing.

## **8. Meeting Minutes**

8.1 The Committee Meeting minutes will be placed on the Board Agenda Consent Calendar.

## **9. Participation**

9.1 Committee Meetings may be conducted by means of an Electronic Meeting.

9.2 In the case of an Electronic Meeting, the Meeting facilities must enable the public to hear the Committee Members participating electronically for the open portions of the Meeting.

9.3 The Committee Chair may request that an electronic participant be disconnected if there is significant noise, interference or other disturbance that is disruptive to the proceedings, or if the quality of the connection does not permit the public or other members to hear, or see and hear, the member who is participating electronically.

## **10. Quorum**

10.1 A simple majority, one Member more than 50%, shall constitute a quorum at all Regular and Special Meetings.

10.2 If there is no quorum within 30 minutes after the time specified in the notice of the Meeting, the Meeting is cancelled, and all business on the agenda for that Meeting must be dealt with at the next Regular or Special Meeting.

## **11. Delegations and Presentations**

11.1 Delegations will be limited to two per Meeting.

11.2 The maximum time for of a delegation before the Committee is 15 minutes.

11.3 The maximum time for a presentation of an Invited Guest of the Committee is 60 minutes, unless otherwise permitted by resolution of the Committee.

11.4 Any materials to be distributed to the Committee as part of a delegation or presentation must be included on the Meeting Agenda.

## **12. Voting**

12.1 Director and their appointed alternates under the *Local Government Act Sections 200 and 201* are the voting Members of the Committee.

12.2 Committee Members appointed to the Committee by the Regional Board who are not Directors are non-voting Members.

12.3 Where a Director who is present when a vote is taken abstains from voting, that Director shall be deemed to have voted in the affirmative.

12.4 After the vote is taken, the Committee Chair shall state the names of those Directors voting in the negative, and the Recorder will enter those names in the minutes.

12.5 All recommendations of the Committee shall be determined by majority vote.

12.6 Tie votes will be defeated.

Date Committee Established	May 27, 2021	Board Resolution #	RD/21/05/13
Date TOR Approved by Board	July 22, 2021	Board Resolution #	RD/21/07/13
Amendment Date		Board Resolution #	
Amendment Date		Board Resolution #	
Amendment Date		Board Resolution #	



## **Broadband Internet and Mobility Committee Guiding Principles**

- ✓ Connectivity is essential to strengthening the social, economic, ecological, and cultural resilience within the region.
- ✓ Connectivity and technology shapes residents' choices, behaviours, and needs.
- ✓ Connectivity is pertinent to all regional district planning and decision-making.
- ✓ The Regional District has a role in ensuring residents have access to high-speed Broadband Internet.
- ✓ The Regional District views Broadband infrastructure as essential infrastructure.
- ✓ The nature and expense of connectivity deployment requires a forward-looking vision to maximize potential and coordinate efforts within the regional district.
- ✓ Convergence of public and private infrastructure where it benefits the public and protects public interests is good public policy.
- ✓ Access to Broadband Internet and infrastructure must be leveraged through Official Community Plans, regional growth planning, and spatial planning (i.e. land use by-laws, subdivision by-laws) to maximize the potential within the region.
- ✓ An understanding of the true drivers and needs for connectivity will inform decisions.
- ✓ Leveraging one infrastructure to advance another (i.e. dig once policies) is in the public interest.
- ✓ Access to Broadband Internet and infrastructure allows the regional district to retain and grow businesses, create and retain skilled workers, and re-invigorate communities.
- ✓ Broadband Redundancy is essential to protect Internet, telephone, cellular, and essential government services throughout the region in the event of damage to Broadband Infrastructure at any time.

## PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

### Bylaw No. 2487, 2022

#### *A bylaw to establish a Regional Connectivity Service*

WHEREAS, pursuant to the *Local Government Act*, a regional district may establish and operate any service that the Board considers necessary or desirable for all or part of the Regional District;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the *Local Government Act*, a regional district exercising a power to provide a service other than a general service, is required to adopt a bylaw respecting that service;

AND WHEREAS the Regional Board recognizes that the Government of Canada has approved a national connectivity strategy that targets provision of access to Broadband for all Canadians at speeds of at least 50 Megabits per second (Mbps) download / 10 Mbps upload, and mobile wireless coverage availability where Canadians live and work, and along major road corridors;

AND WHEREAS the Regional Board supports the Province of British Columbia's commitment to connect rural and remote communities and First Nations in every part of BC to high-speed internet over the next five years;

AND WHEREAS the Regional Board adopted the Peace River Regional District Connectivity Strategy on November 14, 2021 to identify options and actions for the Regional Board to ensure that critical high-speed Broadband Internet services are accessible throughout the entire district;

AND WHEREAS pursuant to the *Local Government Act*, consent for the establishment of the regional connectivity service through adoption of this bylaw has been obtained;

NOW THEREFORE the Board of the Peace River Regional District, in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

#### **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

1. This bylaw shall be cited as "Regional Connectivity Service Establishment Bylaw No. 2487, 2022".
2. If any portion of this bylaw is declared invalid by a court, the invalid portion shall be severed and the remainder of the bylaw is deemed valid.
3. The headings used in this bylaw are for convenience only and do not form part of this bylaw, and are not to be used in the interpretation of this bylaw.
4. Any enactment referred to herein is a reference to an enactment of the Province of British Columbia and regulations thereto, as amended, revised, consolidated, or replaced from time to time.

#### **DEFINITIONS**

5. In this Bylaw,  
**'Broadband Infrastructure'** means infrastructure that supports or enables access to high-speed internet, cellular networks, or other telecommunication networks.

**SERVICE BEING ESTABLISHED**

6. The Peace River Regional District hereby establishes a service to be known as “Regional Connectivity Service” that authorizes the Regional District to:
  - a) Enter into partnering agreements with internet or cellular service providers to apply for grant funding from other levels of government or grant programs for Broadband Infrastructure,
  - b) Enter into partnering agreements to allow the PRRD to provide capital grants for Broadband Infrastructure projects, and
  - c) Provide Peace River Regional District resources required to manage and advance Broadband Initiatives.
7. The establishment of this service includes the authority to borrow funds for the provision of the service.

**SERVICE AREA BOUNDARY**

8. The service area boundary is the entire Peace River Regional District.

**PARTICIPATING AREA**

9. The participating areas are all Electoral Areas and all member municipalities of the Peace River Regional District.

**COST RECOVERY**

10. The annual cost of providing the Service within the service area boundary as defined in Clause 9 above, shall be recovered by one of more of the following:
  - a) A property value tax imposed pursuant to the provisions of the *Local Government Act*, levied against the net taxable value of improvements only;
  - b) Revenues raised by other means authorized by the *Local Government Act*, or another Act;
  - c) Revenues raised by way of agreement, enterprise, gift, grant, or otherwise.

**MAXIMUM REQUISITION**

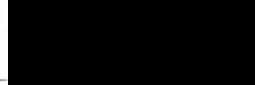
11. The maximum requisition limit that may be requisitioned in any one year for the service is the greater of \$375,000 or an amount equal to the amount that could be raised by a property value tax of **\$0.0234/\$1,000** when applied to the net taxable value of land and improvements in the service area.

READ A FIRST TIME this 26<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2022.

READ A SECOND TIME this 26<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2022.

READ A THIRD TIME this 26<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2022.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THE FOREGOING to be a true and correct copy of Bylaw No. 2487, 2022 cited as "Regional Connectivity Service Establishment Bylaw No. 2487, 2022" as read a third time by the Regional Board of the Peace River Regional District at a meeting held on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2022.

  
Tyra Henderson, Corporate Officer

APPROVED by the Inspector of Municipalities this 5<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2022.

RECEIVED the assent of the electors on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2022.


ADOPTED this 10<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2022.

Filed with the Inspector of Municipalities this 12<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2022.

  
~~Brad Sperling, Chair~~

Leonard Herbert, Chair

(Corporate Seal has been affixed to the original bylaw)

  
Tyra Henderson, Corporate Officer

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of  
"Regional Connectivity Service Establishment Bylaw No. 2487, 2022"  
as adopted by the Peace River Regional District  
Board on Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

  
Tyra Henderson, Corporate Officer