



March 30, 2021

Peace River Regional District
Box 810, 1981 Alaska Highway Avenue
Dawson Creek, BC V1G 4H8

Attention: Crystal Brown

Re: Letter of support for Peace River Regional District Connectivity Infrastructure Needs Assessment Project

Dear Ms. Brown,

PETRONAS Canada is encouraged to hear that the Peace River Regional District ("PRRD") is engaging in a connectivity study to pro-actively address the broadband technology divide that exists within the region and would like to express our support for this initiative.

We have been operating within the Peace River Regional District and part of the Fort St. John and area community for nearly 20 years and have seen the commitment the District has made to support rural residents and advance economic development within northeast British Columbia. We recognize and commend the districts' actions to progress a regional network in support of businesses, residents and economic growth. Connectivity is integral to ensure progressive communities as we embrace the digital age that we find ourselves in.

Through our involvement in the region we have heard first-hand the difference connectivity, or lack thereof, can make for area residents. Being able to connect with friends, family, access education, health care services and emergency response is essential. The global pandemic and a shift to working from home for many individuals further demonstrates how essential access to broadband is. The connectivity study can help to outline opportunities for infrastructure development and has the potential to add to the overall economic benefit of the region.

We look forward to engaging with this and other initiatives that support local communities and economic development.

Regards,



Shannon Young
Director, External Affairs

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