



PRRD: Regional Connectivity Strategy Report

Project Review & Status – Halfway
Broadband Internet and Mobility Committee
July 17, 2024

PW Project: 2024-20
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Client: Peace River Regional District (PRRD)



Project Approach

Phase 1: Collect information regarding connectivity using publicly available information

Phase 2: Conduct Interviews to verify collected information and discuss potential strategy options to achieve goals; two parallel streams

- *Phase 2.1- Interview Funders and Service Providers*
- *Phase 2.2 – Interview User Representatives*

Phase 3: Generate Report



Project Goal Broadband



Develop strategies for PRRD and for the cities, municipalities, electoral districts and First Nations so that every dwelling in every community can ***affordably*** access the benefits of 50/10 from at least one service provider.

This involves determining by community, which communities are:

- 50/10 with FTTP
- 50/10 with a technology other than FTTP and will need to be upgraded to FTTP after 2030
- Do not have 50/10 but are either funded for FTTP project or are the subject of funding application before CCBC

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Some FTTP Observations



2024 has been a busy year for FTTP funding and funding applications in the PRRD:

- Service Providers obtained FTTP funding for 5 communities in January 2024, bringing the total to 25 rural communities of 81 total, with FTTP or with approved FTTP funding
- CCBC had two application intakes ending March 2024 and June 2024 where we believe between the two intakes, CCBC received applications for 82+ rural communities in the PRRD, indicating application overlap among service providers

Only one service provider is awarded FTTP funding per community

Once CCBC processes the funding applications and negotiates with the service providers, it will be very important for PRRD to re-evaluate next Spring which rural communities are funded and which got cut.

Once funding is in place, the next challenge will be to ensure that the service providers build the network as funded.

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Project Goal Cellular



Develop strategies for the PRRD and for the cities, municipalities, electoral districts and First Nation so that all highways and major roads within the PRRD have cellular coverage for at least emergency messaging calling.

- This involves determining which highways and communities have cellular coverage, the cost to infill the coverage holes and weighing these costs against technologies like LEO which now allow emergency texts and will evolve

Develop strategies for every PRRD community to be able to access the benefits of 5G from at least one service provider.

- This involves identifying which communities have available cell tower infrastructure.



Questions?