



PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

From the Offices of PRRD  
Electoral Area Directors

May 10, 2024

File: 5500.21



Kerry Newkirk  
Director, Indigenous and Stakeholder Relations  
NorthwesTel

Via email: [knewkirk@nwtel.ca](mailto:knewkirk@nwtel.ca)

Dear Mr. Newkirk,

**Re: NorthwesTel Residential Fibre Deployment Project in Peace River Regional District**

At the May 9, 2024 Electoral Area Directors Committee meeting, the Electoral Area Directors discussed the request from NorthwesTel for a letter of support regarding a project proposal that is before the Connecting Communities BC Program (CCBC) for residential fibre deployment to Upper Halfway, Buckinghorse, Pink Mountain, Trutch, and Wonowon within the Peace River Regional District (PRRD).

After consideration and discussion, the Electoral Area Directors Committee subsequently passed a resolution to send a letter to request answers to the Director's questions seeking the following information:

- Please provide a detailed map with additional information regarding the proposed construction route and infrastructure plans, particularly focusing on the areas of Upper Halfway, Buckinghorse, Pink Mountain, Trutch and Wonowon within Area B of the PRRD.
- Please provide a detailed scope of work regarding this project. This would include a breakdown of tasks, timelines, and any other relevant information to help us better understand the project's execution plan.
- We are interested in gaining insight into how this project will directly or indirectly benefit the communities mentioned above. Specifically, include any details on potential improvements in connectivity, access to services, and economic opportunities resulting from the implementation of the fibre service.
- Please provide the strategy for integrating last-mile connections into the project to ensure accessibility for all residents, businesses, and industry, especially those in remote or underserved areas within the PRRD. Any plans or considerations in this regard would be valuable for our assessment.
- Lastly, is there any consideration for future expansion or extension of the fibre service beyond the initial scope? Will other last-mile ISPs be allowed to utilize this expansion, or will it be restricted to NorthwesTel only? Describe any potential capacity for future expansion, and how this might impact communities within the PRRD.

The Electoral Area Directors are asking that this information be provided for consideration at their next meeting to be held on June 13, 2024. When the information is provided, a decision will be made on the request for a Letter of Support. Please be aware that the deadline to receive your response in time for the June 13, 2024 meeting is no later than June 4, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

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Kindly direct the requested responses to Carmen Willms, Legislative Services Coordinator, via email to [Carmen.Willms@prrd.bc.ca](mailto:Carmen.Willms@prrd.bc.ca) on or before June 4, 2024. The information requested will be considered by the Directors at the June 13, 2024 Electoral Area Directors Committee meeting and will help reach a decision regarding this request.

Sincerely,

*Leonard Hiebert*

Leonard Hiebert,  
Committee Chair