

Dear Terri, Trevor and Committee members,

Thank you for the opportunity to present at the recent BIMC meeting and for hosting us at the luncheon. It was a wonderful to connect, while also taking the time to better understand key priorities, issues, and challenges. I appreciate that you've been incredibly busy responding to wildfire events and hope that this note reaches you during better conditions.

Congratulations on the appointment of Planetnetworks to develop the next version of your connectivity plan. They have already reached out to us and we will support them in their work.

I believe there were no outstanding questions we needed to address, but wanted to be sure you had the additional information sources we spoke to at the meeting, in case they are useful:

Project Information:

Local Governments have direct access to approved project information through the [National Broadband Internet Services Available Map](#) as well as the provincial [Map of Funded Projects](#) available on the connectivity website.

Speed or Map Discrepancies:

In 2021, the provincial Ministry of Citizens' Services, UBCM, and Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT) collaboratively launched an independent study to better understand the factors contributing to the difference in internet speeds between data published on the federal government's National Broadband Internet Service Availability Map and some community experiences in B.C.

The study identified possible internet speed discrepancies in some areas and found multiple reasons why a discrepancy might be experienced by community residents. You can find the report summary [here](#).

The program continues to investigate areas where community experience with internet speeds is not aligned with federal data reported from service providers. Communities are encouraged to reach out to the Connectivity team directly at ConnectedCommunities@gov.bc.ca with any questions.

We appreciated being in person and the opportunity to meet you. We are monitoring the fire situation with our Emergency Management and Climate Readiness Ministry colleagues and were happy that NorthwesterTel was able to restore services near Fort Nelson. Our thoughts are with you this fire season. Please feel free to reach out to me or my team if we can assist with connectivity issues in any way.

Sincerely,

Susan Stanford
ADM Connectivity
Ministry of Citizens' Services

Sent Friday May 24, 2024 at 3:50pm