

Received DC Office March 23, 2020



March 20, 2020

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

Dear Chair Sperling and Members of the Board,

Re: Request for Support, *Connecting British Columbia* Program Application

Shaw Communications Inc. ("Shaw") recognizes that accessing broadband services is important for all communities. In order to expand broadband connectivity, Shaw is seeking support of the Board in our application for provincial broadband funding.

In order to improve Shaw's overall network redundancy and resiliency, Shaw is proposing to build a high capacity fibre optic line along Don Phillips Way (Hwy 29) from Chetwynd to Fort St. John. Shaw applied to the provincial *Connecting British Columbia* program where, if approved, the project will expand the availability of broadband services to certain underserved communities along the route.

Funding under the *Connecting British Columbia* program is being allocated by Northern Development Initiative Trust on a competitive basis. As a requirement of the application process, applicants need to show there is support from the community. To this end, we are requesting a letter of support for our funding application be provided ideally before the end of the month.

Should our application for funding be successful, Shaw would be happy to meet with the Board to discuss the details of our build and the opportunities it presents in your communities. For more information on Connecting British Columbia program, please see <https://www.northerndevlopment.bc.ca/funding-programs/partner-programs/connecting-british-columbia/phase-three-last-mile-transport-infrastructure/>

To further discuss this request, please don't hesitate to contact Kiersten at (604) 629-3103 or by e-mail at Kiersten.Enemark@sjrb.ca.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kiersten Enemark".

Kiersten Enemark
Government and Regulatory Director, British Columbia
Shaw Communications Inc.

Cc: Shawn Dahlen, Chief Administrative Officer
Crystal Brown, Electoral Area Manager

[Date]

Northern Development Initiative Trust
301 – 1268 Fifth Avenue,
Prince George, BC V2L 3L2

To whom it may concern,

On behalf of the Peace River Regional District, we are pleased to acknowledge our support of the funding application submitted by Shaw Communications to the Connecting British Columbia Program. Specifically, we are pleased that Shaw is proposing to construct a high-capacity fibre optic transport line starting in Chetwynd and continuing along the Don Phillips Way (Hwy 29) to Fort St. John. We support the enhancement and access to broadband services in our region.

We encourage Northern Development Initiative Trust to approve the application request for funding to support this project, as it represents vital opportunities for economic development, public safety and public service delivery in our area.

Should the applications for funding be successful, we will be pleased to work with Shaw to facilitate this project in our area.

Sincerely,

Brad Sperling
Chair, Peace River Regional District

cc: Kiersten Enemark, Government Relations Director, Shaw Communications Inc.
Inc.