



TELUS | Universal Broadband Fund | Letters of Support

February 4, 2021



Brian Bettis, a member of the TELUS team

To our valued Municipal Partner CAO Dahlen,

I am reaching out today as TELUS has identified an exciting opportunity to bring Wireless Cellular Coverage (LTE) to the **Peace River Regional District** and would like to make an application to the federal government's Universal Broadband Fund for funding to connect 15 areas in your region to the TELUS Wireless network. This would include the building, operation and long-term maintenance of the infrastructure. The investment that will ensure the network can withstand the demand of new technologies which will be realized over future generations.

TELUS Augmenting to Existing Sites

- Bear Flat
- Bear Mtn
- Beryl Prairie North
- Cutbank Ridge
- East Pine - John Hart Highway
- Farmington
- Farrell Creek
- Fort St. John
- Goodlow
- Goodlow West
- Mile Post 26
- Moberly Lake
- Mount Wabi (Chetwynd)
- Pouce Coupe - Highway 2
- Prespatou
- Rose Prairie
- Septimus

- Taylor
- Tupper

Improving connectivity within rural communities enables residents to engage in numerous aspects of the digital economy, including those residents from underrepresented groups. Internet has become an essential service and provides access for residents to numerous benefits such as tele-health, distance learning, and telework. Today, reliable internet access has become a virtual requirement for commercial and industrial businesses, whether small or large, to operate and develop.

Access to reliable internet also provides social services within the municipality valuable avenues to serve the residents. The internet has made connecting key social service institutions with the residents who use those institutions much easier. Furthermore, this access, expedited through the Universal Broadband Fund, will contribute to a multitude of government strategies that have become easiest to access via the internet.

The opportunity for the **Peace River Regional District** to participate in this project comes at no cost to the community. Assuming we are successful in our application, funds to build the network would be committed by TELUS and the Government of Canada.

The application is due February 15, 2021, and TELUS is seeking your support, in the form of a letter of support (attached), by February 8. We would be happy to discuss further with you over the phone at your convenience.

If you have any questions, or would like to discuss further, please don't hesitate to reach out at 780-868-6837 or contact my assistant Melissa Rodriguez, melissa.rodriguez@telus.com to schedule a meeting to chat.

Sincerely,

Brian Bettis
General Manager
Northern Alberta and BC Interior
Customer Solutions Delivery
TELUS Communications Inc.
Phone: 780-868-6837

Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada

C.D. Howe Building
235 Queen Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0H5

[Insert Date Here]

To: Whom it May Concern

Re: TELUS Application: Universal Broadband Fund

Cc: Brian Gregg, SitePath Consulting Ltd. C/O TELUS Communications Inc.

Harmen Kahlon – TELUS – Senior Manager – Technology Strategy – harmen.kahlon@telus.com

The **Peace River Regional District** fully supports TELUS's application to provide increased wireless connectivity under the Universal Broadband Fund.

The proposed project under consideration will improve existing wireless connectivity to our community. This will allow the **Peace River Regional District** to better serve our community members within:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| • Bear Flat | • Farrell Creek | • Mount Wabi (Chetwynd) |
| • Bear Mtn | • Fort St. John | • Pouce Coupe - Highway 2 |
| • Beryl Prairie North | • Goodlow | • Prespatou |
| • Cutbank Ridge | • Goodlow West | • Rose Prairie |
| • East Pine - John Hart Highway | • Mile Post 26 | • Septimus |
| • Farmington | • Moberly Lake | • Taylor |
| | | • Tupper |

It will greatly improve safety by enabling e911 calls and will enable tele-health, and tele-work. Reliable cellular coverage will also provide opportunities for commercial and industrial businesses, whether small or large, to operate and develop in an increasingly virtual world.

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Access to reliable internet also provides social services within the municipality valuable avenues to serve the residents. The internet has made connecting key social service institutions with the residents who use those institutions much easier. Furthermore, this access, expedited through the Universal Broadband Fund, will contribute to a multitude of government strategies that have become easiest to access via the internet.

We are working to support the long-term growth of our community. A key enabler to achieve this goal is the ability to connect government and social service offices, businesses and homes in my community to high-speed broadband networks. As such, access to wireless infrastructure is critical for my community to engage in numerous aspects of the digital economy.

The funding assistance from the Universal Broadband Fund for the delivery of wireless connectivity is invaluable to the prosperity of **Peace River Regional District**. Without the support of this fund, many communities would not be able to enjoy the level of connectivity that is required to fully participate in society.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this application.

Sincerely,
[Insert Name]