



Conseil de la radiodiffusion et des
télécommunications canadiennes

Canadian Radio-television and
Telecommunications Commission

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Président et premier dirigeant

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

MAY 04 2017

VIA EMAIL

Mr. Charles Hamilton
Chief Administrative Officer
Columbia Shuswap Regional District
chamilton@csrd.bc.ca

**Subject: An opportunity for your municipality to help shape the CRTC's new
broadband funding regime**

Dear Mr. Hamilton,

I am writing to inform you that the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) is conducting a public consultation on the new fund to bring broadband Internet access to Canadians living in underserved areas in the country. We need your input to ensure the new funding mechanism is well aligned with your current or future broadband plans.

Modern Telecommunications Services

As you may already know, broadband Internet access service is now necessary for Canadians to fully participate in the digital economy and empowers them as citizens, creators and consumers. While most are well-served, many Canadians, particularly those in rural and remote communities, do not have access to broadband Internet access services that are comparable to those offered to the vast majority of Canadians in terms of speed, capacity, quality and price.

Last December, the CRTC [issued an important decision](#) following the Let's Talk Broadband proceeding during which more than 50,000 Canadians provided their views on the telecommunications services they need to participate in the digital economy.

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In this decision, the CRTC announced that broadband Internet access service is now considered a basic telecommunications service for all Canadians. [New ambitious targets](#) were set and a [new funding mechanism](#) was announced.

A new funding regime for broadband infrastructure projects

You will have the opportunity to play an important role in the future of the funding regime for broadband projects in your province. Applicants requesting funding under the new regime will be required to secure a minimum level of financial support from a government entity (which includes public or non-profit entities).

Last week, the CRTC published a [Notice of consultation](#) to examine the eligibility and assessment criteria to be used in the assessment of funding applications as well as the governance structure of the new funding regime.

Your participation in this consultation process is essential to ensure CRTC's funding mechanism aligns with your funding programs and that it meets your needs so that you are also able to contribute to broadband projects in your municipality in the future.

Increasing access to reliable and fast broadband Internet access service would have a positive effect on your citizens.

Ensuring availability of broadband Internet access service is a shared responsibility that will only be attained with the help of all stakeholders. I ask that you help us develop this new broadband funding regime by participating in our public consultation proceeding to help ensure all Canadians, including the ones in your region, can fully participate in the digital economy.

Sincerely,



Jean-Pierre Blais