



# BOARD REPORT

**TO:**

**Chair and Directors**

**File No:** 1850 40 17

**SUBJECT:**

Federal Broadband Project

**DESCRIPTION:**

Report from Jodi Pierce, Manager, Financial Services, dated April 6, 2017

**RECOMMENDATION  
#1:**

THAT: the Board of the Columbia Shuswap Regional District hereby endorse the authorized signatories to enter into agreement with Columbia Basin Broadband, a wholly owned legal subsidiary of the Columbia Basin Trust, for the improvement of broadband connectivity in Area B of the Columbia Shuswap Regional District upon approval of funding.

AND THAT: In accordance with Policy F-3 "Electoral Area Community Works Fund – Expenditure of Monies", access to the Community Works Fund be approved in the amount of \$86,000, from the Area B Community Works Fund for improving broadband connectivity.

**APPROVED for Board Consideration:**

*Meeting Date: April 20, 2017*

*Charles Hamilton, CAO*

## SHORT SUMMARY:

The Columbia Basin Broadband Corporation ("CBBC") and Trout Lake BC Internet Society ("the Internet Service Provider") are applying for funding from Industry Canada through the Connect to Innovate Program. The Columbia Basin Trust has committed to contributing \$3,000,000 for this program throughout the Columbia Basin catchment area.

<b>VOTING:</b>	Unweighted Corporate	<input type="checkbox"/>	LGA Part 14 (Unweighted)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Weighted Corporate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Stakeholder (Weighted)	<input type="checkbox"/>
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## BACKGROUND:

In November 2015, the CBBC, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Columbia Basin Trust secured funding from Industry Canada through the Connecting Canadians Program and from the Northern Development Initiative Trust's ("NDIT") Connecting BC Program for Phase 1 of a multi-regional broadband connectivity program for rural communities in the Columbia Basin catchment area. In the spring of 2016, the CBBC coordinated the project on behalf on several regional districts and worked with Internet Service Providers to complete the first phase of the project.

Recently an additional funding opportunity through the Connect to Innovate Program has been announced and the CBBC is again spearheading a multi-regional submission to Industry Canada for the next phase of broadband connectivity.

Many residents of Area B do not have adequate access to affordable high speed Internet connectivity. That access is essential to rural development. The CBBC project is an important step in addressing this issue, as it will improve the last mile infrastructure (connecting the residential user to the provider) of local Internet service providers and ensure that our region has adequate fibre backhaul (the physical tower to tower connectivity).

**POLICY:**

This project is eligible for funding in accordance with the 2014-2024 Agreement between UBCM and CSRD, dated July 7, 2014 and is in accordance with Policy F-3 Electoral Area Community Works Fund – Expenditure of Monies.

**FINANCIAL:**

The balance of the Area B Community Works Fund (Gas Tax) is \$236,000 after all previously approved commitments.

**IMPLEMENTATION:**

Upon successful funding from Industry Canada, an agreement will be signed and funds will be forwarded to the CBBC.

**DESIRED OUTCOMES:**

The Board will approval the recommendations.

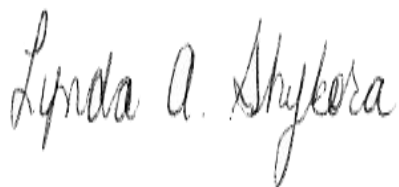
**BOARD'S OPTIONS:**

1. *Endorse the Recommendations.*
2. *Deny the Recommendations.*
3. *Defer.*
4. *Any other action deemed appropriate by the Board.*

**Report Approval Details**

Document Title:	2017-04-20_Board_Fin_Gas Tax - Area B Broadband.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Apr 7, 2017

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:



**Lynda Shykora - Apr 6, 2017 - 12:13 PM**



**Charles Hamilton - Apr 7, 2017 - 8:37 AM**