

## REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO



**CONNECTIVITY COMMITTEE  
AGENDA  
Thursday, April 8, 2021**

<u>PAGE NO.</u>		<u>ACTION</u>
	<u>AGENDA- April 8, 2021</u>	Approve
	<u>Supplementary Agenda</u>	Receive
	<u>MINUTES</u>	
2-3	Broadband Committee Meeting Minutes - January 14, 2021	Approve
	<u>DELEGATION</u>	
	<u>CITYWEST</u> Stefan Woloszyn, CEO RE : Update	
	<u>DISCUSSION ITEM</u>	
4	Union of B.C. Municipalities Internet Speed Study	
	<u>CORRESPONDENCE</u>	
5	Rogers Communications Inc. – Wireless Connectivity Improvements in the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako	Receive
	<u>SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA</u>	
	<u>NEW BUSINESS</u>	
	<u>IN-CAMERA MOTION</u>	
	In accordance with Section 90 of the <i>Community Charter</i> , it is the opinion of the Board of Directors that matters pertaining to Section 90(2)(b) – the consideration of information received and held in confidence relating to negotiations between the Regional District and a provincial government or the federal government or both, or between a provincial government or both and a third party (Connectivity) may be closed to the public, and therefore exercise their option of excluding the public for this meeting.	
	<u>ADJOURNMENT</u>	

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO****BROADBAND COMMITTEE MEETING****Thursday, January 14, 2021**

**PRESENT:** Chair Michael Riis-Christianson

Directors Tom Greenaway  
Clint Lambert  
Chris Newell  
Mark Parker  
Gerry Thiessen – arrived at 9:19 a.m.

Director Absent Mark Parker, Electoral Area “D” (Fraser Lake Rural)

Staff Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer  
Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services  
Nellie Davis, Manager of Regional Economic Development  
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer  
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

Others Gladys Atrill, Town of Smithers  
Mark Fisher, Electoral Area “A” (Smithers Rural)  
Linda McGuire, Village of Granisle  
Bob Motion, District of Fort St. James  
Jerry Petersen, Electoral Area “F” (Vanderhoof Rural)  
Sarrah Storey, Village of Fraser Lake

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Riis-Christianson called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

**WELCOME**

Chair Riis-Christianson welcomed Bob Motion, Director, District of Fort St. James.

**AGENDA**Moved by Director Greenaway  
Seconded by Director Lambert**BBC.2021-1-1**

“That the Broadband Committee Agenda for November 5, 2020 be approved as amended to include under Reports – Staff Teleconference with Carrier Sekani Tribal Council.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY****MINUTES****Broadband Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
–November 5, 2020**Moved by Director Lambert  
Seconded by Director Greenaway**BBC.2021-1-2**

“That the Broadband Committee Meeting Minutes of November 5, 2020 be approved.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **REPORT**

### **Regional Connectivity Knowledge Network**

Moved by Director Greenaway  
 Seconded by Director Lambert

#### **BBC.2021-1-3**

“That the Broadband Committee receive Michael Riis-Christianson’s, Broadband Committee Chair Regional Connectivity Knowledge Network memorandum.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### **Carrier Sekani Tribal Council Teleconference Meeting**

Manager Davis met via-teleconference with representatives from the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, Carrier Sekani Tribal Council and its Pathways Forward 2.0 Agreement signatories to discuss connectivity. Representatives in attendance from the Ministry of Citizens’ Services indicated their availability to assist communities to identify connectivity needs and discuss community level planning initiatives. The RDBN will continue to take part in the conversations to potentially develop opportunities for collaboration to improve connectivity for the region. Director Storey spoke of providing support to Nadleh Whut’en First Nation. Chair Riis-Christianson commented about working on internet literacy and developing a detailed communications plan.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **North Central Local Government Association Rural Connectivity Webinar**

Director Storey noted that NCLGA is hosting a Rural Connectivity webinar on Monday, January 18, 2021 from 12:00 to 1:30 p.m.

## **IN CAMERA MOTION**

Moved by Director Lambert  
 Seconded by Director Greenaway

#### **BBC.2021-1-4**

“In accordance with Section 90 of the *Community Charter*, it is the opinion of the Board of Directors that matters pertaining to Section 90(2)(b) – the consideration of information received and held in confidence relating to negotiations between the municipality and a provincial government or the federal government or both, or between a provincial government or the federal government or both and a third party (Connectivity), must be closed to the public, therefore exercise their option of excluding the public for this meeting.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Director Lambert  
 Seconded by Director Greenaway

#### **BBC.2021-1-5**

“That the meeting be adjourned at 9:24 a.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

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Michael Riis-Christianson, Chair

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Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant



## Internet speed study

Mar. 17, 2021

Local and Indigenous governments, particularly those with rural and remote populations, are invited to participate in a study of broadband Internet speeds experienced in BC. Communities across British Columbia have voiced concerns that federal data on broadband Internet speeds, which is used to determine eligibility for connectivity funding programs, may not accurately reflect the broadband Internet speeds experienced in homes, businesses, and other locations at the community level.

Connected Communities within the provincial Ministry of Citizens' Services, UBCM, and Northern Development Initiative Trust are responding collaboratively to these concerns with an independent study of differences between the broadband Internet speeds experienced in some BC communities, and the 50/10 Mbps speed identified on the federal government's National Broadband Internet Service Availability Map. The study will produce factual information on Internet speeds in rural and remote communities, supporting analysis and informing dialogue between NDIT, Indigenous and local governments, Internet service providers, the Province, and the federal government. Data gathering and analysis will occur over the spring and summer months, with reporting of study results expected in fall 2021.

A key first step in this process is to identify which communities in BC have noted inconsistencies between the 50/10 Mbps Internet speed that federal maps indicate should be available, versus actual Internet speeds currently experienced by residents and businesses in the area.

### Participate in the Study

Local or Indigenous governments with reports of Internet speeds lower than the 50/10 Mbps speeds shown on federal maps, are invited to self-identify by contacting UBCM and requesting to be included in the study. The research team seeks to understand the inconsistencies in reporting of Internet speeds across the province. Please provide the following information to Reiko Tagami, Policy Analyst, UBCM:

- names of communities, areas, or neighbourhoods where the Internet speeds experienced are below the 50/10 Mbps speeds indicated on federal maps
- name of the Indigenous or local government within whose boundaries these areas are located
- name, position, email, and telephone number of a senior staff person from the Indigenous or local government, whom the research team may contact for further information.

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Rogers Communications Inc.  
1900 – 4710 Kingsway  
Burnaby, British Columbia  
V5H 4W4  
rogers.com

March 15, 2021

VIA Email: [inquiries@rdbn.bc.ca](mailto:inquiries@rdbn.bc.ca)

Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako  
Box 820, Burns Lake  
BC, V0J 1E0

**Re: Wireless Connectivity Improvements in the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako**

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Dear Members of the Board,

Rogers Communications is working with the Province to bring new service and improve wireless connectivity to your community. As part of the Province's Connecting BC program, Rogers will be proposing telecommunications infrastructure aimed at providing needed wireless infrastructure to improve service to Indigenous, remote and underserved areas.

Our investment will involve installing a small tower near the community of Nulki that will provide high speed wireless services and home internet to local residences and businesses. The table below lists the approximate location for where a tower would be ideal.

Community	Latitude	Longitude
Nulki	53.918648°	-124.198892°

To initiate our engagement process, Rogers is notifying local stakeholders and the Regional District to determine suitable locations for installing a tower structure. The tower will need to be in close proximity to the community in order to ensure that wireless services are fast and reliable. Over the next two months, Rogers will be speaking to landowners and District staff about potential locations. Our intent is to bring a proposal to the Board before the summer and install the tower by year end.

This past year, we have been challenged by the Covid-19 pandemic and it has demonstrated the critical need for all of us to stay connected and have reliable connectivity for all Canadians. Our commitment here is to ensure your community has the wireless infrastructure to stay connected.

Should you wish any additional information about our program, please do not hesitate to Garth Jones ([garth.jones@rci.rogers.com](mailto:garth.jones@rci.rogers.com)).

Sincerely,

Warren Fletcher  
Vice-President Access Networks West

CC : Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer