

DATE: April 25, 2019

FILE: 1310-01

TO: Chair and Directors
Regional District Board

FROM: Russell Dyson
Chief Administrative Officer

Supported by Russell Dyson
Chief Administrative Officer

R. Dyson

RE: Improve Internet connectivity on Denman and Hornby Islands

Purpose

To update the board on a request for support for a funding initiative that would improve Internet connectivity on Denman and Hornby Islands.

Recommendation from the Chief Administrative Officer:

THAT subject to the Hornby Island Community Economic Enhancement Corporation and the Denman Works! Economic Enhancement Society preparing the grant application and providing all reporting requirements, the Board authorizes the Comox Valley Regional District to submit a grant application to the Connecting BC program, administered through the Northern Development Initiative Trust, for high speed internet connectivity on Denman and Hornby Islands;

AND FURTHER THAT, if the grant application is successful, the Comox Valley Regional District administer the grant funding on behalf of the Hornby Island Community Economic Enhancement Corporation and the Denman Works! Economic Enhancement Society for the high speed internet connectivity initiative.

Executive Summary

- The Hornby Island Community Economic Enhancement Corporation (HICEEC) and the Denman Works! Economic Enhancement Society are preparing a submission for grant funding to improve high speed internet connectivity on Hornby and Denman Islands.
- The Connecting BC program, administered through the Northern Development Initiative Trust, requires that a local government submit the grant application.
- HICEEC and Denman Works! have committed to prepare the grant application and perform all other aspects of the grant submission, including reporting requirements; and the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) will submit the application.
- The roadmap and implementation plan put forward by HICEEC describes a vision of connected communities. Funding sources for this project include the Island Coastal Economic Trust and the Northern Development Initiative Trust. Any other funding requirements beyond these two sources have not yet been identified and would entail more effort on the parts of HICEEC and Denman Works!

- A delegation made at the April 15 Electoral Areas Services Committee meeting provided details on the project and indicated that the CVRD would be asked for a letter of support or to submit the application on behalf of HICEEC and Denman Works! It is now confirmed that the CVRD must make the application.

Prepared by:

J. Warren

James Warren
General Manager
of Corporate Services