Submitted on Monday, July 6, 2020 - 17:38

Name(s) of person(s) speaking: John Grayson; Karen Ross;Peter Spurr

Organization Information
Organization you are
representing: Hornby Island Community Economic Enhancement Corp.

Primary purpose of the
organization: Economic Enhancement on Hornby Island

Number of members: 8

Contact name: Karen Ross

Meeting Details
Subject matter: A new Provincial/Federal program has been announced that would fit with funding the Hornby/Denman Digital Roadmap & Implementation Plan project.

         Note: We have reached out to industry consultants, about applicability, and have not yet heard back. We are asking for a delegation as a precautionary measure, awaiting their evaluation. Thank you for your consideration.

Specific request of the regional district, if any (i.e. letter of support, funding):
Asking the EASC to pass a resolution supporting this Broadband initiative and to direct CVRD staff to support and assist in this application process. The Application must come from the CVRD.

Requested meeting date: July 13, 2020

Hornby Island Community
Economic Enhancement Corporation

BRIEFING FOR CVRD – July 13, 2020
STATUS OF DENMAN-HORNBY CONNECTIVITY PROJECT

During 2019 and early 2020, the communities of Denman and Hornby Islands undertook an extensive internet infrastructure project evaluation. The work can be summarized in five parts, with the current situation outlined within those

1. Completed a $50,000. Study, titled: Digital Roadmap and Implementation/Business Plan and bonus public consultation video:
    a. Part One, 100-page Consultation Report completed and available
    b. Part Two, 87-page Feasibility Study completed and available
        i. Shows universal Fibre To The Premise (FTTP) on Denman/Hornby can be created for:
            1. About $10 Million if underground (approximately half for each island)
    c. A short video that can accompany the reports, applications for funds, completed and available

2. Ascertained opportunities for govt. funding

    - A new program has been announced: **Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program - British Columbia - Rural and Northern Communities Infrastructure** https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/transportation/funding-engagement-permits/funding-grants/investing-in-canada-infrastructure-program/rural-northern-communities?keyword=Investing&keyword=in&keyword=Canada&keyword=Infrastructure&keyword=Program&keyword=-&keyword=British&keyword=Columbia

    Key take-aways:

    i. On June 25, 2020, the Canadian and British Columbian governments committed up to $58.7 million towards the second intake of the RNC Program to support cost-sharing of infrastructure projects in communities across the province. This intake is designed to target projects starting in 2021 or 2022.
    ii. Please ensure directions are followed as funding is competitive and merit-based, and previous intakes were oversubscribed. The applications that receive the highest technical score will be those that show a clear connection to program criteria and objectives, demonstrate the

principles of sustainability, and are supported by strong planning to
ensure sustainable service delivery.

iii. Eligible applicants include Local Governments and Not-for-Profit
organizations and For-Profit organizations (when partnered with a local
government or Indigenous governments)

iv. The Program supports projects that can be completed in five years
following approval.

v. **Projects from Local Government - Populations Less Than 5,000:** Funding
is available up to 100% of eligible project costs (60% Government of
Canada, 40% Province of British Columbia)

vi. **Regional Districts** may submit **one** application for **each** community in
their area.

3. Held numerous conversations/negotiations with ISPs, potential investors, Telus. Sought
workable arrangements to partner for project implementation, funding application.
Found firms who would contract to build project, or would partner or contract as ISPs

4. Several years of discussion with the current primary internet service provider to the
Islands, Telus. Telus remain firm that they have no plans to upgrade the current,
antiquated copper wire infrastructure with modern equipment.

5. The Pandemic has made it abundantly clearer that modern, high speed, fibre optic
internet is a required infrastructure in today's age – everything from medical services, to
education, to business, to family connections and mental health, to entertainment.

The basic "ask" to the CVRD, from HICEEC, is to pass a resolution supporting this Broadband
initiative and to direct CVRD staff to support and assist in this application process.
The Application must come from the CVRD.

Our "ask" for grant funding will be $2M per island, with Denman and Hornby Islands having
separate applications. This is the average grant contribution total per project in the last round,
and stated to be a maximum achievable under the current program.

Further, we ask for the CVRD to investigate opportunities for funding the balance of these
projects through acquiring a Municipal Bond or similar financial instrument.