

October 17th, 2023

To: The Honourable Scott Moe
Premier of Saskatchewan
226 Legislative Building
Regina, SK S4S 0B3
CANADA

From: Jay Meyer & Jean-Marc Nadeau
Committee Co-Chairs
Saskatchewan Broadband Action Committee

Re: Endorsement of our Proposed *Broadband Development and Investment Framework*

Dear Mr. Premier,

On behalf of the Saskatchewan Broadband Action Committee (SBAC), please accept this Letter of Request with respect to advancing our province's broadband capacity and infrastructure.

You will find enclosed, for your consideration, a proposed *Broadband Development and Investment Framework* for the Province of Saskatchewan. It is our hope that the Province will embrace this Strategy and invite the Committee to work directly with the appropriate Ministries and Government Officials on 'how' to move forward collectively.

Please also note that on October 18th, 2023, SBAC will be releasing a media advisory that will hopefully bring broader attention and interest to our work regarding the proposed *Broadband Development Investment Framework*. We recognize the difficulty in tackling broadband challenges across Saskatchewan, and hope that through a more public media release, we will be able to widen the interest and engagement around this critical infrastructure issue. We have found that through continued collaboration with diverse stakeholders, the more likely a truly Saskatchewan solution will begin to emerge.

The Saskatchewan Broadband Action Committee (SBAC) is a cross-sector and community-based group of provincial, local, and Indigenous organizations and networks, formed through a shared and collective concern over issues and lost opportunities related to broadband connectivity across the province.

The Committee has identified four key building blocks for change:

1. Enhanced Awareness, Local Capacity, and Digital Competency
2. Improved Regional and Indigenous Collaboration and Stakeholder Partnerships
3. Elevated Community Access and Infrastructure Development
4. Strengthened Industry Partnerships and Market Development

SBAC is committed to achieving broadband infrastructure parity for all Saskatchewan residents, regardless of address, by 2025. We believe broadband connectivity is an essential service in order to thrive in today's environment.

To date, the Committee has involved, heard from, and engaged with the following list of stakeholders, government offices, internet service providers, communities, First Nations, and interested organizations:

- SASKATCHEWAN ASSOCIATION OF RURAL MUNICIPALITIES
- SASKATCHEWAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
- FEDERATION OF SOVEREIGN INDIGENOUS NATIONS
- SASKATCHEWAN URBAN MUNICIPALITIES ASSOCIATION
- SASKATCHEWAN SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION
- SASKATCHEWAN INDIGENOUS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NETWORK
- SASKATCHEWAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE
- NEW NORTH
- SASKATCHEWAN TEACHERS' FEDERATION
- CLARENCE CAMPEAU DEVELOPMENT FUND
- REGIONAL COLLEGES OF SASKATCHEWAN
- SASKTEL
- ACCESS COMMUNICATIONS
- FLEXNETWORKS
- TELESAT
- MLAs STEELE AND BUCKINGHAM
- CROWN INVESTMENTS CORPORATION
- SK MINISTRY OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS
- SK MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
- PRAIREISCAN
- TOWN OF NOKOMIS
- BEARDY'S AND OKEMASIS FIRST NATION
- MUSCOWPETUNG SAULTEAUX FIRST NATION
- XPLORNET
- BEAVER RIVER BROADBAND
- WOOD RIVER INTERNET
- FEDERATION OF CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES
- INNOVATION, SCIENCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CANADA
- INDIGENOUS SERVICES CANADA

As well, to achieve this outcome, we need the leadership of the Provincial Government to work alongside municipal governments, First Nations, internet service providers, and

community stakeholders. SBAC is requesting additional consideration of the following proposed provincial investments:

- 1. Establishment of a SK Broadband Coordination & Planning community-based office;**
- 2. Creation of a \$3.0M to \$4.0M Regional Community Capacity Grant; and,**
- 3. Commitment to a \$50M Market Incentive Co-Funding Infrastructure Grant.**

Please feel free to contact me directly if you require additional information. We look forward to a continued dialogue.

Sincerely,

Jay Meyer

Executive Director – SARM

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Jean-Marc Nadeau

Chief Executive Officer - SUMA

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cc: Honourable Dustin Duncan
Minister of Crown Investments Corporation

Honourable Don McMorris
Minister of Government Relations