

June 22, 2020

Ian Scott
Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer
Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission
ian.scott@crtc.gc.ca

Dear Mr. Scott,

Re: Fair and equitable funding to support broadband infrastructure projects in Southwestern Ontario

As the Warden for the County of Essex, I am writing to you today to request the allocation of fair and equitable funding to support broadband infrastructure projects in rural Southwestern Ontario, including in underserved areas of Essex County.

Southwestern Ontario broadband funding cannot be undervalued. It has been estimated that it would cost approximately \$2.5 billion to provide a fibre-based solution to address all Southwestern Ontario's underserved areas, including in areas of Essex County – wireless could help to reduce these costs in some areas.

The region which is 90% rural and represents 10% of the Canadian population has been overlooked in the past for funding.

Connectivity is key to the social and economic success of our communities – we need to ensure that the residents living in our underserved communities do not go unnoticed.

Adequate and equitable funding for the region is required to ensure that broadband, an essential utility, is accessible for all.

The COVID-19 outbreak has laid bare the challenges our underserved communities in Essex County and across Southwestern Ontario are facing.

In today's unprecedented times, where children are required to attend school remotely, online ordering is the new norm and virtual meetings are now a workplace requirement, broadband is not a luxury, it is essential.



Fair and equitable funding to support broadband infrastructure projects in SW Ontario June 22, 2020

On behalf of Essex County we are respectively asking the Canadian Radiotelevision and Telecommunications Commission to support Southwestern Ontario broadband infrastructure projects.

Sincerely,

Gary McNamara Warden, County of Essex Mayor, Town of Tecumseh

CC.

The Honourable Steven Guilbeault Minister of Canadian Heritage Steven.Guilbeault@parl.gc.ca

The Honourable Navdeep Bains
Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry
Navdeep.Bains@parl.gc.ca

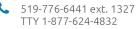
The Honourable Catherine McKenna Minister of Infrastructure and Communities Catherine.McKenna@parl.qc.ca

The Honourable Maryam Monsef Minister of Rural Economic Development Minister for Women and Gender Equality Maryam.Monsef@parl.gc.ca

Chris Lewis
Member of Parliament, Essex
Chris.Lewis@parl.qc.ca

Dave Epp MP Chatham-Kent Leamington Dave.epp@parl.gc.ca

The Honourable Laurie Scott Minister of Infrastructure, Ontario laurie.scott@pc.ola.org





Fair and equitable funding to support broadband infrastructure projects in SW Ontario June 22, 2020

Town of Amherstburg

Aldo DiCarlo, Mayor, <u>aDicarlo@amherstburg.ca</u> John Miceli, CAO, <u>imiceli@amherstburg.ca</u>

Town of Essex

Larry Snively, Mayor, lsnively@essex.ca
Chris Nepszy, CAO, cnepszy@essex.ca

Town of Kingsville

Nelson Santos, Mayor, nsantos@kingsville.ca
Jennifer Astrologo, Director of Corporate Services/Clerk, jastrologo@kingsville.ca
Ryan McLeod, Director of Financial Services, rmcleod@kingsville.ca

Town of Lakeshore

Tom Bain, Mayor, tbain@lakeshore.ca
Truper McBride, CAO, tmcbride@lakeshore.ca

Town of LaSalle

Marc Bondy, Mayor, mbondy@lasalle.ca
Joe Milicia, CAO, jmilicia@lasalle.ca

Municipality of Leamington

Hilda MacDonald, Mayor, macdonald@leamington.ca
Peter Neufeld, pneufeld@leamington.ca

Town of Tecumseh

Margaret Misek-Evans, CAO, mevans@tecumseh.ca

County of Essex

Robert Maisonville, CAO, rmaisonville@countyofessex.ca



