



July 28, 2020

Honourable Navdeep Bains
Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry
C.D. Howe Building
235 Queen Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0H5

Re: Investment in Rural Broadband Infrastructure

Dear Honourable Navdeep Bains:

On behalf of the residents and businesses of the Town of Mono, I want to add my voice to that of Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Honourable Steve Clark, in reminding your government of the importance of bringing high speed Internet to rural areas. Without reliable Internet access, businesses and residents are being left behind, furthering the digital divide between rural and urban centres.

The COVID-19 pandemic has only revealed deeper issues with Internet access in rural communities as businesses, students and teachers struggled with unreliable Internet. Rural residents are concerned that limited access is preventing their children from accessing remote learning tools and is leaving them behind in their education. It is hampering economic growth and limiting businesses' ability to recover from the pandemic.

Building the infrastructure needed to address these concerns will take a concerted effort by all levels of government. The Town of Mono, as a lower tier Ontario municipality, has been working on the issue for a number of years as has the upper tier County of Dufferin, including investing in the Southwestern Integrated Fibre Technology (SWIFT) initiative.

The need for immediate action has never been greater. We are encouraged by the Province of Ontario's commitment to invest a further \$315 million in the Broadband and Cellular Action Plan. The Town of Mono urges your government to take urgent action to provide immediate funding to build the infrastructure needed to ensure reliable broadband service in rural and underserved areas in Ontario.

Regards,

TOWN OF MONO

Laura Ryan
Mayor

Copies:

Honourable Catherine McKenna, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities
Honourable Maryam Monsef, Minister of Rural Economic Development
Honourable Ahmed Hussen, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development
Honourable Kyle Seebach, MP Dufferin-Caledon, Ontario
Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Ontario
Honourable Laurie Scott, Minister of Infrastructure, Ontario
Honourable Sylvia Jones, MPP Dufferin-Caledon, Ontario; Solicitor General, Ontario
All Ontario Municipalities (via email)