



July 19, 2020

Mayor & Council  
East Ferris  
**VIA email only - [municipality@eastferris.ca](mailto:municipality@eastferris.ca)**

Dear Mayor Rochefort and Councillors,

Thank you for your letter dated July 15<sup>th</sup> acknowledging our Group and the “passionate and engaged (East Ferris) citizens.”

Thanks also for giving us the opportunity to present to the East Ferris Economic Development Committee on July 15th. It was nice to start some open dialogue with the Municipality. We would like to specifically thank Councillor Trahan, Angela Knight Van Schaayk and yourself for asking questions and providing comments. This input and perspective has acknowledged your Team’s engagement and interest. In particular, we have taken the questions regarding what “resources” our Group has to contribute, to heart. From these comments, it sounds like the Municipality is looking for ideas but there is more work to be done to understand just how we can be leveraged. We welcome being part of this discussion.

We have reviewed the Internet Summary document provided by Jason Trottier (CAO), and it is clear that there has been a lot of time and resources spent in support of the current CRTC funding application submitted on June 1. It was good to see that local businesses were surveyed as part of the effort.

Finally, we would like to acknowledge some comments that you made at the June 23<sup>rd</sup> Council meeting. “I view this particular group as our best friend...sometimes as a council, there’s things we can’t do and I view them as an organization that maybe is thinking how can we support the work of the council and the work of Blue Sky Net.....” We would welcome any discussions that will help define how we can engage to support the Municipality and Blue Sky Net.

In wrapping this letter up, we hope that clarification can be provided for the following questions.

1. Can you provide the timing for the Community rollout of Spectrum Telecom Group’s findings and report, including technologies being considered, anticipated internet speeds and infrastructure expansion plans?



[@east.ferris.internet.advocacy.group](https://www.facebook.com/east.ferris.internet.advocacy.group)



[@efiag2](https://twitter.com/efiag2)



[efiagroup@gmail.com](mailto:efiagroup@gmail.com)



2. The average download speeds attained by residents of East Ferris, as stated in Blue Sky's "Speed of Northern Ontario Broadband" report differ greatly from the available DSL speeds shown in their BAIMAP application at [www.connectednorth.ca](http://www.connectednorth.ca). Can you provide clarity for this discrepancy and does the Municipality think that this will jeopardize our likelihood for our current or future funding applications?
3. Understanding that a longer term, sustainable solution for high speed internet will not be achieved quickly, can the Municipality engage the current internet providers to improve speeds with current infrastructure AND/OR to explore all available technologies (including LTE and Fixed wireless) to reach as many East Ferris residents as possible in the short to medium term?
4. Is the Municipality confident that the level of meaningful Community consultation and involvement, has been sufficient for the current funding applications AND for understanding the true wants and needs of East Ferris residents? A summary of this engagement would be helpful.
5. How can the East Ferris Internet Advocacy Group (EFIAG) contribute as we move forward?

In addition, we would like to understand the following to help grow support.

1. Can you provide us with the projected level of contribution percentage from the Federal, Provincial, and Municipal governments as well as the the private sector?
2. We understand that telecom providers will be reluctant to share proprietary or market share information, but we would be interested in knowing which questions cannot be answered due to that restriction.

It is our hope that by fully understanding both the historical and current situation, we can move forward together in a way that embodies the vision outlined in Municipality's Strategic plan.

Note that all coorespondence with the Municipality will be shared with our greater group through our social media accounts.

Micheal Blair  
Spokesperson  
East Ferris Internet Advocacy Group

