

Monica Hawkins

From: Pauline Rochefort <paulinerochefort17@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 3, 2020 2:53 PM
To: Monica Hawkins
Subject: Fwd: East REgional Broadband Steering Committee Update

Council package

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Susan Church <susan.church@blueskyregion.ca>
Date: June 3, 2020 at 2:51:47 PM EDT
To: "sbeaudoin@bonfieldtownship.org" <sbeaudoin@bonfieldtownship.org>, Stephan Graveline <Stephan.Graveline@cityofnorthbay.ca>, "rcmclaren@sympatico.ca" <rcmclaren@sympatico.ca>, Raymond Belanger <raymond.belanger@mattawa.ca>, "pmcisaac@powassan.net" <pmcisaac@powassan.net>, Pauline Rochefort - External <paulinerochefort17@gmail.com>, "ntpiiper@gmail.com" <ntpiiper@gmail.com>, "mpurcell@callander.ca" <mpurcell@callander.ca>, Maureen Lang <MLang@Powassan.net>, Al McDonald <mayor@cityofnorthbay.ca>, Debbie Miller <mattawan@xplornet.ca>, "j.leblond@chisholm.ca" <j.leblond@chisholm.ca>, Dexture Sarrazin <dexcsarrazin@gmail.com>, Ian Pennell <ian.pennell@onlink.net>, Jason McMartin <clerk@papineaucameron.ca>, Cindy Pigeau <clerk@calvintownship.ca>, "cao@nipissingtownship.com" <cao@nipissingtownship.com>, Peter Johnston <cao.clerk@bonfieldtownship.org>, Jason Trottier <Jason.trottier@eastferris.ca>, "info@mattawa.ca" <info@mattawa.ca>, "chiefjoanisse@rogers.com" <chiefjoanisse@rogers.com>
Cc: jeff Buell <Jeff.Buell@blueskynet.ca>
Subject: Re: East REgional Broadband Steering Committee Update

Good afternoon everyone,

First of all I do surely hope this finds you all well and finding ways to work through what is clearly a most challenging time, professionally and personally.

I wanted to take a moment to update you on what is happening with our project and the funding programs we are looking to participate in.

CRTC

We submitted our application to the CRTC fund in plenty of time (deadline was changed to June 01) , so now we wait to hear who will be chosen for projects in that program.

PROVINCIAL BROADBAND FUND

As I'm sure you have heard by now, there was an announcement today regarding a small Provincial Broadband Fund, (150 Million). News release here: <https://news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2020/06/ontario-improving-broadband-and-cell-service-for-rural-communities.html>

This 150 Million is not new funding, but part of the original 315 Million dollar Provincial Broadband Fund announced last year. The applications are not yet open but as soon as they do, will of course submit an application for our project. We are hoping that more areas will be eligible such as Mattawa and Mattawan and I have already spoken with the vendor who is of course willing to redesign the network to accommodate more eligible hexagons if they open up. We will re-work the applications if they do.

Very soon you will see a new partnership between CIRA and Blue Sky Net. We will be incorporating the CIRA speed test into connectednorth.ca that will allow ISED to view speed tests in real time. I would encourage you all to urge your citizens to go to connectednorth.ca and take the CIRA speed test that should be up by next week. I will let you know when. It is very helpful to support our applications in this way.

FEDERAL BROADBAND FUND

Still no word on when this fund will open. In meetings I have had with the AMO/MOI working group, it is clear that the Province hopes to see the Federal fund open up at the same time as theirs, so we can stack the funding.

That's it for now, but as always, if you have any questions, feel free to reach out!

Stay well,

Susan

On 2020-03-05 12:07 p.m., Susan Church wrote:

Hello to all,

Following a very busy start to this year I just wanted to provide a brief update to bring everyone "up-to-speed" on where Blue Sky Net is in regards to seeking funding for a project in the South/East Nipissing and Parry Sound District.

We have issued four different RFP's that essentially will cover most of our service delivery area. Let me address the results of the RF process that is in the area that this committee represents.

The RFP was closed in late December and following the holidays, our review committee met to establish a successful vendor. In the project briefing I sent around to some municipalities in mid-February I outlined the project and requested resolutions of support.

Unfortunately not all communities are part of this project as the eligibility criteria for the first round of funding from the CRTC is very strict and only hexagons that **do not** have at least one household that can receive 50/10Mbps service are eligible. That meant unfortunately that Mattawan and Mattawa were not eligible for this program. Going forward, we surely hope that the Universal Broadband Fund and the Provincial Broadband Fund will be more open to us proving that this strict criteria is in a word-ridiculous. Because of the hexagons in those communities that were not eligible, the

business case could not be made to include the areas in question as part of this particular project.

The deadline is March 27th for our first application and I do look forward to receiving any outstanding Council resolutions of support that will go with the CRTC application.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further information regarding this update.

Regards,

Susan

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