



BRITISH COLUMBIA

September 23, 2021

Ref: 115560

His Worship Jamie Ross
Mayor, Village of Belcarra
4084 Bedwell Bay Road
Belcarra BC V3H 4P8
Via email: jross@belcarra.ca

Dear Mayor Jamie Ross:

Many thanks to you and your delegation for meeting virtually with me and my ministry staff during the 2021 Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) Annual Convention. While COVID-19 has continued to challenge our ability to meet face-to-face, our call was a positive opportunity to discuss where we can work together.

It was a pleasure to hear from you in my first convention experience as Minister of Citizens' Services, and I appreciated hearing about the issues and opportunities for connectivity in your region. The topics raised during the virtual meeting included:

- A request for the Ministry to assist with increased connectivity for homes in the area that don't have access to high speed internet.
- Provide additional information regarding the sale of a BC Hydro tower in the area.

Thank you for sharing the gaps you have with connectivity in Belcarra. I'm happy to say that my staff in the Connectivity Division have already reached out to book time with your office to further discuss the areas that remain underserved and areas eligible for funding. They are also able to help with conversations with Internet Service Providers to examine options to close the connectivity gaps in your area, as well as look into the tower recently sold to a private owner by BC Hydro. Should you need any advice in the meantime, please reach out to Howard Randell, Executive Director of Network BC at 250-415-6867 or Howard.Randell@gov.bc.ca.

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We agree that connectivity is critical to enabling and supporting the delivery of accessible and responsive services that people in B.C. count on. Fast, affordable connectivity provides people with equitable access to education, as well as opportunities to work and do business, access services, and stay connected with those who matter to them most.

Since 2017, our government has invested \$190 million into expanding connectivity, with almost \$90 million committed to new connectivity projects throughout B.C. since October 2020 as part of the Connecting British Columbia program's Economic Recovery Intake. We have made great progress connecting more people than ever before. However, we know there is more to do and we will need to work together to solve the remaining infrastructure challenges in the province.

I found it very valuable to hear from you and other communities throughout the week. Meetings such as this help me better understand the issues your community is facing around connectivity.

Thank you again to your delegation for taking the time to meet with me. I look forward to seeing you—hopefully in person—at UBCM Convention next year, and in the meantime my door is always open should you need anything further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lisa Beare".

Lisa Beare
Minister

pc: Rick Glumac, MLA
Port Moody-Coquitlam

Connected Communities, ConnectedCommunitiesBC@gov.bc.ca