

Date February 27, 2020
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Subject Community Works Fund Grant Request – Swift Internet

REQUEST

Swift Internet has requested a Community Works Fund grant of \$28,000 toward their high speed internet upgrade project in the Moyie area.

OPTIONS

1. THAT Community Works Funds of \$28,000 be granted to Swift Internet for their Moyie internet upgrade project, subject to the following:
 - the project being approved for funding through the CRTC Broadband Fund or the NDIT Connecting BC program; and
 - project outcomes meeting the definition of High Speed Internet Service in the *Local Government Act*.
2. THAT Community Works Funds of \$_____, be granted to Swift Internet for their Moyie internet upgrade project, subject to the following:
 - the project being approved for funding through the CRTC Broadband Fund or the NDIT Connecting BC program; and
 - project outcomes meeting the definition of High Speed Internet Service in the *Local Government Act*.
3. THAT the request for grant funding for the Swift Internet Moyie internet upgrade project be denied.

RECOMMENDATION

Option 1

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

Swift Internet is proposing a project to improve internet service in the Moyie area, and are applying for funding through the NDIT Connecting BC program and the CRTC Broadband Fund. They have requested \$28,000 funding from the RDEK Community Works Funds as well. Details of their request are attached.

SPECIFIC CONSIDERATIONS

Regional Sustainability Strategy (RSS)

This project supports the RSS goal related to Economy as it supports and nurtures a diversified and skilled workforce, job opportunities and attracting spending in investment as per the following objective:

“To maintain economic growth and diversification opportunities, the RDEK will support the enhancement and completion of the provision of the broadband infrastructure in the region through direct supply of service, encouraging private and public sector investment and advocating for legislative and regulatory change to facilitate the provision of broadband service.”

Financial – Financial Plan

If approved, the funding contribution would be included in the 2020–2024 Financial Plan.

Financial – Taxation

There would be no effect on taxation due to the funding being provided through the Community Works Funds.

Community Works Fund – Funds Available

The uncommitted balance of the Community Works Fund is \$2,220,578.

Community Works Fund Eligible Project Category

This project meets the criteria outlined in the Community Works Fund agreement under the Broadband Connectivity Category.

The percentage of total CWF grants awarded to date and the percentage of rural population is provided for each Electoral Area below:

| Electoral Area | % of CWF \$ Awarded | % of Total Rural Population |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Area A | 5% | 9% |
| Area B | 14% | 13% |
| Area C | 18% | 38% |
| Area E | 5% | 11% |
| Area F | 49% | 20% |
| Area G | 9% | 9% |

Attachment