

Accessible and Affordable Internet Connectivity

32.

Category: Other

Motion #: 32 : A202432

Meeting: AGM 2024

Sponsor: Thompson Okanagan Branch

Action: *not specified*

- May 2024: Met with Ministry staff re: motion
- Ministry staff provided internet connectivity projects, Connected Coast (<https://connectedcoast.ca/map/>) and Columbia Basin (<https://ourtrust.org/high-speed-connectivity/>)
- Sep 2024: Letter to Federal contact (Darrell Samson, Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of the Rural Economic Development) and Letter to ADM of Citizen Services (Susan Stanford) and ED (Jeanne Holliss) (See attached)
- Dec 2024: ADM Susan Stanford and ED Jeanne Holliss presented an update on connectivity to BCSTA BOD.

Category:

Outcome:

Disposition: Carried

Motion as Adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the BCSTA requests an update from the Federal and Provincial Governments on the status of the expansion of internet connectivity in the province.

Motion as Presented:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the BCSTA requests an update from the Federal and Provincial Governments on the status of the expansion of internet connectivity in the province.

Rationale:

BCSTA has previously advocated for reliable, consistent and affordable internet connectivity. Both at the 2018 AGM and

2021 AGM, delegates carried motions for assurances that all communities have this and that the government make it a priority. While we understand the work is underway, there is still work to be done.

Within the Province of BC, the presence of gaps in high-speed internet connectivity is causing students and families to experience educational deficits. The inaccessibility and unaffordability of Wifi are contributing to this issue, creating a scenario of Wifi inequity that significantly affects families seeking access to fulfill their educational opportunities. Addressing these gaps is paramount to ensure an inclusive and accessible learning environment for all.

Reference(s):

[2018 Motion: Internet Connectivity](#)

[2021 Motion: Equity and Internet Connectivity](#)

[Connectivity in B.C.](#)