From: Town of Comox – Administration <<u>town@comox.ca</u>> Date: January 2, 2024 at 3:50:54 PM PST Cc: Jordan Wall <<u>jwall@comox.ca</u>>, "Cole-Hamilton, Will" <<u>wcole-hamilton@courtenay.ca</u>>, "Morin,Wendy" <<u>wmorin@courtenay.ca</u>>, "McCollum, Melanie" <<u>mmccollum@courtenay.ca</u>>, "Jolicoeur, Evan" <<u>ejolicoeur@courtenay.ca</u>>, "Wells, Bob" <<u>mayor@courtenay.ca</u>>, "Hillian, Doug" <<u>dhillian@courtenay.ca</u>>, "Garbutt, Geoff" <<u>ggarbutt@courtenay.ca</u>>, "Frisch, David" <<u>dfrisch@courtenay.ca</u>>

Subject: Community Broadband Planning

Good day,

In late 2024, the Town of Comox will be installing fibre optic broadband network infrastructure in coordination with planned civil construction for the Comox Valley Regional District's sewer conveyance project. The Town of Comox will utilize this opportunity to advance critical broadband technology within our municipal boundary and regionally.

The Town of Comox is currently seeking grant funding through the Island Coastal Economic Trust to develop a comprehensive Community Broadband Strategy that will support the operational and economic planning for our fibre optic network.

A comprehensive strategy that supports the advancement of high-speed Internet will provide positive social and economic development benefits for the Town of Comox and across our region, allowing access to online healthcare, education, e-commerce, support for our vulnerable sector, enhanced emergency response and safety, community viability and sustained economic growth potential.

Strategy development for this broadband project is scheduled for late February 2024 and the Island Coastal Economic Development grant application deadline for Letter of Support submissions is February 08, 2024. As this deadline is fast approaching, we have attached a "Letter of Support" template (see attached) that has been drafted for your response convenience.

Please respond to this email **prior to February 08, 2024,** with your support letter or contact the Town of Comox directly if you have questions regarding this request or our broadband project.

The Town of Comox would like to express our sincere appreciation for your support for this innovative project.

Sincerely, Jordan Wall Chief Administrative Officer Tel: 250-339-2202 Email: jwall@comox.ca I respectfully acknowledge that the land on which we gather and work is on the unceded traditional territory of the K'ómoks First Nation, the traditional keepers of this land.