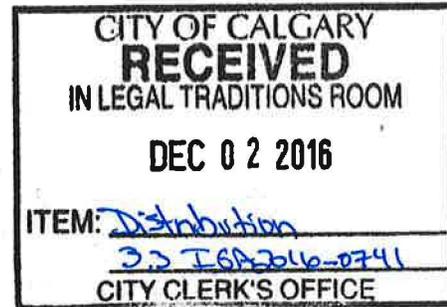


November 29, 2016

The Honourable Deron Bilous  
Minister of Economic Development and Trade  
425 Legislature Bldg  
10800 - 97 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6



Dear Minister Bilous,

Minister Bilous:

**Re: Letter of Thanks in Supporting REDAs to Assess their Broadband/Fibre Needs**

This letter is to thank you, Minister Bilous, for your personal commitment and leadership in supporting REDAs across Alberta with the financial resources to properly assess their broadband/fibre needs, opportunities and challenges. In addition, your advocacy on the REDAs' behalf for a voice into the Provincial SuperNet review process was effective and was appreciated by all.

I want to also acknowledge receipt of the letter dated September 26, 2016 from Minister Stephanie McLean, Minister of Service Alberta and Status of Women, explaining the progress being made in wrestling through the challenges associated with "fixing" the Alberta SuperNet system. These efforts are very important to economic prosperity at the municipal, regional and provincial levels.

As a result of your initiative and financial support, most of the 11 REDAs are now engaged in discussions around a fibre-enabled future, connecting all Albertans and businesses more effectively to the global economy and community. REDAs are beginning to identify common themes and needs around linking digital connectivity to economic prosperity, competitiveness and community capacity-building. And we are beginning to understand how working across-REDAs (economic regions) is so beneficial in moving all regions forward together to lessen the digital divides in our province.

When the REDA-sponsored assessments are completed by mid-2017 I believe we will all gather to share and integrate what we are learning and doing. We will then be in a more informed position to work with your Ministry, and other Ministries and Departments, to develop a pragmatic set of broadband goals, principles, actions and priorities connecting broadband strategies to economic development strategies. Perhaps this could be a new foundation for a much-needed provincial broadband strategy linked to economic prosperity.

In closing, our REDA is very grateful for what you have done in leading and supporting this work. We would encourage you to continue a path of active leadership among your Cabinet colleagues in setting the stage for the development of a Provincial Broadband Strategy that supports economic prosperity in every community, business and household across Alberta.

Yours truly,



Mayor Bill Robertson (Mayor of Okotoks), and  
Chair, Calgary Regional Partnership (REDA)

cc. Hon. Minister Stephanie McLean, Minister of Service Alberta and Status of Women  
Hon. Oneil Carlier, Minister for Alberta Agriculture and Forestry  
Hon. Danielle Larivee, Minister of Alberta Municipal Affairs  
Hon. Brian Mason, Minister of Transportation and Minister of Infrastructure  
Board Members, Calgary Regional Partnership (REDA)  
REDA Chairs and Managers  
Colleen Shepherd, Executive Director, Calgary Regional Partnership (and REDA)