



March 14, 2016

Honourable Stephanie McLean
Minister of Service Alberta
103 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Minister McLean:

We are seeking a response to our 2015 resolution that calls on the province to ensure affordable broadband access to all Albertans.

As noted in our earlier correspondence with Agriculture and Forestry, we understand that your ministry is developing a strategy to address areas that have no access or are underserved. We would appreciate an update on the actions that will be taken to address this issue as the continued challenges are impairing economic development and creating social sustainability issues. As well, it would be beneficial to learn about your interest in the CRTC's actions.

Given that responsibility for broadband is spread amongst federal and provincial governments, it has been difficult to obtain a clear understanding of the collective efforts underway. As it seems that there are a number of diverse parties interested in working together to advance solutions, AUMA is offering to host a symposium to provide an opportunity for federal and provincial leaders to dialogue with municipalities, economic development authorities, chambers of commerce and broadband service providers. This symposium, as well as further consultation with municipalities and the public, would help inform a needs assessment that would be very useful especially in regards to a tender for SuperNet management.

We look forward to hearing back from you on your actions as well as a contact for us to work with in planning and coordinating the symposium.

Sincerely,

Lisa Holmes
AUMA President

Enclosure

cc: Honourable Deron Bilous, Minister of Economic Development and Trade
Honourable Kathleen Ganley, Minister of Justice and Solicitor General
Honourable Oneil Carlier, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry
Mr. Al Kemmere, President, Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties

AUMA Resolution 2015.B8

Review of Broadband Internet Availability in Alberta

WHEREAS establishing a fibre optic network is essential for the provision of high speed internet services within the Province of Alberta and is a key element for future economic development and community sustainability;

WHEREAS the Province of Alberta has invested in a fibre optic system that covers the Province of Alberta;

WHEREAS the cost of access to Alberta's fibre optic system continues to be cost prohibitive to many urban municipalities;

WHEREAS many communities continue to be underserved by other high speed internet providers;

WHEREAS Alberta SouthWest and SouthGrow Regional Alliances have studied and identified the lack of adequate internet speeds as a major deterrent to the future development of Alberta; and

WHEREAS Strategy 4.2 of the Rural Economic Development Action Plan released in October 2014 specifically has four action steps to be undertaken to enhance technology infrastructure.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association press the Alberta government to move forward with a Broadband Policy that addresses the Action steps in 4.2 of the Rural Economic Development Action Plan.