



The Corporation of the Town of Tecumseh Office of the Mayor



Mayor Gary McNamara

February 5, 2019

Mr. Claude Doucet
Secretary General
Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission
Ottawa, ON K1A 0N2

**RE: Telecom Regulatory Policy CRTC 2018-377: Changing Eligibility Rules for Stakeholders
Applying for Funding for High-Speed Broadband Internet Access**

Dear Mr. Doucet,

In order to prosper in today's global economy, Southwestern Ontario must be competitive. One of the key factors of competitiveness is connectivity. Beyond the global economy, nearly all of life's daily activities now involve some form of computerization requiring connectivity. Whether you're a parent looking to access online health resources for your child, a student looking to access educational materials for their class, or even a small business looking to file income taxes with the Canada Revenue Agency, to function in today's society connectivity is a necessity.

The Town of Tecumseh recognizes the need for this critical service and has therefore been an active supporter and contributor to the Southwestern Integrated Fibre Technology (SWIFT) project.

This letter is in support of SWIFT's request to the CRTC to change the criteria of the Broadband Fund eligibility. Currently, there are too many underserved Ontarians in Southwestern Ontario that are being denied equal access to CRTC's broadband funding. The CRTC has classified high speed Internet as a basic need, but the needs of far too many residents and businesses in Southwestern Ontario are not being met by the current funding model.

The Town of Tecumseh fully supports the recommendations SWIFT has made to the CRTC to change the criteria of eligibility to ensure that residents and businesses of Southwestern Ontario qualify for equal access to broadband funding.

We are asking the CRTC to:

- Redefine service area boundaries and allow areas that are lacking access to meet the CRTC's criteria for basic service;
- Allow lower levels of government and underserved communities to provide other evidence such as standardized Internet measurements to demonstrate their needs and therefore ensure their eligibility to apply;

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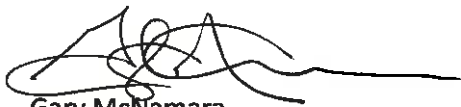
- Reconsider that in partially served areas, as we have experienced in the Town of Tecumseh first hand, that market forces are not likely to improve connectivity; and,
- Allow underserved areas to be eligible to apply as part of larger projects to incent private sector participation.

Currently the CRTC's Broadband Fund will exclude 100,000 underserved premises in Southwestern Ontario, more specifically many residents in the Town of Tecumseh, from improved access to broadband Internet. The impact of this decision on Town of Tecumseh residents and businesses is depicted on the attached map. We want to change that.

SWIFT is proposing changes to the criteria to enable all underserved stakeholders to access and leverage available funding and we are hopeful you will give strong consideration to SWIFT's recommendations.

The Town of Tecumseh believes every resident and business in our town deserves equal access to CRTC's broadband funding. We implore you to encourage this equality too.

Sincerely,



Gary McNamara
Mayor



Tony Haddad
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment: *Areas Deemed Partially Served by CRTC*

cc: Jamie McGarvey, AMO
Pat Vanini, AMO
Geoff Hogan, SWIFT
Rob Maisonville, County of Essex