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His Worship Gary McNamara
Mayor
Corporation of the Town of Tecumseh
917 Lesperance Road
Tecumseh, Ontario N8N 1W9

Dear Mr. Mayor:

Thank you for your letter of January 28, 2019, congratulating me on my appointment as Minister of Rural Economic Development and regarding broadband access for rural, northern and remote communities.

It is an honour for me to assume this new role. I am committed to fulfilling the responsibilities entrusted to me in this portfolio, to work with Canadians and champion economic opportunity and quality of life in rural Canada.

As Minister of Rural Economic Development, I am developing a whole-of-government strategy that will capitalize on the opportunity that vibrant rural economies and communities represent to enhance economic growth for Canada. I am also pleased to lead the rollout of infrastructure and broadband investments in rural Canada, and to work with other federal ministers to advance important priorities benefitting rural Canada.

Canadians know high-speed Internet access is no longer a luxury – it is a necessity for success. Students, families and businesses require reliable high-speed Internet to participate in today's economy. Too many Canadians, especially those living in rural and remote communities, do not have the connectivity they need to grow their business, access government services, pursue online education, or connect with family and friends.

Since Budget 2016, the Government of Canada has been making major investments in broadband infrastructure. Through the successful Connect to Innovate program, over 900 Canadian communities will gain access to faster internet speeds.

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In Budget 2019, our government is making an ambitious new commitment to ensure every single household and business in Canada, no matter how rural and remote, has access to high-speed internet (50 Mbps download and 10 Mbps upload) by 2030.

Efforts to strengthen and capitalize on rural Canada's enormous potential will require governments, businesses and communities to collaborate. I anticipate that this will be an important theme of the Canadian Rural Economic Development Strategy.

Thank you again for your kind words and for your interest in Canada's rural communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'BJ' followed by a horizontal line.

The Honourable Bernadette Jordan, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Rural Economic Development