

AGENDA

CONNECTIVITY Ad Hoc COMMITTEE



Tuesday, February 15, 2022

9:30 a.m.

Via Zoom Meeting

9 James Street, Parry Sound, Ontario

1. CALL TO ORDER & APPROVAL OF MINUTES

“**THAT** the February 15th, 2022 Connectivity Ad Hoc Committee Agenda, be approved.”

2. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNAIARY INTEREST

3. DEPUTATION

Maria Wood. Bell Tower Proposal – Kapikog Lake

4. OTHER BUSINESS

i. **Accelerated High Speed Internet Program (AHSIP) – ToA Draft Letter**

Pages: 1 - 5

ii. **Bell Tower Proposal – Kapikog Lake (Project W7713)**

Pages: 6 - 7

iii. **Shared Resource Hire – Sequin/Archipelago Connectivity Coordinator**

5. ADJOURNMENT

“**THAT** the Connectivity Ad Hoc Committee does hereby adjourn at _____ a.m.”

Ministry of Infrastructure's ADM - Jill Villeneuve - Jill.Villeneuve@ontario.ca

Fausto Iannallice - Director of Broadband Deployment and Digital Strategy

Re: Infrastructure Ontario's Accelerated High Speed Internet Program (AHSIP)

We are appreciative of the Ontario Government's investment of \$4B with a goal to provide Broadband internet service to everyone in Ontario who doesn't have it, however, we have **immediate concerns** as it relates to servicing the purposes it should in the Township of The Archipelago and West Parry Sound area (AHSIP Lot ?).

Background:

Infrastructure Ontario (IO) has released a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to support accelerated high-speed internet expansion in the Province.

Through this process, the Province will be divided into geographical regions ("lots" or "service areas") and Internet Service Providers (ISPs) will bid on opportunities to connect underserved and unserved communities across Ontario. The RFQ is the first step in the procurement process.

In the RFQ phase, IO will qualify ISPs based on their relevant capacity and deployment experience to deliver high-speed internet in Ontario. ISPs that qualify will be invited to respond to a Request for Proposals (RFP) which is expected to be issued in Fall 2021.

Our concern is that this AHSIP is being rolled out while excluding municipal consultation or involvement and we are identifying flaws that may well lead to a non-inclusive service, yet the program is designed to assist northern and rural Ontario municipalities.

We have been in contact with several of our Local ISP's who would like to prepare and participate in the auction process, however, on closer examination of the "lots" or "service areas," will most likely not participate as they are negatively affected by the reverse auction and **the "lots" are much too large to bid on, the technology has been pre-determined and** some areas within the "lots" already have 50/10 service. This provides another example of how local ISP's, with possibly the best service options for local areas not currently being serviced, will be excluded.

Our geography requires a flexible solution for connectivity – a hybrid of wired and wireless. We require fibre for ultimate high speed and access to sufficient bandwidth. However, our landscape is comprised of challenging inhibitors to that goal such as solid granite, large bodies of water, tall trees and thousands of water access only islands to name a few. Furthermore, within our geography, we lack the typical infrastructure such as road shoulders and hydro poles that can accommodate convenient extension of fiber services. We require a **unique Hybrid** solution.

Furthermore, we are concerned that the major telco's may use this funding program to further enhance their existing cellular networks which are NOT Broadband internet solutions that will satisfy our connectivity goals.

The AHSIP delivered by Infrastructure Ontario dictates that all premises be served by one supplier and the reverse auction process appears to limit the scope of work to only Bell and Rogers and locks out all local ISP's and municipalities

The Township of The Archipelago has been actively developing a strategy to encourage ISP and WISP participation in our marketplace. Our Guiding Principle (attached) document provides a framework to ensure that the best interests of our citizens are being addressed during discussions with ISP's and WISPS wishing to build or access broadband infrastructure within the Township of The Archipelago.

- Addresses needs of all stakeholders
- Reduces prospects of controversy and land use conflicts while furthering the development of high-quality networks
- Accommodates the telecommunication needs of existing and future residents of the Archipelago
- Reduction of visual impact while permitting the development of high-quality networks
- Encourage proponents to voluntarily select sites away from residential areas
- Public consultation required for new tower sites

We ask that Infrastructure Ontario include municipalities and local ISP's in consultation for broadband development to allow locally appropriate solutions while addressing our Guiding Principles in an open and transparent equitable bidding process.

We look forward to hearing back from you

Encl: Township of The Archipelago – Connectivity Guiding Principles

Subject: Re: FW: Building Broadband Faster in Ontario | Update/Accélérer le déploiement de l'accès haut débit en Ontario | Point de situation

From: Glen Barnden <barnden2020@gmail.com>

Date: 2021-12-02, 5:28 a.m.

To: bert@bertliverance.com

CC: John Fior <jfior@thearchipelago.on.ca>, Joe Villeneuve <jvilleneuve@thearchipelago.on.ca>, Ian Mead <ianm@vianet.ca>, Scott Sheard <sheard@rogers.com>, Maryann Weaver <mweaver@thearchipelago.on.ca>

Good morning gentlemen. I read the attached document and have come away with a few opinions and comments.

1) It does not address the criteria we have outlined in my Draft Letter regarding ISP eligibility and capacity to bid on projects due to "lot" size therefore not supporting the Province's statement that they have "launched a new innovative and competitive process which will enable qualified ISPs to bid for opportunities to provide high-speed internet access to remaining underserved and unserved communities across the province by the end of 2025".

2) It does not engage municipalities so discuss possible best local solutions during the planning stage.

3) It seems to be mostly written to support successful project applicants, which we know are the large telcos, in gaining unfettered access to private and municipal infrastructure wherever they need it. So for municipalities it means get out of the way or else the Province will step in to remove any barriers getting in the way.

I'm not sure how this works regarding our Guiding Principles to ensure citizens wishes and concerns are met with any new infrastructure.

4) I like that there is a service and project Guide Standard being set.

5) It's a wonderful dream to have every citizen's address connected with high-speed internet and mostly fibre by 2025, BUT REALLY! I don't think that it's possible without everyone being at the planning table and having an open transparent discussion.

My opinion is to send the letter and continue to push for improved local dialogue with the Province, Local ISP's, Telcos and Municipalities while adopting our Guiding Principles. These new Acts and Provincial Support are good for any successful funded projects, however, the application process and criteria for funding must be more inclusive.

If you feel I have missed the mark here, any feedback welcome,

Glen Barnden
c: 613-852-7770

On Wed, Dec 1, 2021 at 11:09 AM <bert@bertliverance.com> wrote:

Hi All,

FYI. Correspondence. Not sure if this will change what we want to say in our letters to the Province.

Thanks,

Bert

Bert Liverance

bert@bertliverance.com

www.bertliverance.com

905 424 8551

From: Minister of Infrastructure <Minister.MOI@ontario.ca>

Sent: December 1, 2021 11:04 AM

To: Minister of Infrastructure <Minister.MOI@ontario.ca>

Subject: Building Broadband Faster in Ontario | Update/Accélérer le déploiement de l'accès haut débit en Ontario | Point de situation

Our government is committed to ensuring that communities across Ontario have access to high-speed internet by committing nearly \$4 billion funding-based opportunities for unserved and underserved communities. This includes \$2.8 billion in the 2021 Budget to support the acceleration of access to high-speed internet with the aim of connecting all regions in Ontario by the end of 2025.

In addition to regional projects already in process, in July and October 2021, Ontario announced \$16.2 million for 17 projects under the Improving Connectivity for Ontario (ICON) Program, which will bring high-speed internet access to as many as 17,900 households and businesses. Ontario and the federal government also announced over \$1.2 billion in 58 new projects through the provincial ICON and the federal government's Universal Broadband Fund.

On September 9, 2021, we also launched a new innovative and competitive process which will enable qualified ISPs to bid for opportunities to provide high-speed internet access to remaining underserved and unserved communities across the province by the end of 2025. This process is now well underway and is being led by Infrastructure Ontario.

To help remove barriers and support a more streamlined approach to the deployment of high-speed broadband infrastructure, in April 2021, the Government enacted the *Building Broadband Faster Act, 2021* (BBFA) along with amendments to the *Ontario Energy Board Act* through the passage of the *Supporting Broadband and Infrastructure Expansion Act, 2021* (SBIEA). On November 30, 2021, the Ministry of Infrastructure and Infrastructure Ontario issued the **Building Broadband Faster Act Guideline (Guideline)**, and **two BBFA regulations ("Prescribed Loss or Expense" and "Designated Broadband Projects")**, effective as of that date.

The Guideline and regulations support a new, standardized, more coordinated process and sets out the collaboration expected of all partners, including municipalities, to reduce barriers and expedite deployment of broadband infrastructure.

To further support timely progress toward our 2025 commitment, a Statement of Intent was released on November 30 and included in the Guideline, the government is also considering future legislative and regulatory enhancements to remove additional barriers to the deployment of high-speed internet. We will also put in place a Technical Assistance Team to provide project implementation and support to municipalities.

We are actively consulting on the proposed legislative measures, including with municipalities and communities and stakeholders. If passed, these additional measures will provide greater certainty, and ensure expanded access to high-speed internet can be achieved for all homes and businesses in Ontario by the end of 2025.

My ministry will also be reaching out to your officials to provide them with this update and further details on the Guideline, regulations and future proposals.

Thank you for your support to ensure that the people we serve have the access they need to participate in the digital world, and to help Ontario recover and grow.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Yours sincerely,

The Honourable Kinga Surma

Minister of Infrastructure

Attachment

Notre gouvernement a la ferme intention de donner accès à l'Internet haute vitesse aux collectivités partout en Ontario, en consacrant près de quatre milliards de dollars en financement aux localités non desservies et mal desservies. Cette aide comprend 2,8 milliards de dollars prévus dans le budget de 2021 pour accélérer le déploiement de l'accès à l'Internet haute vitesse dans le but de connecter toutes les régions de l'Ontario d'ici la fin de 2025.

En plus des projets régionaux déjà entrepris, l'Ontario a annoncé – en juillet et octobre 2021 – l'octroi de 16,2 millions de dollars à 17 projets faisant partie du Programme ICON d'amélioration de la connectivité en Ontario et destinés à donner à pas moins de 17 900 ménages et entreprises accès à l'Internet haute vitesse. Par ailleurs, l'Ontario et le gouvernement fédéral ont annoncé une enveloppe de plus de 1,2 milliard de dollars pour 58 nouveaux projets dans le cadre du Programme ICON provincial et du Fonds pour la large bande universelle du gouvernement fédéral.

Le 9 septembre 2021, nous avons lancé aussi un nouveau processus innovateur et concurrentiel qui permettra aux fournisseurs de services Internet qualifiés de soumissionner pour des projets de déploiement de services d'accès Internet haute vitesse dans les localités non desservies et mal desservies restantes de la province, d'ici la fin de 2025. Dirigé par Infrastructure Ontario, ce processus est maintenant bien engagé.

Dans le but d'aplanir les obstacles et de rationaliser les processus de déploiement des infrastructures d'accès large bande à haute vitesse, le gouvernement a adopté, en avril 2021, la *Loi de 2021 sur la réalisation accélérée de projets d'Internet à haut débit* et modifié la *Loi de 1998 sur la Commission de l'énergie de l'Ontario* par l'adoption de la *Loi de 2021 soutenant l'expansion de l'Internet et des infrastructures*. Le 30 novembre 2021, le ministère de l'Infrastructure et Infrastructure Ontario ont publié les **lignes directrices de la Loi de 2021 sur la réalisation accélérée de projets d'Internet à haut débit (lignes directrices)** et deux règlements d'application de cette loi (« **Pertes ou dépenses prescrites** » et « **Projets désignés d'Internet à haut débit** »), qui sont entrés en vigueur à cette date.

Les lignes directrices et les règlements sous-tendent un nouveau processus normalisé et mieux coordonné et dressent les contours de la collaboration attendue de tous les partenaires, notamment les municipalités, dans le but d'aplanir les obstacles et d'accélérer le déploiement des infrastructures d'Internet large bande.

Pour accélérer davantage les progrès vers notre engagement de 2025, une déclaration d'intention a été publiée le 30 novembre et incluse dans la ligne directrice. Le gouvernement envisage aussi des améliorations législatives et réglementaires futures axées sur l'élimination d'autres obstacles au déploiement de l'Internet à haute vitesse. Nous formons également une équipe d'assistance technique pour assurer la mise en œuvre des projets et le soutien aux municipalités.

Nous menons activement des consultations sur les mesures législatives proposées, notamment auprès des municipalités, des collectivités et des parties prenantes. Si ces mesures supplémentaires sont adoptées, elles offriront une plus grande certitude et garantiront un accès élargi à l'Internet à haute vitesse pour tous les ménages et entreprises de l'Ontario d'ici la fin de 2025.

Mon ministère communiquera aussi ce point de situation à vos représentants, ainsi que d'autres détails sur les lignes directrices, les règlements et les propositions futures.

Je vous remercie de votre aide à garantir que les populations que nous servons ont l'accès dont elles ont besoin pour participer au monde numérique, et aider l'Ontario à se rétablir et à prendre son essor.

Si vous avez des questions, n'hésitez pas à communiquer avec mon bureau.

Cordialement,

L'honorable Kinga Surma

Ministre de l'Infrastructure

Share your thoughts on Bell's proposed antenna tower. Our experts will answer your questions and address any feedback.

If you have specific questions about the proposed plans to upgrade the wireless network in your community, you can email your Bell representative, Maria Wood at consultation@canacre.com by February 25, 2022.

For additional information about antenna systems, you can visit the government of Canada at www.ic.gc/towers or you can contact:

Your Local Government Contact

Jason Lorbetskie
Resource Management Supervisor
Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry (MNDMNR)
1350 High Falls Road, Bracebridge, ON P1L 0L1
Jason.Lorbetskie@ontario.ca

Your Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (formerly known as Industry Canada) Contact

2 Queen Street East
Sault Ste. Marie ON P6A 1Y3
1-855-465-6307
ic.spectrumnod-spectredeno.ic@canada.ca

Canacre Ltd.
Agents for Bell Mobility
Suite 300 - 489 Queen St. E.
Toronto, ON, M5A 1V12
Fax: (416) 352-0707

Important Information Enclosed

TO:
JASON LORBETSKIE
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SUPERVISOR
MINISTRY OF NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT, MINES, NATURAL RESOURCES AND FORESTRY (MNDMNR)
1350 HIGH FALLS ROAD
BRACEBRIDGE, ON P1L 0L1 CA

You are receiving this notice because you own property within 500 metres of a proposed telecommunications tower.



Notice of Public Consultation

You're receiving this notice because you own property within 500 metres of the proposed lattice tripole telecommunications tower. This proposal entails bringing high-speed mobile (LTE) network coverage and capacity AND Wireless To The Home internet services ("WTTH") to this community.

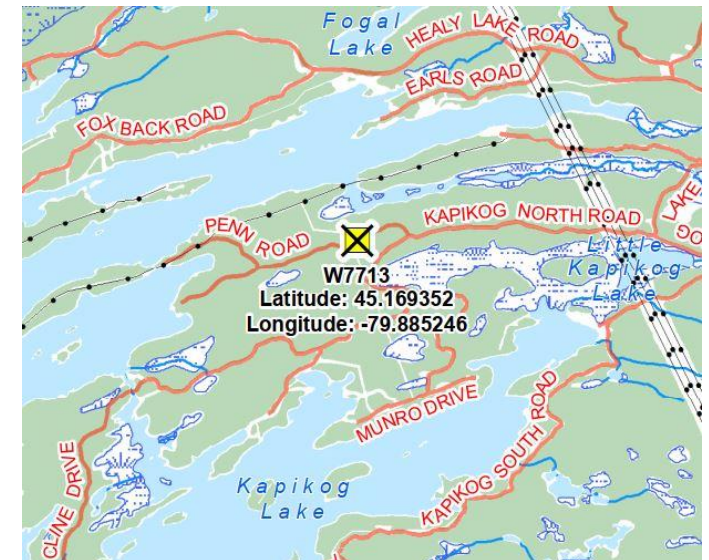
Inside you will find information on the proposed antenna tower as well as an invitation to share any questions and comments on this proposal.

Have your say.

In order to improve service in your neighbourhood, Bell is proposing to install a 52 metre lattice tripole tower approximately 365m along Penn Road from the intersection of Kapikog Dam Road & Penn Road, in the Township of The Archipelago. Latitude: N 45° 10' 10.3", Longitude: W 79° 53' 5.0

Bell is committed to working closely with our communities. This means providing any desired information in a transparent and straightforward fashion, hearing your views, and addressing any questions or comments you may have.

To this end, we invite you to email comments to your Bell representative, Maria Wood at consultation@canacre.com by February 25, 2022.



Map of Proposed Location

Understanding the process

Step 1: Proposal

Bell proposes a site in accordance with A Class Environmental Assessment for MNRF Resource Stewardship and Facility Development Projects. Bell submits a plan and initiates a dialogue with the Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry (MNDMNRFF).

Step 2: Notification

Packages are mailed to the local public, neighbouring landuse authorities, businesses, property owners and landowners within the area inviting them to the consultation process.

Step 3: Consultation

Landowners are invited to comment within 30 days.

Step 4: Acknowledgement

Bell must acknowledge receipt of comments within 14 days.

Step 5: Response

All reasonable and relevant concerns will be addressed by Bell within 60 days.

Step 6: Feedback

Landowners have 21 days to respond to Bell.

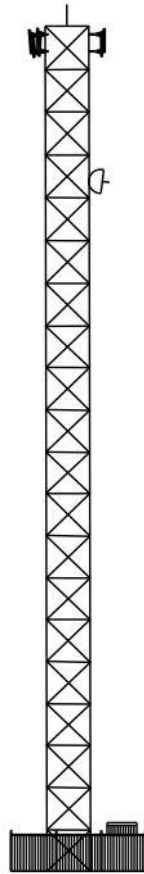
Step 7: Approval

A summary of consultation is shared with the MNDMNRFF and a request is submitted for concurrence. Upon completion of the project evaluation, MNRF will send a Notice of Completion to those who request further notice, and to those who have raised concerns that remain unresolved.

What is an antenna tower?

An antenna tower supports the low power short-range radio systems that allow us to enjoy our mobile devices, such as our smart phones and tablets.

The purpose of the tower is to provide dependable advanced telecommunication service to the surrounding businesses and residences.



Lattice Tripole Tower

Why now?

Canadians are using wireless devices more and more in their daily lives. Currently, more than half of all phone connections in Canada are now wireless, including 70 percent of all 911 calls.

Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (2013):

<http://www.crtc.gc.ca/eng/publications/reports/rp130705.htm>

In order to provide the high quality of service that Canadians have come to expect, Bell must enhance its networks to meet this increased demand.

By adding new antenna sites, Bell customers will continue to benefit from dependable, high speed and high quality wireless service.

Is it safe?

The consensus among Canadian health organizations and the scientific community is that wireless antennas are safe and in fact, this antenna tower will operate well below the levels established by Health Canada under Safety Code 6.

Bell is committed to the health and safety of Canadian communities. That is why we take great pride in our compliance with all current health and safety guidelines while continuing to provide Canada's first-rate wireless coverage.

"Health Canada, along with independent experts from across the country, continually monitor the scientific literature to ensure that Safety Code 6 is based on the best available evidence and has significant margins of safety for the Canadian population."

Dr. Patricia Daly, MD, FRCPC, Chief Medical Health Officer & Vice President Public Health.

What is Safety Code 6?

The purpose of this code is to establish safety limits for human exposure to radiofrequency (RF) energy in the frequency range from 3 kHz to 300 GHz. The safety limits in this code apply to all individuals working at, visiting, or living at or near federally regulated sites.

Bell attests that the proposed antenna tower will be installed and operated so as to always comply with Safety Code 6.

The Royal Society of Canada - A Review of Safety Code 6 (2013)
https://rsc-src.ca/sites/default/files/SC6_Report_Formatted_1.pdf

Why here?

The quality of service in this area does not currently meet Bell standards and the needs of people in the neighbourhood. This proposal entails bringing high-speed mobile (LTE) network coverage and capacity AND Wireless To The Home internet services ("WTTH").

Bell first looked at the possibility of sharing an existing antenna tower in order to minimize the number of new antennas in the area. Unfortunately, none of the existing structures were determined suitable for site-sharing.

Bell is proposing to install the new antenna tower approximately 365m along Penn Road from the intersection of Kapikog Dam Road & Penn Road in the Township of The Archipelago. N 45° 10' 9.67", Longitude: W 79° 53' 6.88". This site was carefully identified because it met various factors including land use restrictions, interaction with existing structures and the surrounding environment, and line of sight requirements.

Is it environmentally friendly?

As Canada's largest communications company, we care about the protection and preservation of our environment.

The proposed antenna will be built in accordance with the highest professional engineering standards and practices. We ensure the utmost care and respect for the environment as we comply with the Canadian Environment Assessment Act.

MNDMNRFF Involvement

This project is being evaluated as a Category B project under A Class Environmental Assessment for MNRF Resource Stewardship and Facility Development Projects. Upon completion of the project evaluation, MNRF will send a Notice of Completion to those who request further notice, and to those who have raised concerns that remain unresolved. MNRF may proceed to implement the project without distributing further broad notice under the Class EA-RSFD.

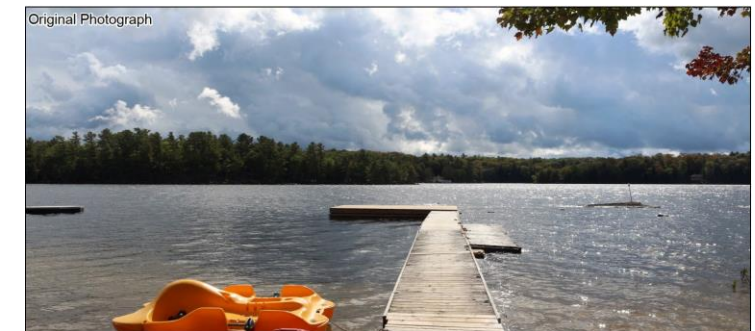
Information is being collected from the public under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPP Act)

A site plan can be viewed at the link below:

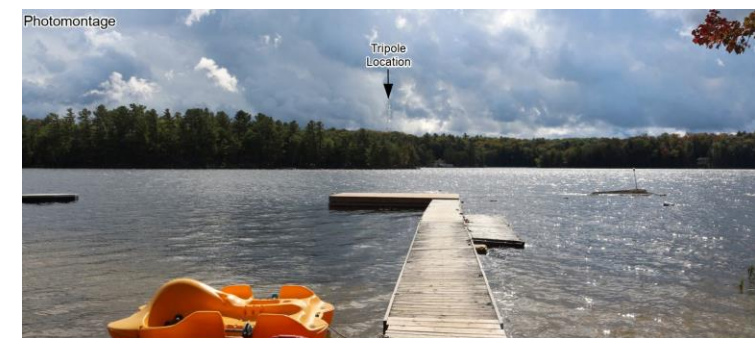
<https://canacre.sharefile.com/d-s78a196347e924fbaa4c982bcfcd2ad25>

What will it look like?

- Bell is proposing a 52 lattice tripole tower that will support LTE 700/850/1900/2100/3500 antennas, and associated radio equipment.
- A shelter will be placed at the base of the tower.
- With the public's safety in mind, the area will not be accessible to the general public.
- Bell will incorporate suitable elements to the proposed antenna tower in accordance with Transport Canada's aeronautical obstruction marking requirements. No lighting will be required for this location.



Before



After