



Corporation of the Municipality of Temagami

Memorandum to Council

Memo No.
2020-M-091

Subject: Xplornet Project

Agenda Date: August 6, 2020

Attachments:

RECOMMENDATION

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct Staff provide a letter in support of Xplornet's application to Stage 1 of the Improving Connectivity in Ontario program.

INFORMATION

Recently, the Province of Ontario opened the first intake of the Improving Connectivity in Ontario (ICON) program. Stage 1 applications are due August 21st. We have had a call with Xplornet who is intending to make application to this program. Overall, throughout Central and Northern Ontario, Xplornet is proposing to install 2,650 km of fibre lines. This includes installing fibre lines to their existing tower situated just north of Temagami.

Once completed, through the tower, Xplornet would be able to supply wireless services of 100 Megabits per second (Mbps) to residents. While the initial project would be to increase the speed available from the tower, one benefit of their project would be the access available along the fibre lines installed that could, in the future, service other communities such as Marten River.

Xplornet estimates that the cost of this project is \$200-220 Million. As they already have a LTE Tower, installing fibre to increase the strength of the tower, they are looking at the 'Temagami' extension to be one of the first stages of the overall project. To assist, they have asked that we consider providing a letter of support they can include in their application to the ICON fund. A draft of this letter has been included for Council's consideration.

Respectfully Submitted:
Craig Davidson
Treasurer/Administrator

Letter in support of Xplornet's

Please accept this letter in support of your project under the Improving Connectivity in Ontario program. The Municipality of Temagami believes that your program of constructing 2,650 km of new fibre across the province, including 76 km to allow for a direct connection to the existing tower site in Temagami, is a key piece for improving broadband access to meet, and in most cases exceed, the speed targets established for internet connections by the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission.

This project builds on your track record of providing broadband access to rural residents, typically in places unserved by others. This project is also a key piece to improve the broadband access to rural and northern communities like ours as more reliance is placed on broadband, especially for economic development opportunities.

As well, as our normal practices in health care, education, and even working from home, have been drastically altered as a result of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, access to higher speed broadband is essential for the growth and health of our residents, now more than ever. Completing this project would ensure that a majority of our residents are able to access services, especially when these are not practical with connections at lower speeds.

Council of the Municipality of Temagami supports the application to the Improving Connectivity in Ontario program by Xplornet to improve broadband availability in Central and Northern Ontario.

Yours Truly,

Dan O'Mara
Mayor