



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Patrick Weiler

Member of Parliament
West Vancouver-Sunshine Coast-Sea to Sky Country

November 9, 2020

Dear Friends & Neighbours,

Our Government knows that fast, reliable and affordable high-speed internet is a necessity, not a luxury, for all Canadians, including those living in rural and remote communities. The COVID-19 pandemic has only further highlighted the importance of connectivity, and accelerated the need to connect all Canadians. We also know that Canada's economic recovery depends on connectivity in every household across the country as families need it for work, education, access to health services and to remain connected with loved ones.

I am therefore proud to relay today that our Government has launched the **Universal Broadband Fund**, which will help connect 98% of Canadian households to high-speed internet by 2026. The newly launched UBF will comprise of the following streams to help all Canadians get connected:

1. **Rapid Response Stream:** This supports smaller projects that can be implemented quickly with the help of a streamlined application process. Applications are being assessed through a rolling intake process – final deadline for this stream will be on **January 15, 2021**.
2. **Large, High-Impact Projects:** This stream will fund transformative projects in size and scope which support a business case that can involve the Canada Infrastructure Bank. In conjunction with low-cost loans through the CIB, this stream will provide grants to further support the business case of a strong project. Application deadline for this stream is **February 15, 2021**.
3. **Mobile Projects:** This stream targets mobile network projects that primarily benefit Indigenous communities, including the deployment of mobile coverage within an Indigenous community or on roads that lead to Indigenous communities. Application deadline for this stream is **February 15, 2021**.
4. **Core Universal Broadband Fund:** The remaining UBF projects will support any project, including backbone and last-mile, which connect Canadian households to minimum speeds of 50/10mbps.

As part of this announcement, our Government is also committing \$600 million to secure low-earth-orbit satellite capacity through Telesat in order to provide high-speed internet to the most rural and remote parts of Canada.

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These historic investments will help bridge the long-standing urban-rural digital divide here in our community and across the country, helping in particular to close the connectivity gap which currently exists in certain areas of the Sunshine Coast and the Sea to Sky Corridor.

With the UBF, we are on track to meet our goal to connect 98% of households by 2026 and every Canadian to high speed internet by 2030.

For more information on the Universal Broadband Fund and application details, [please visit this webpage](#).

We stand ready to support your application in any way that we can, so please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'P. Weiler', written in a cursive style.

Patrick Weiler, MP
West Vancouver-Sunshine Coast-Sea to Sky Country