

*The Corporation of the
Municipality of Huron Shores*



Office of the Mayor

September 2, 2020

Chiefs, Mayors, and Business Administrators
via email as per Distribution List attached

Dear Chiefs, Mayors and Business Administrators:

**RE: H&M COFI (Huron Manitoulin Community Owned Fibre Infrastructure)
Update Number 2**

Hello to all once again.

The H&M COFI team has been hard at work! This past week, in partnership with ROCK Networks, White Fish River First Nation, the Municipality of Huron Shores has submitted an application to the Improving Connectivity for Ontario (ICON) Program. We are to be advised by September 25th if we have been successful in moving to Stage 2 of the program.

We were also able to appear before Minister of Infrastructure Laurie Scott and her team during the AMO conference and presented a power point slide show about H&M COFI. The presentation was followed up the next day with a chat with the Policy Director Zach Potashner, during which time I was able to touch up on the finer points of H&M COFI.

The Municipality of Huron Shores is looking at the incorporation of H&M COFI at this moment. The Stage 2 of ICON does require that we are incorporated. Therefore, we are reaching out to potential interested parties and inquiries are being investigated. It has been discussed that The Municipality of Huron Shores could apply for the incorporation and hold it in trust until such time when it would be transferred to a formed Board of H&M COFI. The Ad-Hoc Broadband Committee of Council is presently working on that issue in partnership with ROCK Networks. The report for the governance and financial plan should be available hopefully in mid-September, pending receipt of funding, and a meeting will be held for all supporters to determine the steps needed to form the H&M COFI Board.

As you can see "The Team" has been active on your behalf. We would like to thank all of the Municipalities, the First Nations and the Economic Development entities that have sent in their letters of support as well as the resolutions.

In regards to broadband statistics, we count the number of households in every municipality and or hamlets to determine numbers of supporters. The count now indicates that we have support representing more than 86% of the households in the two regions. That is fantastic.

For those who have not had the chance to support/participate in this project, you still have time. Please see the attachment to this memo for participation status to-date.

The Team is still pursuing funding for:

- (1) The governance model and the financial aspects;
- (2) The study for the high definition engineering study. Both our M.P. Carol Hughes and M.P.P. Michael Mantha are assisting in identifying sources of funding for those studies. These need to be done and ready by the end of November for Stage 2 of the ICON program, if we are successful in Stage 1.

We learned through the Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre that Bell Canada was also preparing to submit an ICON application. The concern is that, as with previous Bell options, not all homes will be served and of those that are, only ~2,000 will be offered speeds up to 1,500/940 Mbps and ~2,000 to 3,000 will receive the minimum recommended 50/10 Mbps. Our mission is to serve every household and business within the catchment area. We are holding strong for a community owned network, as the profits would benefit our Municipalities and First Nations. Recirculation of money within the area would truly provide us the economic boost so desperately needed.

The Team is requesting that if you have a meeting with a Minister of the Province, or any person in a position to help us, please make it a point to bring up H&M COFI and highlight the needs for broadband for the region. H&M COFI is the answer to many things for our communities. Together we can make a difference.

As always, I am at your disposal for all questions or ideas that you may have for The Team. My cell number is 705-261-9450 or email me at mayor.bilodeau@huronshores.ca.

Respectfully,



Georges Bilodeau

Mayor
Municipality of Huron Shores

cc: - Chiefs and Mayors (as per attached distribution list)
 - Suzanne Faubert-Astles, ENDM
 - Shawn Heard, EACFDC
 - William Elliott, ELNOS
 - HNCEA

MUNICIPALITIES:

Algoma District

- Blind River, Town of - katie.scott@blindriver.ca
- Bruce Mines, Town of - dbrunke@bellnet.ca
- Elliot Lake, City of - nbray@city.elliottlake.on.ca
- Hilton Beach, Village of - peggy@hiltonbeach.com
- Hilton, Township of - admin@hiltontownship.ca
- Jocelyn, Township of - admin@jocelyn.ca
- Johnson, Township of - MayorMersereau@johnsontownship.ca
- Laird, Township of - lairdtwp@soonet.ca
- Macdonald, Meredith and Aberdeen Add'l, Township of - lduguay@onlink.net
- Plummer Additional, Township of - vgoertzencooke@plummertownship.ca
- Spanish, Town of - pamlortie@townofspanish.com
- St. Joseph, Township of - stjoeadmin@bellnet.ca
- Tarbutt & Tarbutt Additional, Township of - tarbutttownship@bellnet.ca
- The North Shore, Township of - mrose@townshipofthenorthshore.ca
- Thessalon, Town of - robert@thessalon.ca

Manitoulin District

- Assiginack, Township of - ahobbs@assiginack.ca
- Billings, Township of - kmcdonald@billingstwp.ca
- Burpee and Mills, Township of - pgilchrist787@gmail.com
- Central Manitoulin, Municipality of - centralm@amtelecom.net
- Gordon/Barrie Island, Municipality of - clerk@gordonbarrieisland.ca
- Gore Bay, Town of - scarr@gorebay.ca
- Northeastern Manitoulin and The Islands, Town of - hferguson@townofnemi.on.ca
- Tehkummah, Township of - clerk.administrator@tehkummah.ca

Sudbury District

- Baldwin, Township of - karin@baldwin.ca
- Espanola, Town of - ctownsend@espanola.ca
- Nairn and Hyman, Township of - nairncentre@personainternet.com
- Sables-Spanish Rivers, Township of - kasloss@sables-spanish.ca

FIRST NATIONS:

- Aundek Omni Kaning (Sucker Creek) First Nation - corbierep@aokfn.com
- M'Chigeeng First Nation - chief@mchigeeng.ca
- Mississauga First Nation - directorofoperations@mississaugi.com
- Sagamok Anishnawbek First Nation - southwind_elsa@sagamok.ca
- Serpent River First Nation - chief@serpentriverfn.com
- Sheguiandah First Nation Reception - reception@sheguiandahfn.ca
- Thessalon First Nation - mjwardell.tfn@vianet.ca
- Whitefish River First Nation - daves@whitefishriver.ca
- Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory - kevinwassegijig@wiikwemkoong.ca
- Zhiibaahaasing First Nation - bobbisue.kells.riberdy.zfn@gmail.com

District	Community	Council Comments
Algoma First Nations	Mississagi River First Nation	Yes, waiting for the letter
	Sagamok First Nation	Yes, waiting for the letter
	Serpent River First Nation	Received Endorsement Letter
	Thessalon First Nation	Have not responded to Letter
Manitoulin First Nations	Aundeck Omni Kaning First Nation	Received Endorsement Letter
	M'Chigeeng First Nation	Have not responded to Letter
	Sheguindah First Nation	Have not responded to Letter
	Sheshegwaning First Nation	Have not responded to Letter
	Whitefish River First Nation	Received Endorsement Letter
	Wikwemikong Unceded First Nation	Have not responded to Letter
	Zhiibaahaasing First Nation	Have not responded to Letter
ALGOMA	Blind River	Did not support, Mayor and Council Revisiting
	Bruce Mines	Received Endorsement Letter
	Elliot Lake	Received Endorsement Letter
	Hilton Beach Village	Received Endorsement Letter
	Hilton TWSP	Received Endorsement Letter
	Huron Shores	Received Council Resolution
	Jocelyn	Received Endorsement Letter
	Johnson	Mayor will support, council to vote
	Laird	Received Endorsement Letter
	Macdonald, Meredith and Aberdeen Add'l	Received Endorsement Letter
	Plummer Additional	Received Endorsement Letter
	Spanish	Received Endorsement Letter
	St. Joseph	Received Endorsement Letter
	Tarbutt & Tarbutt Additional	Received Endorsement Letter
	The North Shore	Unable to contact Mayor or Council
Thessalon	Yes, waiting for the letter	
MANITOULIN	Assignack	Yes, waiting for the letter
	Billings	Voted not to support
	Burpee and Mills	Possible, still waiting for reply
	Central Manitoulin	Yes, waiting for the letter
	Gordon/Barrie Island	Yes, waiting for the letter
	Gore Bay	Received Endorsement Letter
	Northeastern Manitoulin and The Islands	Yes, waiting for the letter
	Tehkummah	Received Endorsement Letter
SUDBURY	Baldwin	Received Endorsement Letter
	Espanola	Received Endorsement Letter
	Nairn and Hyman	Received Endorsement Letter
	Sables-Spanish Rivers	Received Endorsement Letter
Institutions & Organizations	Manitoulin Health Centre	Received Endorsement Letter
	Big Basswood Lake Association	Received Endorsement Letter
	HNCEA	Received Endorsement Letter
	ELNOS	Received Endorsement Letter
	Fly Point Broadband LTD	Received Endorsement Letter
	MDS Computer Corporation	Received Endorsement Letter
	Digital Ubiquity	Received Endorsement Letter
	Northeastern Superior Broadband Network	Email requesting that communities begin discussions