Honourable Jinny Sims Minister of Citizens' Services Parliament Buildings Victoria BC V8V 1X4

January 7th, 2019

Dear Minister Sims,

Today we are writing you as the MLA for Mid Island – Pacific Rim and the MP for Courtenay – Alberni regarding connectivity challenges on the Islands of Denman and Hornby.

We applaud the government for their work on the Connected Coast project, however we were disappointed to see that both Denman and Hornby Island were not included in this project. Both Islands have serious connectivity problems and access to reliable high-speed internet and cell phone service would mean that the local residents and tourists could access online learning and health services, emergency notifications, news and participate in online discussions and sharing.

Bringing reliable high-speed internet and cell phone service to the Islands would also open new economic development opportunities for residents who will be able to work remotely and participate on e-commerce and online business development.

As the local MLA and MP we encourage you to consider adding Denman and Hornby Island into the Connected Coast project.

Yours truly,

Scott Fraser, MLA (Mid Island-Pacific Rim)

3945B Johnston Road

Port Alberni BC V9Y 5N4

250-720-4515

scott.fraser.mla@leg.bc.ca

Gord Johns, MP (Courtenay – Alberni)

Suite 12 - 1209 East Island

Parksville BC V9P 1R5

250-947-2140

Gord.Johns@parl.gc.ca

sf;am BCGEU