

Denman Island Residents Association
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March 13, 2019

Northern Development Initiative Trust
301-1268 Fifth Avenue,
Prince George BC,
V2L 3L2

Dear Sir or Madam:

This letter is being written in support of the application by the Denman Island Residents Association (DIRA) Internet Committee (DIIC) to apply for funding to the Island Coastal Economic Trust, with matching funding from the Provincial Government's CONNECTING BRITISH COLUMBIA PROGRAM, Connectivity Infrastructure Strategy, which is managed by the Northern Development Initiative Trust.

The program will allow Denman Island to access third party funding to offset the cost of hiring a telecommunications consultant to assist with our rural and remote community connectivity planning.

Currently, households on Denman Island receive substandard Internet service, and in some areas, none at all. Denman Island has been identified by the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) as an "underserved area". Poor Internet service is a barrier to educational opportunities, future health care services, family enjoyment, emergency preparedness, conducting business, and also in attracting new residents.

It is understood that the first part of the process, being applied for is thorough public consultation to develop a Digital Roadmap, forming the basis of recommendations for an Implementation Plan which follows.

Our community appreciates your consideration in making funds available for this work.

Yours truly,

R. Shepherd

Ronald Shepherd
President: Denman Island Residents Association