



Office of the Warden

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February 11, 2021

Mr. Twan Peeters
Eh!tel Networks Inc.
392058 Grey County Rd 109,
Holstein, ON N0G 2A0

Dear Mr. Peeters:

Re: Universal Broadband Fund Stream

It is our pleasure to write a letter in support of Eh!tel Networks Incorporated's proposal to the *Universal Broadband Fund Stream* regarding the company's substantial broadband infrastructure project for Southern Ontario.

Grey County understands that Eh!tel Network's project will result in hundreds of kilometres of new fibre in Grey County, particularly rural Southgate, West Grey, and Grey Highlands to make high speed service connections available to households in the area.

The past months have demonstrated the importance of connectivity, especially for rural Canadians. The post-pandemic recovery offers the long overdue opportunity to provide the necessary tools for rural Canada's success in the digital economy. Indeed, the expansion of broadband access through Eh!tel Network's project will facilitate commercial and industrial development in this community. The project will also enable local businesses to grow by providing improved connectivity to customers beyond the region. Eh!tel Network's project will provide improved services to support residents working from home, engaging in online learning, and accessing telehealth services. The improved access will benefit all residents of our region, including underrepresented groups, whose access to the digital economy will be improved by the provision of fibre-based internet services. This will assist the Government of Canada in pursuing other strategies around poverty reduction, digital literacy, official languages and women's entrepreneurship.

The County of Grey strongly supports the application by Eh!tel Networks Inc. for funding from the "Universal Broadband Fund Stream" program. This funding

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for Eh!tel Networks Inc. would build much needed broadband fibre optic infrastructure in the rural communities.

Should you have any questions, please contact my office at 519-372-0219 ext. 1225

Yours truly,

Selwyn Hicks
Warden
(519) 372-0219 ext. 1225

www.grey.ca