

Ministry of Infrastructure

Office of the Minister

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October 19, 2022

His Worship Alan Soever
Mayor
Town of the Blue Mountains
mayor@thebluemountains.ca

Dear Mayor Soever:

On behalf of the Ministry of Infrastructure, I would like to thank you for attending the 2022 Association of Municipalities Ontario Annual Conference. It was a pleasure to meet with you and your delegation.

As you know, Ontario has committed nearly \$4 billion to bring access to reliable high-speed internet for every community across the province including the Town of Blue Mountains, by the end of 2025. As part of this commitment, on August 4, 2022, we released information on our competitive procurement process, led by Infrastructure Ontario under the Accelerated High-Speed Internet Program (AHSIP), in which Rogers Communication Inc. will help connect the Town of Blue Mountains.

Related to your concerns regarding Rogers Communications Inc. having also won lots in many urban areas and may not prioritize projects that enable connection in your community, I want to reassure you that they are required to meet their contractual obligation in connecting households and businesses to high-speed internet in all the lots they have won. While the Ministry cannot dictate when Rogers Communication Inc. will complete each lot, there are stiff penalties if they do not meet their contractual obligations, which above all includes the requirement to complete construction by the end of 2025.

From our discussion, I understand the concerns and challenges you have raised related to obtaining timely and accurate locates, and their impact to Internet Service Providers in completing projects and connecting your community. This matter has been raised by other stakeholders, and we are paying close attention to how the broader sector responds to the increased demand for locates. With that said, I was pleased to hear that you have hired a technician to support this work in your municipality, which may help with broadband projects. With that said, Ministry officials will share your concerns with counterparts at the Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery, which is responsible for legislation that governs provincial locates.

Thank you again for meeting with me. I look forward to continuing to work with you in the future.

Sincerely,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of The Honourable Kinga Surma.

The Honourable Kinga Surma
Minister of Infrastructure