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September 17, 2021

File: 1310-01

KAREN ANN ROSS  
3895 SHINGLE SPIT RD  
RR 1

HORNBY ISLAND BC V0R 1Z0

Dear homeowner/resident:

**Re: High-Speed Internet Access Maybe Coming Soon for Denman and Hornby Islands**

To assist with bringing high-speed internet access to Denman and Hornby Islands, the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) is proposing to provide a financial contribution to build the “last mile” infrastructure necessary to connect homes and businesses on both Islands. This proposal follows a number of important initiatives and work, including:

- investigation and advocacy by the Denman/Hornby Internet Committee;
- the Connected Coast Project, a \$45 million investment to install a subsea fibre-optic cable along coastal BC to connect to landing sites in rural and remote communities; and
- a provincial grant of approximately \$5.6 million to CityWest, the telecommunications provider and subsidiary of the City of Prince Rupert that proposes to install and provide the high-speed internet service on Denman and Hornby Islands.

With the total project costs estimated at approximately \$7.6 million, a community contribution of 10 per cent or \$767,677 is required as part of the grant funding criteria. In order to proceed the CVRD must establish an eligible service, enter into a capital contribution agreement with CityWest and borrow the necessary funds. A borrowing term of ten years has been proposed with the annual tax estimated at approximately \$40 for a home assessed at \$500,000. It is important to note that monthly subscription fees for high-speed internet with CityWest would be in addition to this annual cost.

As elector approval is required for this project to proceed, the CVRD is conducting a referendum on November 27, 2021 to seek approval. The attached information sheet provides the specific dates and locations for advance and general voting opportunities. In addition, virtual open houses have been scheduled for October 6 from noon to 1pm and October 7 from 5 to 6pm. Representatives of CityWest and the CVRD will provide further information on this proposal. To register for the virtual open houses visit [www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/islandsinternet](http://www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/islandsinternet) or call 250-334-6073.

Also enclosed with this letter is information from CityWest providing you with details on their company and the proposed service, including background information about the Connected Coast

project and "last mile" infrastructure. For more information on the upcoming referendum and virtual open hoses please visit the CVRD website at [www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/islandsinternet](http://www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/islandsinternet).

Sincerely,

*J. Warren*

James Warren  
Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

