

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Public input sought in development of Cowichan Internet and Cellular Connectivity Strategy

DUNCAN, BC –The Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) is developing an Internet and Cellular Connectivity Strategy that will provide a roadmap to better connectivity for the whole region.

In 2020, the CVRD Board of Directors identified connectivity as a priority in their [Corporate Strategic Plan](#), and sought to develop a regional connectivity strategy to support the future delivery of broadband internet service to all communities in the CVRD. The provincial and federal governments recently announced a joint \$830 million investment in connectivity infrastructure funding, with the goal of connecting everyone in British Columbia by 2027.

“As we move to a more digital world, internet speeds and cell connectivity are increasingly important to our communities and businesses,” said Lori Iannidinardo, Chair of the Cowichan Valley Regional District. “Whether residents are working or studying from home, accessing remote healthcare, or calling on emergency services, we all need fast, reliable, and affordable solutions. The Cowichan Internet and Cellular Connectivity Strategy is a crucial step in preparing our region to take advantage of the recent funding announcement.”

Economic Development Cowichan (EDC) will be leading this work on behalf of the region. Over the next several months, EDC and consultants IBI Group will review the current state of internet and cellular infrastructure and services available in Cowichan, and engage with the community to uncover our collective vision for the future of connectivity for the region. Armed with this information, they will develop a strategy to meet Cowichan’s connectivity needs.

“Community participation is crucial to the success of this project,” said Barry O’Riordan, Manager of Economic Development Cowichan. “As we identify areas in need and develop a vision for the future of connectivity for Cowichan, we will look to residents, business owners, community organizations, and others to guide us.”

EDC is hosting a virtual open house on April 28th at 6:30pm, and has also launched a number of engagement tools, including a survey. Visit planyourcowichan.ca/connect to register for our virtual open house, complete the survey, test your internet speed, and share your connectivity ideas. Paper surveys are also available at your local community or recreation centre.

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For more information, please contact:

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