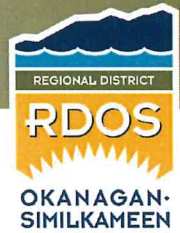


OFFICE OF THE CHAIR



1 December 2022

To Whom it May Concern:

Re: **Letter of Support, Connecting Communities BC (CCBC) program**

This will serve to advise that, at their regular meeting of 1 December 2022, the Board of Directors for the Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen resolved to support the funding application submitted by Rogers Communications Inc. to the Connecting Communities British Columbia program. Specifically, we support Roger's proposal to connect local residents and businesses in rural areas in and around Oliver, Osoyoos and Penticton.

We agree that access to high-speed broadband services provides vital opportunities and supports economic and social development to underserved communities. In reviewing the preliminary network design, we believe the Rogers' network expansion will provide community benefits, including:

- Contribute to the community's economic growth, with a focus on recreation and tourism
- Improve access to essential services, including tele-health, distance learning, social inclusiveness, and telework.
- Facilitate participation in the digital economy by underrepresented groups, including women, persons who are 2SLGBTQ, First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities, living in OLMCs, belonging to a visible minority, children, seniors, or persons with disabilities.
- Connect institutions, including schools, libraries, hospitals, and other social services or community institutions, and/or enhance the services these institutions deliver.
- Connect or facilitate the development of small businesses or entrepreneurship.
- Connect or facilitate industrial applications.

Should Rogers' application for funding be successful, we will be pleased to work with Rogers' in further refining the network design and moving forward with this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Pendergraft', is written over a white background.

Mark Pendergraft
Chair

