## **Information Bulletin**

July 2, 2024

PRINCE GEORGE – The funders and project owners of the Connected Coast have finalized an amendment to the project to ensure the project's objectives are achieved by 2025.

The Connected Coast is an innovative subsea cable transport project laying fibre along the coast to bring new, high-speed Internet capacity to rural and remote coastal communities in British Columbia. This project, announced in January 2018, is funded by the Government of Canada and Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT). CityWest owns and operates the network infrastructure in partnership with the Strathcona Regional District via an established joint venture agreement.

## **Key Project Elements:**

The Connected Coast project has several core objectives, including:

- Providing landing sites in proximity to underserved coastal communities, particularly Indigenous and remote communities lacking access to transport for sufficient Internet speeds (50/10 Mbps).
- Ensuring open access at key landing sites through a point of presence accessible to any Internet Service Provider to provide last-mile or cellular services to the community.
- Establishing an alternate transport fibre path from Highway 16 in Prince Rupert to the Internet exchange in Vancouver to provide connectivity resiliency to the region.

## **Approved Changes as of June 2024:**

The Connected Coast project was approved in 2018. As of June 2024, the Government of Canada, NDIT and CityWest have agreed to a project change request to ensure that the project will meet its objectives by 2025.

The following changes have been approved:

- Extending completion date to March 31, 2025.
- Reducing landing sites in areas already served by existing service providers or where
  network design changes have altered the route, while retaining landing sites in proximity
  to underserved communities that require transport capacity.
- Route changes on the west coast of Vancouver Island to support updated design and engineering plans.

These updates ensure the project will provide enhanced connectivity to B.C.'s coastal communities while optimizing resources and maintaining the original intent of the project.

A revised network route has been developed and can be viewed on the Connected Coast website www.connectedcoast.ca/map.

- For more information on the Connected Coast project: <a href="https://connectedcoast.ca/">https://connectedcoast.ca/</a>
- For more information on connectivity infrastructure projects supported by Indigenous Services Canada targeted funding: <a href="Interactive map: Investing in Indigenous community">Interactive map: Investing in Indigenous community infrastructure (sac-isc.gc.ca)</a>
- For more information on the Northern Development Initiative Trust: https://www.northerndevelopment.bc.ca/
- For more information on the Government of Canada's high-speed Internet funding programs:
- <a href="https://ised-isde.canada.ca/site/high-speed-internet-canada/en/universal-broadband-fund/selected-universal-broadband-fund-projects">https://ised-isde.canada.ca/site/high-speed-internet-canada/en/universal-broadband-fund/selected-universal-broadband-fund-projects</a>
- To learn more about connectivity in British Columbia: <a href="https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/connectivity-in-bc">https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/connectivity-in-bc</a>

