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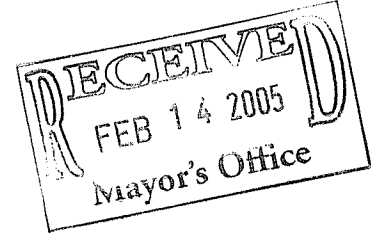
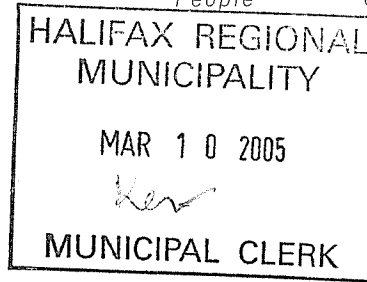
People

Communities

Connections

February 9, 2005

Mayor Peter Kelly
1841 Argyle St., 3rd Floor
PO Box 1749
Halifax, NS
B3J 3A5



Re: Eastern HRM Broadband Project Application

Dear Mayor Kelly,

For your information, our Agency has been working with community and business interests in Eastern HRM to create a Partnership Council to foster economic development initiatives. Our efforts are producing results as this new community organization comes into being. One of the new areas that this new council wants to address is the lack of a level playing field in terms of Broadband access.

We are pleased to announce that the Eastern HRM Partnership Council, a not-for-profit organization, consisting of residents from the region, is embarking on a project to bring High Speed Internet (Broadband) to the rural areas of Eastern HRM. A letter requesting "an expression of interest" has been sent to major suppliers of internet services, and it is the intention of the Partnership Council to request the financial assistance of the various levels of Government in an effort to assist the rural areas of HRM to achieve and share in 21st century technology.

I believe everyone can appreciate the many benefits that connectivity to Broadband services brings to a community. It allows businesses to compete more effectively and facilitates citizens accessing educational opportunities just to name a few. In the efforts to keep our small towns vibrant and to afford them the opportunities that their urban and suburban "neighbors" enjoy, we are supportive of this initiative and recognize its value in greatly improving both the economic and social development of the area.

On behalf of the Partnership Council, I have written to all representatives of the three levels of government for the region; quite surprisingly, there are eight. My request is that you forward a letter of support for the Eastern HRM Partnership Council's efforts in securing these services. The letters would be used to show the support such a project deserves when making application to the various government agencies concerned.

I would appreciate, very much, if you would address your response to this office. I thank you for your time and anticipated support for this very important project.

Sincerely,

Gerald Gabriel
General Manager