



Township of The Archipelago
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July 16, 2020

20-097

**Moved by Councillor Mead
Seconded by Councillor Barton**

RE: Muskoka – Parry Sound Riding Cooperative Broadband Initiative

WHEREAS the Township of The Archipelago understands the Federal priority of ensuring broadband access to 95% of all homes by 2026 & 100% of homes in 2030 and the Province of Ontario's priority of supporting infrastructure development projects through the recently announced Improving Connectivity in Ontario Program;

WHEREAS the Township of The Archipelago recognizes that there are homes and/or businesses in the Municipality that do not have access to affordable, reliable and adequate broadband internet that meets national standard of at least 50mbps download and 10mbps upload;

WHEREAS the Township of The Archipelago acknowledges the availability of reliable broadband internet services to all residents and businesses throughout the municipality as critical to economic growth, social prosperity and community well-being; and

WHEREAS the Township of The Archipelago acknowledges recent pressures imposed by the COVID-19 Pandemic on local governments to advocate for improved broadband service availability and improvement to support functions such as: working from home, e-learning from home, remote & virtual health care service delivery and increased demand for in-home entertainment; and

WHEREAS the Township of The Archipelago is aware of the development of a Muskoka Parry Sound Riding Cooperative Broadband Initiative focused on developing a model for a collective, multi-regional strategy for creating and deploying broadband to all residents throughout both districts; and

WHEREAS the Township of The Archipelago recognizes that this initiative relies on the partnership efforts of all affected municipalities, the Parry Sound Muskoka Community Network (PMCN), the West Parry Sound SMART Community Network, Blue Sky, health agencies, schools, DSSAB, economic development organizations and other supportive partners and/or agencies;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of The Archipelago hereby declares their support in principle for the Muskoka – Parry Sound Riding Cooperative Broadband Initiative to develop and implement a riding wide strategy to ensure the availability of reliable broadband services to all residents within the Muskoka and Parry Sound Districts.

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of The Archipelago wishes to be added to any communication lists for the initiative as to be kept informed of new developments and opportunities to provide support.

Carried.