

4815 – 44 Ave
Stony Plain, AB T7Z 1V5
www.gprchamber.ca
780.963.4545



GREATER
PARKLAND
REGIONAL
CHAMBER

Friday March 9th, 2021

RE: Universal Broadband Funding (UBF) for Parkland County Broadband Program
Innovation Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED)

We are providing our support to Parkland County (Smart Parkland) for the planned Broadband program, (<https://www.parklandcounty.com/en/do-business/smart-parkland.aspx>). With ISED UBF funding and our County investment we will obtain fibre services for our homes, institutions, community agencies and businesses in our western rural communities.

We welcome the development of accessible and affordable 50/10 Mbps internet services in this rural area as it is essential and provides direct benefits for our community services, farms, ranches, schools, remote and work-from-home employees as well as providing tele-health services, distance learning, social engagement, community communication, emergency services and mobile safety.

The Greater Parkland Chamber of Commerce has been advocating on behalf of its membership in support of a robust, cost effective and sustainable Broadband Network as the lack connectivity throughout the region can be an economic detractor. We are all aware that access to a digital world is no longer a privilege and now a necessity in terms of economic investment attractiveness and all-round wellbeing of our communities.

Please accept this letter of support for the UBF application for funding under the Universal Broadband Fund.

Sincerely

Darcy Torhjem, Chair, *on behalf of the Greater Parkland Regional Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors*