

AR11599

August 23, 2024

Abid Mavani  
Fatality Inquiry Coordinator  
9<sup>th</sup> Floor, Peace Hills Trust Tower  
10011 – 109 Street  
Edmonton, AB T5J 3S8

Dear Abid Avani:

While all matters of telecommunications, including internet and cell coverage, are the exclusive jurisdiction of the federal government, Technology and Innovation accepts in principle Recommendation 3.1 of the report: *“It is recommended that appropriate levels of government undertake immediate steps to provide reliable and consistent high-speed Internet and 911 access available in Fort Chipewyan.”*

Despite our limited ability to influence matters of telecommunications, Government of Alberta is taking steps to improve internet and cellular services in the underserved communities in Alberta. Guided by the Alberta Broadband Strategy, the Government of Alberta is committed to universal access to high-speed internet by 2027 and is investing \$390 million over five years to support our underserved communities. The Government of Canada has agreed to match provincial broadband funding dollar for dollar, bringing public funding available for Alberta-focused broadband projects to \$780 million.

To improve internet access in the area, the Governments of Alberta and Canada recently announced a jointly funded broadband internet project under the Universal Broadband Fund that will see Telus serve 323 households in Fort Chipewyan and neighbouring areas by the end of 2024.

Furthermore, the Government of Alberta continues to encourage major cellular providers to improve cellular coverage in the province by leveraging the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission’s Broadband Fund.

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The Government of Alberta also continues to advocate and work with the Government of Canada on improving spectrum policies to ensure spectrum is put to timely and productive use within Alberta to bring enhanced coverage to underserved areas.

Sincerely,

Maureen Towle  
Acting Deputy Minister

cc: Malcolm Lavoie, KC  
Deputy Minister, Justice