



August 17, 2020

Cogeco Connexion
950 Syscon Road
Burlington, ON
L7R 4S6

**Re: Letter of Support
Improving Connectivity for Ontario (ICON) Bid for the Town of Essex**

Dear Mr. Shiu,

On behalf of Council for the Town of Essex, please accept this letter in support of Cogeco Connexion's application to the Improving Connectivity for Ontario (ICON) program.

Access to high-speed Internet for citizens, business owners, and visitors is a priority for our community and the current pandemic has made the issue all the more salient. With the expansion of remote work and education, as well as the increase to streaming entertainment services, Council recognizes the importance of providing high quality and affordable Internet access in the 21st century economy. For the Town of Essex, this is doubly important given the large number of citizens who live in rural areas. To bridge the digital divide between urban and rural areas, new infrastructure needs to be built and existing infrastructure needs to be upgraded.

However, our Council recognizes the significant time and financial resources this effort will require. The goal of affordable, high-speed Internet requires a united effort from all levels of government and private partners. Cogeco's proposed project in the Town of Essex is a great example of how Internet Service Providers can partner with communities and upper levels of government to provide modern internet services to underserved populations.

We are in full support of Cogeco's efforts to expand broadband connectivity in the Town of Essex and we thank you for considering their proposal.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larry Snively".

Larry Snively
Mayor, Town of Essex