



## CENTRAL COAST REGIONAL DISTRICT

DATE: 13 March 2014

TO: Board Chair Reginald Moody and Board Members

FROM: Darla Blake, Chief Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: **Networks BC – requesting reliable cell and internet services to remote outer coast communities**

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### RECOMMENDATION

**That Central Coast Regional District administration prepare a letter to Networks BC requesting they ensure that communications companies such as Telus provide reliable cell and internet services to remote communities and businesses on Denny Island and Campbell Island, as directed and funded by the Federal Government.**

### STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal 3 – An Enhanced and Strengthened Region

Objective 2 – Our objective is to strengthen inter-governmental relationships

Strategy 5 – .....each available opportunity to advocate on behalf of our region.

### BACKGROUND

In early February 2014, Klemtu, Bella Bella and Denny Island experienced a 3-4 day black out of internet, cell and long distance telephone service.

Communication was received from Craig Widsten of Shearwater Marine Group and Director Cathi McCullagh advising the Shearwater/Denny Island community has been desperately trying to secure a reliable cell, internet and telephone service to their community for two years.

Shearwater Marine Group have requested, the Central Coast Regional District write a letter of support to Networks BC on behalf of these remote outer communities, asking them to ensure that communications companies such as Telus provide reliable cell, internet and telephone services to such remote communities.

### CONSULTATION

N/A

### LEGISLATION /POLICY

N/A



## **BUDGET/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Within current approved budget:	Yes
Requires further budget consideration	No

## **RISK MANAGEMENT**

Administration has evaluated potential risks with the proposal and assessed these as negligible with no requirements for controls.

## **DISCUSSION**

There is concern regarding the reliability of communications services to the Central Coast Regional District outer coast communities. Over a number of years, these communities have been requesting Telus improve the services. There have been meetings with Nathan Cullen, MP; a petition was circulated and forwarded to Telus, Nathan Cullen MP and Gary Coons MLA. All efforts to date seem to have been to little avail.

Reliability of service is critical (but not limited to) the communities, businesses, schools, the Bella Bella hospital, and emergency management.

Shearwater Marine Group have requested the CCRD write a letter to Networks BC on behalf of the communities, requesting the implement their mandate to ensure communications companies such as Telus, provide reliable services to remote communities and businesses as directed and funded by the Federal Government.

## **CONCLUSION**

It is recommended that the Board of Directors request administration to provide a letter to Networks BC, supporting the communities' plea for reliable cell, internet and telephone services.

Respectfully submitted



Darla Blake

**Chief Administrative Officer**