



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Kyle Seeback

Member of Parliament
Dufferin-Caledon

August 20, 2020

Tracy Macdonald
Assistant Clerk
Corporate Services
Town of Orangeville
87 Broadway
Orangeville, ON
L9W 1K1

**Re: August 17, 2020 E-mailed Correspondence –
August 10, 2020 Council Resolution**

Dear Ms. Macdonald,

Thank you for forwarding a copy of Council's August 10, 2020 resolution recognizing and supporting broadband connectivity as an essential service and requesting that both MPP Sylvia Jones and I, take action through our respective governments, to declare broadband as an essential service, as well as to help facilitate telecommunication access to existing infrastructure, including underutilized or dark fibre optic network and hydro poles in support of affordable and reliable broadband expansion in all communities. I appreciate you taking the time to keep me informed on Council's initiatives and activities.

The issue of reliable and affordable internet connectivity has been and continues to be a priority for me. The lack of high-speed internet across Dufferin-Caledon is unacceptable and this issue has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Internet connectivity has become essential during this time, as families rely on this service to operate their businesses, communicate with loved ones, complete schoolwork, and to stay connected and informed. I also spoke about this issue in the House of Commons before the pandemic struck our country in February (you can watch my speech at <https://youtu.be/q7JEQ57vBlg>). My position is the same today: high-quality internet is a basic need for everything and everyone.

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My Conservative colleagues and I are continuously raising the issue of high speed internet for rural and remote areas with the federal government. Earlier this year, we founded a special Rural Internet Caucus where we regularly discuss the issues across Canada, share our experiences, and best practices. As a result, we're developing and presenting constructive solutions to the federal government that can and will ensure high-speed internet infrastructure in rural areas. Our latest development was the launch of a Consultation Process to Connect Rural Canadians by 2021. You can review the statement by my colleague, MP Rempel Garner, our Shadow Minister for Industry and Economic Development, as well as the final report of the Connect Canada initiative, at www.kyleseeback.ca/internet.

I look forward to working with Ms. Jones to bring reliable and affordable internet connectivity to Dufferin-Caledon. My Conservative colleagues and I will also continue to press the federal government to act on our Rural Internet Caucus' recommendations to ensure high-speed internet infrastructure for rural areas, including this riding.

Thank you again for bringing this resolution to my attention.

Sincerely,



Kyle Seeback, M.P.
Dufferin-Caledon