

# CAO's REPORT

## November 13, 2018

1. As directed by Council, Administration requested opportunity for Council to meet with Provincial Ministers during the RMA Fall 2018 Conference. To date, Administration received proposed meeting dates, times and locations from the following:
  - Minister Brian Malkinson, Service Alberta – 11:30 am Nov 20 or 21 at the Legislature Building;
  - Minister Oneil Carlier, Agriculture & Forestry – 10:15 am Nov 20 at the Legislature Building;
  - Regional Director Russ Watts (staff), Alberta Transportation – 5:00 pm Nov 20 at the Shaw Conference Centre
  - Minister Deron Bilous, Economic Development & Trade – Nov 22 (time and location to be confirmed)

Administration asks that Council confirm dates/times and availability to meet with the above Ministers.

2. As reported by Councillor Swanson at Council's October 23 meeting, MP Matt Jeneroux, Shadow Minister for Infrastructure, Communities and Urban Affairs, called to discuss a letter sent by Administration regarding the following: Council's past efforts and current goals for increased broadband connectivity in the County; the need for a shared funding strategy between all levels of government to advance connectivity across rural Canada; and, encouraging the CRTC to reconsider its lowered standards for internet speed.

MP Dan Albas, Shadow Minister for Innovation, Science and Economic Development and Internal Trade, who received a copy of the letter from Mr. Jeneroux, called on October 29 to discuss the importance of connectivity for sustainable rural communities and the County's perspective on proposed criteria for a funding model (i.e. – a global plan, lower densities would be a positive, and adopting a 1/3, 1/3, 1/3 model so every level of government illustrates the priority this is to all rural citizens throughout Canada).

Mr. Albas referenced a report, [BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY IN RURAL CANADA: OVERCOMING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE](#), published by the Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Technology, that made twelve recommendations for the Federal Government's consideration. He also mentioned the need for examples of rural municipalities who were working towards solutions with "skin in the game".

3. The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) also made recommendation to the Federal Government to dedicate \$400 million per year over the next four years to develop a broadband strategy. FCM has launched the 'Reliable Internet for Everyone Campaign' in support of the recommendation and municipalities are encouraged to utilize [FCM resources](#) and the Twitter hashtag [#universalbroadband](#) to raise local awareness of the campaign.

4. The November 28 O-NET Tour Itinerary will include stops at the O-Net Retail Outlet, Olds Institute Entrepreneur Centre, O-Net Central Office and a Fibre Distribution Hub. Councillors participating in the tour (7 County, 4 Village and 1 Town) will depart Rocky Mountain House at 8:30 am and return around 3:30 pm.

## **Upcoming Events**

November 16 – Caroline Clearwater IDP/ICF Committee Meeting

November 16 – Clearwater Regional Emergency Management Advisory Committee Meeting

November 20 to 22 – RMA Convention

December 4 to 5 – AEMA Stakeholder Summit

December 12 to 14 – 2019 Budget Deliberations

December 24 to 26 – Clearwater County offices closed for Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day

January 1 – Clearwater County offices closed for New Years Day