



News Release – For Immediate Release April 14, 2009

Province Supporting Second Phase of High Speed Internet Project

The Alberta Government has agreed to fund up to \$300,000 for Phase 2 of the County of Grande Prairie's High Speed Rural Internet Project, which will provide the service for hard to reach areas in the County.

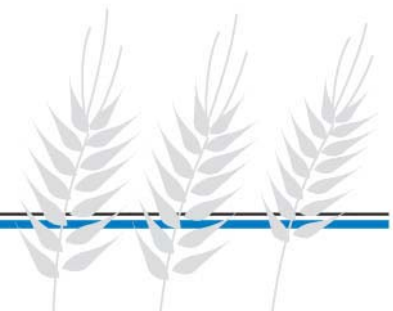
Council received a letter of approval from Agriculture and Rural Development Minister George Groeneveld during its regular chamber meeting on Tuesday, April 14. The letter stated the provincial department will commit to the maximum of \$300,000 allowed under its Rural Connections Community Broadband Infrastructure Pilot Program.

"This is very good news for ratepayers looking for a faster Internet service in the County," said Division 8 Councillor Richard Harpe, who is chairman of the High Speed Rural Internet committee. "We will have strong funding from the province that will help us cover the cost to construct a second set of towers that will transmit the high-speed Internet signal into the more rugged and isolated areas of the County, thereby fulfilling our mandate to provide the service to all County residents."

Council will formally sign a funding agreement with the province in the coming weeks. Under funding guidelines, the County will be required to contribute 25 per cent of the costs for the project, which will be \$100,000.

Phase 1 of the High Speed Rural Internet Project is nearing completion as GPN Wireless Networks Solutions Ltd. recently completed installation of two Internet distribution towers in the Kleksun Hills and Morgan's Mountain areas.

The County continues to receive applications for the High Speed Rural Internet Phase 2 assistance program. On-line forms are available on the County website's home page under Quick Links, High Speed Internet Project. Residents can also apply by phone the County at (780) 532-9722 ext. 240 or pick up written forms available at the front desk of the County Office in Clairmont





Applicants will be asked to check with existing Internet service providers to see if they may be already operating in the area. A list of providers with contact information is posted on the County website under High Speed Internet Project. Further background information can be found on same web page.

The assistance program closes April 30, 2009.

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