

# INFORMATION ITEM

## SUBJECT

Letter of Request re: Broadband

## RECOMMENDATION

**That Council for the Town of Vermilion receive the correspondence dated March 23, 2026 from Shawn Jacula as information.**

## BACKGROUND

The Town of Vermilion announced that its portion of funding toward completion of the Vermilion Broadband Initiative was completed without borrowing or taking on debt in media releases dated November 5 and 7, 2025. These media releases are available on the Town's website here (<https://www.vermilion.ca/build-and-invest/infrastructure/broadband-project-funding-update/#BroadbandProjectFundingUpdate>) and have also been attached to this information item for ease of reference.

The media releases and associated webpage, including a section dedicated to "Frequently Asked Questions" came forward in an effort to provide residents with clear information about how the municipal broadband project was funded, and to explain subsequent bylaw rescindments.

The timeline was as follows:

**2022:** Council authorized Administration to borrow up to \$2.4M for the broadband project, as a precautionary measure.

**2019–2023:** Administration secured Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI) provincial grant funding to support project execution, and covered the remaining cost through general taxation funds over a three-year span.

*\$1.6M payment to Alberta Broadband from the Town of Vermilion on September 5, 2023*

*\$0.8M payment to Alberta Broadband from the Town of Vermilion on December 19, 2023*

Of the Town's \$2.4M contribution, \$691,882 was funded by the Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI). More specifically, in accordance with the Town's Statement of Funding and Expenditures (SFE) submitted to Municipal Affairs:

*\$214,861 was applied in 2019*

*\$130,867 was applied in 2020*

*\$195,137 was applied in 2021*

*\$151,017 was applied in 2022*

The Town's contribution to the Broadband Initiative was funded using general taxation revenues. This means, the original debenture authorization was never acted upon and the Town has no further financial commitments towards the project. This was discussed during the November 18, 2025 Regular Council Meeting and throughout the 2026 budget deliberations.

Council officially rescinded the debenture bylaw to close the funding commitment, without taking on the \$2.4M long-term debt and associated interest costs on December 16, 2025.

As it relates to the agreements for the project, the Town of Vermilion has only ever had two (2) agreements for the broadband project. The first is a Project Agreement and the second is a Municipal Access Agreement. No other agreements exist between the Town of Vermilion and Alberta Broadband Networks.

## IMPLICATIONS

Given that a Non-Disclosure Agreement does not exist between the Town of Vermilion and Alberta Broadband Networks, Administration is not in a position to be able to disclose any such records.

However, upon receipt of an Access to Information request and the applicable fees, Administration could proceed with disclosure of the Project Agreement and/or Municipal Access Agreement in accordance with the applicable legislation. As these agreements are with a third party (i.e. Alberta Broadband Networks), we would be required to notify them of the Access to Information request. Then, upon payment of the associated fees related to the processing of the request, Administration would proceed in its review of the agreements to redact any such information that would be protected under the applicable legislation and provide copies to the applicant.

Requests for information and document disclosure for files not publicly available must go through the appropriate administrative channels for timely processing in accordance with the legislation. More information on submitting a request is available here:

<https://www.alberta.ca/access-to-information-act>

## STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

Transparency

## OPTIONS

1. Receive the correspondence as information
2. Send a letter in response and provide Mr. Jacula with the information to proceed with an Access to Information Request

## ATTACHMENTS

1. Letter of Request from Shawn Jacula
2. Media Release dated November 5, 2025
3. Media Released dated November 7, 2025