



28th July 2016

Chair, SWIFT Initiative
Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus
595th 9th Avenue East
Owen Sound, ON N4K 3E3

Dear Chair,

As President of the Lafontaine Area Shoreline Homeowners Association (LASHA), I am writing to express our full support of the Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus (WOWC) South West Integrated Fibre Technology (SWIFT) project.

We strongly believe that an affordable, accessible ultra-high-speed fibre optic broadband network is critical to our region's economic vitality and social well-being – and we believe that the SWIFT project is key to helping us compete globally and prosper locally while supporting an exceptional quality of life for everyone that lives, works and plays in Southwestern Ontario.

From manufacturing to agri-food, government services to education, storefront to home-based business, every aspect of our economy requires ultra-high speed connectivity to access supply chains, commodity markets, marketing boards and other sales, purchasing, communications, banking and employment opportunities. In the Lafontaine area specifically, we have only one supplier of hardwired internet service and since there is no competition, Bell has made it quite clear to us that they have no plans of investing in upgrading in our area. All of us need SWIFT so each of us may participate in and contribute to our regional economy.

We believe that the SWIFT project is an important and necessary undertaking that will not only help support sustainable prosperity in Southwestern Ontario, but provide competitive and reliable services for rural communities. You have our best wishes and full support for this critically important project.

Regards,

Chuck Stradling

President

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