



Telecom Order CRTC 2023-272

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Ottawa, 22 August 2023

Public record: 1011-NOC2019-0372

Broadband Fund – Acceptance of statement of work for TELUS Communications Inc.’s mobile project in the central interior of British Columbia

Background

1. In Telecom Decision 2022-89, the Commission awarded up to \$1,609,393 to TELUS Communications Inc. (TCI) to implement a mobile project to introduce mobile wireless services to eligible areas in two communities in British Columbia. The project proposed in TCI’s application was filed in response to the second call for applications for funding from the Broadband Fund. The Commission later received written acceptance of this funding award from TCI.
2. The Commission also received a completed statement of work package for the project from TCI (the project).

Commission’s analysis

Expectation of further community engagement

3. As noted in paragraph 7 of Telecom Decision 2022-89, the Commission expected TCI to (i) undertake further community engagement activities prior to submitting its statement of work for this project, and (ii) submit any outstanding letters of support.
4. During the statement of work development process, TCI provided the Commission with the requested outstanding documents as well as details and evidence of its community engagement.
5. Upon review of the documentation provided, the Commission finds that TCI has complied with the Commission’s expectations.

TCI’s request for an increase in funding

6. During the development of its statement of work, TCI submitted a request for a \$505,978 increase in funding for the project. TCI submitted that this request was a result of (i) changes in equipment that would improve the sustainability, resiliency, and cyber security of the project; and (ii) an increase in the costs of third-party labour and other direct costs that had not been anticipated when the company submitted its application.

7. The Commission is satisfied that this request is well supported in the particular circumstances of this project. Accordingly, the Commission **approves** funding for up to \$2,115,371 for the project.

Statement of work

8. Having reviewed the documents submitted, the Commission **approves** the finalized statement of work and will provide it separately and in confidence to TCI.
9. Provided that TCI complies with all conditions of funding set out in Telecom Decision 2022-81, constructs the project as described in Schedule A: Statement of Work, and complies with all procedural requirements to submit reports, invoices, and requests for funding, the Commission will direct the Central Fund Administrator to make payments to TCI in respect of the project. Failure to comply with these conditions and requirements could result in funding being delayed or not being disbursed.
10. The Commission reminds TCI of the condition of funding set out in subparagraph 35(f) of Telecom Decision 2022-81. This condition is that if TCI becomes aware of a risk of adverse impact on an Aboriginal or treaty right and a duty to consult exists, TCI must advise the Commission within **20 days** and submit a plan detailing the form and process for fulfilment of the duty. Should such circumstances arise, the release of any additional funding will be contingent on TCI demonstrating that any necessary consultations were held to the Crown's satisfaction.
11. TCI is required to submit, quarterly, a progress report and expense claim no later than **20 November 2023**, or as otherwise agreed to with the Commission, and every **three months** thereafter until the project is completed.

Secretary General

Related documents

- *Broadband Fund – Project funding approval for TELUS Communications Inc.'s mobile project in the central interior of British Columbia*, Telecom Decision CRTC 2022-89, 29 March 2022
- *Broadband Fund – Second call for applications – Introductory decision regarding the March 2022 round of project funding approvals*, Telecom Decision CRTC 2022-81, 29 March 2022