

PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

Bylaw No. 2487, 2022

A bylaw to establish a Regional Connectivity Service

WHEREAS, pursuant to the *Local Government Act*, a regional district may establish and operate any service that the Board considers necessary or desirable for all or part of the Regional District;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the *Local Government Act*, a regional district exercising a power to provide a service other than a general service, is required to adopt a bylaw respecting that service;

AND WHEREAS the Regional Board recognizes that the Government of Canada has approved a national connectivity strategy that targets provision of access to Broadband for all Canadians at speeds of at least 50 Megabits per second (Mbps) download / 10 Mbps upload, and mobile wireless coverage availability where Canadians live and work, and along major road corridors;

AND WHEREAS the Regional Board supports the Province of British Columbia's commitment to connect rural and remote communities and First Nations in every part of BC to high-speed internet over the next five years;

AND WHEREAS the Regional Board adopted the Peace River Regional District Connectivity Strategy on November 14, 2021 to identify options and actions for the Regional Board to ensure that critical high-speed Broadband Internet services are accessible throughout the entire district;

AND WHEREAS pursuant to the *Local Government Act*, consent for the establishment of the regional connectivity service through adoption of this bylaw has been obtained;

NOW THEREFORE the Board of the Peace River Regional District, in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. This bylaw shall be cited as "Regional Connectivity Service Establishment Bylaw No. 2487, 2022".
2. If any portion of this bylaw is declared invalid by a court, the invalid portion shall be severed and the remainder of the bylaw is deemed valid.
3. The headings used in this bylaw are for convenience only and do not form part of this bylaw, and are not to be used in the interpretation of this bylaw.
4. Any enactment referred to herein is a reference to an enactment of the Province of British Columbia and regulations thereto, as amended, revised, consolidated, or replaced from time to time.

DEFINITIONS

5. In this Bylaw,
'Broadband Infrastructure' means infrastructure that supports or enables access to high-speed internet, cellular networks, or other telecommunication networks.

SERVICE BEING ESTABLISHED

6. The Peace River Regional District hereby establishes a service to be known as “Regional Connectivity Service” that authorizes the Regional District to:
 - a) Enter into partnering agreements with internet or cellular service providers to apply for grant funding from other levels of government or grant programs for Broadband Infrastructure,
 - b) Enter into partnering agreements to allow the PRRD to provide capital grants for Broadband Infrastructure projects, and
 - c) Provide Peace River Regional District resources required to manage and advance Broadband Initiatives.
7. The establishment of this service includes the authority to borrow funds for the provision of the service.

SERVICE AREA BOUNDARY

8. The service area boundary is the entire Peace River Regional District.

PARTICIPATING AREA

9. The participating areas are all Electoral Areas and all member municipalities of the Peace River Regional District.

COST RECOVERY

10. The annual cost of providing the Service within the service area boundary as defined in Clause 9 above, shall be recovered by one of more of the following:
 - a) A property value tax imposed pursuant to the provisions of the *Local Government Act*, levied against the net taxable value of improvements only;
 - b) Revenues raised by other means authorized by the *Local Government Act*, or another Act;
 - c) Revenues raised by way of agreement, enterprise, gift, grant, or otherwise.

MAXIMUM REQUISITION

11. The maximum requisition limit that may be requisitioned in any one year for the service is the greater of \$375,000 or an amount equal to the amount that could be raised by a property value tax of **\$0.0234/\$1,000** when applied to the net taxable value of land and improvements in the service area.

READ A FIRST TIME this 26th day of May, 2022.

READ A SECOND TIME this 26th day of May, 2022.

READ A THIRD TIME this 26th day of May, 2022.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THE FOREGOING to be a true and correct copy of Bylaw No. 2487, 2022 cited as "Regional Connectivity Service Establishment Bylaw No. 2487, 2022" as read a third time by the Regional Board of the Peace River Regional District at a meeting held on the 26th day of May, 2022.

Original Signed by

Tyra Henderson, Corporate Officer

APPROVED by the Inspector of Municipalities this 5th day of August, 2022.

RECEIVED the assent of the electors on the 15th day of October, 2022.

ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2022.

Filed with the Inspector of Municipalities this _____ day of _____, 2022.

Chair

(Corporate Seal has been affixed to the original bylaw)

Corporate Officer

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of
"Regional Connectivity Service Establishment Bylaw No. 2487, 2022"
as adopted by the Peace River Regional District
Board on _____, 2022.

Tyra Henderson, Corporate Officer