

Ottawa

Confederation Building, Room 207
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6
Tel: 996-1119
Fax: 996-0850



HOUSE OF COMMONS

Constituency

9843 Second Street
Sidney, British Columbia
V8L 3C7
Tel: (250) 656-2320
Fax: (250) 656-1675

The Honourable Gary Lunn, P.C., M.P.

Member of Parliament for Saanich—Gulf Islands

March 27, 2009

Ashley Hilliard
289 Meyer Road
Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 1X4

Dear Ashley Hilliard:

RE: BROADBAND INTERNET SERVICE

Thank you for copying me on your letter to Shaw Corporate Office, regarding the lack of broadband internet service at your location on Salt Spring Island. I apologize for the delay in responding.

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you of efforts at the federal level to extend access to broadband services in rural communities.

Canada was one of the first countries to implement a connectivity agenda geared toward facilitating Internet access to all of its citizens. While Canada remains one of the most connected nations in the world, gaps in access to broadband remain, particularly in rural and remote communities.

Our government is committed to closing the broadband gap in Canada by encouraging the private development of rural broadband infrastructure. Budget 2009 provides \$225 million over three years to Industry Canada to develop and implement a strategy on extending broadband coverage to all currently unserved communities beginning in 2009-10.

I hope that this information is helpful, and thank you again for sharing your letter.

Yours sincerely,

Gary Lunn, P.C., M.P.
GL/ah