

**Ashley Hilliard**  
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June 15, 2009

Hon. Gary Lunn, MP  
9843 Second Street  
Sidney, BC V8L 3C7

Dear Sir,

**Re: Broadband Service, Beaver Point area, Salt Spring Island, BC**

Thank you for your letter of March 27, 2009 informing me of your government's commitment to close the broadband gap by encouraging the private development of rural broadband infrastructure.

Federal Initiative

The program outlined in Budget 2009 is described here:

<http://www.actionplan.gc.ca/initiatives/eng/index.asp?mode=3&initiativeID=96>.

The process is described like this:

Following an intensive mapping process that will take place from April to June 2009, the Broadband Program will define geographic service areas and issue a call for applications to connect unserved and underserved Canadians living within these specific geographic areas. Part of the mapping will include the identification of areas that will become served through existing provincial/territorial or private sector initiatives, to ensure that the federal program is complementary to existing efforts.

Beaver Point Area

I am writing to you to ask your assistance to ensure that the Beaver Point area of Salt Spring Island is included on Industry Canada's map.

The area in question is the SE part of Salt Spring: Stewart Rd from its intersection with Horel Rd; Beaver Pt Rd from approximately the 200 block east; and all side roads, which include mine. There are approximately 400 dwellings in the area, with more potential in the future. Shaw Cablesystems surveyed 36 km of linear plant required. A plan of the area is enclosed.

There are two licensed broadband service providers on Salt Spring: Shaw and Telus. A couple of years ago, the South Salt Spring Property Owners and Residents Association (SSIPORA) tried to have either of these companies commit to service the area. Both indicated that the cost made their return on investment (ROI) unacceptable. SSIPORA also investigated wireless options and found none.

We are among the last unserved area on Salt Spring. We are condemned to what is locally referred to as "dial-up purgatory". It sounds amusing, but believe me, it is not.

### Shaw Cablesystems

Shaw Cablesystems did an extensive survey of the area a couple of years ago. I enclose a copy of a letter to Shaw summarizing the discussion Ken Lee, president of SSIPORA, and I had with them recently. It outlines the reasons why the cost did not justify Shaw proceeding then or anytime soon.

### Telus

Telus is not extending service generally to his area for the same cost reasons. Telus told SSIPORA that we were not on the provincial list of unserved areas and so did not qualify for provincial assistance. I have verified this at the following sites:

<http://www.network.gov.bc.ca/>

[http://www.network.gov.bc.ca/docs/project\\_summary.pdf](http://www.network.gov.bc.ca/docs/project_summary.pdf)

The following is the response I received to my inquiry whether Telus high-speed internet is available at 289 Meyer Rd, Salt Spring Island, BC (Telus ph 250-653-9875) on June 14, 2009.

Website:

[http://www.telus.com/portalWeb/appmanager/cpPortal/consumerPortal?\\_nfpb=true&\\_pageLabel=high\\_speed\\_index&\\_region=BC](http://www.telus.com/portalWeb/appmanager/cpPortal/consumerPortal?_nfpb=true&_pageLabel=high_speed_index&_region=BC)

Response:

TELUS High Speed eligibility

It appears that 250 653 9875 is currently not eligible for the requested service.

It appears that the address you entered is currently not eligible for the requested service.

### Industry Canada Broadband Program

I have quoted the process above. The Beaver Point area meets the criteria of being unserved, and with no provincial or private sector initiative to have it served anytime soon.

However, I fear that this area will not be identified by the Industry Canada mapping survey, unless you, as our MP, draw it to their attention and insist that it be included. Time is of the essence. I hope we can count on your assistance in this very important matter to a significant group of your constituents on Salt Spring Island.

Yours sincerely,

Ashley Hilliard

cc. Ken Lee, President, SSIPORA

PAGE

PAGE 2