



March 11, 2020

Mr. Kirby Koster
Senior Manager, Broadband Programs
CENGN – Centre of Excellence in Next Generation Networks
555 Legget Drive Tower A Suite 600
Ottawa ON K2K 2X3

Dear Mr. Koster and the CENGN Evaluation Committee:

I am writing on behalf of Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors to express support for Municipality of Chatham-Kent's application for the Rural Ontario Residential Broadband Project #1.

As our mission states, we champion business excellence through fostering entrepreneurship and business linkages; integrating business and community wellness; and shaping and influencing progressive economic growth and community infrastructure of Chatham-Kent. With that, we fully support this initiative that helps address the gap in rural broadband internet for Chatham-Kent.

The Municipality of Chatham-Kent has been supportive of expanding broadband internet access. As a partner in the South Western Integrated Fibre Technology (SWIFT) initiative since 2015, Chatham-Kent has invested approximately \$762,440 in expanding broadband access under the partnership, yet, Chatham-Kent remains largely underserved by broadband service, which has affected the economic prosperity of our local communities and municipality as a whole.

The lack of broadband residential internet support has made it challenging for Chatham-Kent citizens to access government services, health care, online education resources and access information on community resources. With a diverse business sector, from manufacturing to agri-food, retail to government services and education, every aspect of our economy requires connectivity. Lack of reasonable internet access has made it impossible for residents to work from home, limiting their employment opportunities and assisting in Chatham-Kent's economic vitality and social well-being.

Again, we are pleased to provide this letter of support and I thank you, in advance, for your consideration of this application for funding.

Yours in Prosperity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Hundt'.

Gail A.B. Hundt
President & CEO