

THE TELECOMMUNICATION TOWER SITE IN ATLIN

The proposed tower is fully funded by Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and will be designed, built, operated, and maintained (DBOM), by Bell Mobility and owned by TRTFN. The site compound will include: a Bell Mobility shelter, Bell Mobility cellular equipment, third party wireless equipment, the TRTFN owned tower, and a TRTFN owned shelter.

LOCATION: No specific location has been identified yet for the tower and compound. The location will be determined during the design process by Bell Mobility to optimise cellular service to Atlin, the Five Mile Reserve, and immediate area. Studies and official engagement will be conducted by Bell Mobility before a site is finalized and the tower is constructed.

SAFETY: Cell towers pose no health or safety risk to the community. Government regulations and industry practices ensure that this site will operate safely. Once in service, the tower will be tested to confirm that it is Health Canada Safety Code 6 compliant.

Details on safety regulations and the processes to be followed when building towers can be found here: Safety Code 6: <https://publications.gc.ca/collections/Collection/H46-2-99-237E.pdf>

ISED: [HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/2T25JXUS](https://tinyurl.com/2T25JXUS)

PREPARING FOR FIBRE-TO-THE-HOME

TRTFN was an intervenor at a Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) hearing in April on Telecommunication in the Far North. A public record of the hearing is available on the CRTC Website. At the Hearing, TRTFN put Atlin's connectivity issues officially on the public record and asked for CRTC assistance with identifying a qualified service provider willing to provide fiber-to-the-home in Atlin. During the Hearing, it was announced that Telus and Northwestel are in discussions regarding the telephone network in Atlin, which is the necessary first step to establishing fibre-to-the-home services. There will be more news in the media from Telus and Northwestel in the next few months.



THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS: The consultation process that Bell Mobility has to follow is explained here: <https://tinyurl.com/59faxabt>

HEAR MORE ABOUT THE STUDY

A community meeting to discuss the study, the findings, and next steps will be held at the Atlin Recreation Centre on May 9th, 2023. Doors will open at 5:00pm with dinner served until 6pm. A presentation from the study team will start at 6pm.



TAKU RIVER TLINGIT
First Nation



TRTFN CONNECTIVITY STUDY NEWSLETTER

MAY 2023

COMMUNITY MEETING
MAY 9th 2023
5:00pm DINNER
6:00pm PRESENTATION

If you have questions or would like to contact the team,
Please email: atlinbb@digitalenginetechnology.com

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN DOING?

The Connectivity Study is completed, and we are now moving into the first steps of implementation!

Over the last few months working with the TRTFN, the project team has been conducting a connectivity study researching the best way to bring reliable, affordable, and sustainable telecommunication services to Atlin.

Director's Council (CDC), TRTFN Citizens, and the community of Atlin as well as with government representatives and telecom service providers.

An informational and technical report is with TRTFN for review.

The team has met with Clan

HOW WAS WORK ON THE STUDY CARRIED OUT?

STUDY AREA



There were three parts to the study:

Phase I: Confirming the current state and condition of telecommunication services in Atlin.

Phase II: Identifying and assessing:
1. Technological alternatives that could be used to establish high speed internet and cellular services in Atlin.

2. Cost estimates for providing high speed internet and cellular services for the study area(s)

Phase III: Researching and identifying:

1. Service providers meeting the qualifying criteria for government funding programs.
2. Government funding programs which could be accessed by TRTFN and service provider partner(s) to maximize capital contributions

WHAT ARE THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STUDY?

1. Split the connectivity requirements into four distinct parts and secure service provider and funding partners for each:

- transport fibre cable connecting Jakes Corner to Atlin along the highway,
- cellular service within the community (Atlin, Five Mile Reserve and immediate area),
- fibre-to-the-home services in the community and,
- cellular services along the Atlin access road.

2. Meet regularly with service providers and funding partners to pursue these goals:

- that the different projects progress as planned
- funding resources are targeted to the greatest degree possible
- TRTFN and Atlin residents do not have to pay any up front capital costs.
- telephone, cellular, and internet services are offered at rates comparable to Yukon communities.

3. Address the need for continuous cellular coverage along the Atlin highway after the cellular service is available in the community.

4. Test and implement direct cellular handset to satellite emergency communications using the current iPhone 14/Globalstar system as an interim measure until cell service is available to ensure the safety of TRTFN citizens while travelling the Atlin access road.

5. Test and implement the use of Starlink for critical infrastructure support services until transport fiber, cellular service, and fibre-to-the-home services are available.

6. Work with the THELP project team to pursue synergies between the two projects where possible, to reduce costs and risks in both initiatives.

WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONNECTIVITY STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS?

TRTFN has secured service providers for both the transport fiber cable and the development of a cell site and is actively seeking a service provider for fibre-to-the-home.

THE TRANSPORT FIBRE CABLE FROM JAKES CORNER TO ATLIN



Northwestel will design, build, and maintain a transport fibre cable using government funding along the Atlin access road connecting Jakes Corner to a new cell site in Atlin. This a \$10M project where 90% of the funding will come from government sources and Northwestel will pay the remaining 10%. Northwestel submitted a funding request to Connecting Communities BC program in February 2023 and is awaiting a response.