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Building Nunavut Together
Nunavuliuqatigiingniq
Bâtir le Nunavut ensemble
Nunavut

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Department of Community and Government Services
Nunalingni Kavamatkunnilu Pivikhaqautikkut
Ministère des Services Communautaires et gouvernementaux

May 9, 2018

Dear Stakeholder(s),

The Government of Nunavut would like to provide you with an opportunity to participate in Nunavut's Undersea Fibre Initiative.

As you are aware, the territory needs significant improvements in broadband connectivity to enhance critical services such as health care, education and justice for all Nunavummiut. To address this, the department of Community and Government Services has been pursuing options to improve the territory's telecommunication capacity.

The GN has remained committed to advancing the state of telecommunications in the Arctic, which includes bringing fibre-optics to Nunavut. In recent years, work has been undertaken to assess the feasibility and costing of the project.

In discussions with existing undersea fibre-optic cable owners and operators, we learned that a detailed undersea marine survey is critical to avoid unexpected construction costs and that we would be well advised to conduct the surveys in order to confirm assumptions taken from the already completed desktop studies prior to committing to construction.

With that in mind, it is the Government of Nunavut's intention to undertake the marine survey this summer. This essential piece will validate the route where the first phase of our planned undersea fibre-optic cable could be installed, identify and validate the location of branching units (BU) and, confirm costing projections. This first phase will focus on an undersea cable between Greenland, and Iqaluit, and Kimmirut, allowing for a redundant loop via microwave between Iqaluit and Kimmirut.

KRG has issues a public tender for a similar marine survey, and we anticipate that there may be synergies that could be realized by utilizing the same proponent for the GN's survey work.

We understand that there are many stakeholders interested in this project, and the GN wants to ensure that stakeholders have the opportunity to provide input into the scope of the marine survey, to ensure that, where possible, everyone's needs are taken into consideration. Any input received relating to the nature and type of survey work will be considered for inclusion into the scope of work.

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We want to be clear, that we are NOT seeking proposals for work at this time. As we progress towards a construction phase, we will continue to work closely with stakeholders.

Please review the attached scope of work and please share your feedback with us by end of day May 31st, 2018.

Sincerely,

Lori Kimball

Deputy Minister, Community & Government Services

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