

From: **"Levitt, Karen"**

To: **"Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"**

Date: 2/20/2024 2:52:09 PM

Subject: Rogers Fibre Network Within City Ducts - Key Messages

Dear Mayor and Council,

I'm writing with an update on the relocation of Rogers Communications from City ducts.

Today Rogers is starting to notify some of their customers, partners and/or stakeholders who will be impacted by the transition.

To support you should you be approached on this matter, we provide here a brief project update and some key messages should you be approached on this topic. As always, media inquiries may be directed to media@vancouver.ca.

Project update

- The City has recently notified Rogers Communications of its intent to terminate a contract that allows Rogers to use about 80 km of City underground duct for its fibre cable network.
- This current contract that allows Rogers to lease space in City duct will expire in January 2029.
- The City needs to prioritize the duct space for the City's own fibre optic cable to meet the City's growing connectivity needs for community centres, libraries, police services and Smart City initiatives (street cameras, connected vehicles, connected streetlights, etc.).
- In the time between now and January 2029, City staff is working with Rogers staff to plan the transition of Rogers out of City duct.
- Rogers is actively working on planning for transitioning out of 40 kilometers of City duct ("the exit duct"), and is currently in the process of notifying the following stakeholders that use its fibre cable that Rogers' contract with the City is coming to an end:

· City of North Vancouver

· District of North Vancouver

· NOVUS Communications

· BC Ministry of Transportation

· BCNET

\u00210 - Beanfield (previously Urban fibre)

- In parallel, the City is engaged in discussions with Rogers to assess alternative arrangements and opportunities to keep Rogers' cables in some portions of City duct.
- Approximately 24 km of the 80 kilometers of duct that Rogers occupies is Telus-owned duct that is provided for the City's use under a 1907 contract. Concerning these segments, the City has engaged Telus and is in the midst of establishing a conversation among Rogers, Telus and the City about the use of these sections of duct.

Key messages, topline

- The City's extensive network of underground ducts, which hold and protect fibre-optic cables, is currently close to capacity. As the City's need for fibre and connectivity grows, this resource will become increasingly constrained.
- Duct networks are a limited and valuable resource, that are very expensive to build new (approximately \$1,000 per metre).
- Improving and expanding the City's fibre optic network is critical to meeting the needs of a growing community, and securing sufficient underground duct space to house the City's fibre optic cables is a critical part of this.
- The City is currently installing new fibre cable to serve our core connectivity needs, including connectivity for community centres, libraries, police services and Smart City initiatives.
- The City will not be able to fit new fibre cables into our duct network without relocation of Rogers' fibre cables that are currently occupying those ducts.
- Rogers is directly managing the transition of its fibre network with its key stakeholders and clients.

Key messages, supporting

- Work is actively underway between the City and Rogers to jointly explore potential opportunities to allow Rogers' cables to be retained in some portions of City duct. Thus, the entire 80 km network is divided into three categories:
 - 40 km Rogers has to exit
 - 24 km Telus owned duct, subject to future discussions/decisions among Rogers, Telus and the City
 - 16 km Potential for Rogers cable to be retained, currently being explored by City and Rogers technical staff
- The City is working closely with Rogers and has provided five years for Rogers to secure alternate duct sites for the fibre that currently is sited within the City duct network.
- Rogers will keep the City apprised of the feedback received by their impacted customers, partners and/or stakeholders, and this will inform the transition schedule for Rogers to exit City duct.

