

Shuswap Lake/ Secwépemcúłecw (Lakes Division) Wins Federal Grant For Broadband Infrastructure Study

Shuswap Lake/Secwépemcúłecw(Lakes Division) , B.C., July 24, 2025 - The Shuswap Economic Development Society (SEDS) is pleased to announce that the region has been awarded a grant by the Canadian Internet Registration Authority (CIRA) to **fund the planning and validation phase** of an initiative to provide broadband service to 1,702 households in the Shuswap region. The project is being supported by the Shuswap Region Broadband Co-operative (SRBC) and its founders the Skwl̓x te Secwépemcúłecw First Nation, the Village of Chase, and Shuswap Economic Development Society.

“We are delighted and honoured that is one of the 13 communities chosen for a grant this year,” said Sue McCrae, President of the Shuswap Economic Development Society. Shuswap Lake/Secwépemcúłecw(Lakes Division) was chosen from a field of some 100 candidate communities.

The announcement was made in Ottawa today by the Canadian Internet Registration Authority (CIRA); its press release quoted CIRA Vice-president, Community Investment, Policy & Advocacy, Charles Noir, commenting that “These projects are powerful examples of how communities across Canada are taking charge of their digital futures. By investing in local infrastructure, online safety, and policy engagement, we are helping Canadians build the resilience they need to navigate digital threats, overcome connectivity challenges, and shape a more equitable internet on their own terms.”

CIRA is dedicated to making the Internet a source of Canadian strength. It has registered more than three million “.CA” domain names and supported the growth of a trusted internet for all Canadians for more than a quarter of a century.

“The CIRA grant funds will play a crucial role in providing support to enable an open-access, community-driven broadband solution in the Shuswap,” added Ms. McCrae. “It will attract additional investment in a project that will promote digital inclusion.

“We are going to provide world-best broadband service for Shuswap Lake/Secwépemcúłecw (Lakes Division) We are determined that our businesses, schools, healthcare and farming communities will be able to communicate affordably with power and speed.”

CIRA support enables communities to address unique challenges and opportunities facing their underserved areas. The Shuswap Region Broadband Infrastructure Project (SRBI Project) will support an application to [Connecting Communities BC](#) to serve 1,702 households in 16 rural, remote and indigenous communities. The proposed Fibre-To-The-Home (FTTH) network will bring full broadband speed to each household over an “open access” network that provides every communications company with an opportunity to serve the community.

Further information on the study’s progress will be released on a regular basis. The SRBI study is scheduled for completion on July 14, 2026.

CIRA's Net Good Grants empower organizations across the country to do the critical work that connects underserved communities. In 2024, CIRA awarded \$100,000 grants to 15 communities across Canada.

In addition to partnering with the SRBC, SEDS is working with the [i-Valley](#) Intelligent Community Association, which has helped create Canada's largest community-based broadband network. SRBC will work with MYBC Datacom a local internet service provider. Skwllax First Nations and Tourism and Economic Development is a founding participant in the project.

About [Shuswap Economic Development Society](#)

The Shuswap Economic Development Society (SEDS) represents an idyllic rural setting along the Vancouver-to-Calgary corridor, with lakes and mountains that offer settings for exemplary growth, expansion, and quality of life. Featured activities include trades, manufacturing, accommodation and food services, agriculture, and forestry, along with a burgeoning technology sector.

About [CIRA](#)

CIRA, the Canadian Internet Registration Authority, is a member-based, not-for-profit organization that manages the .CA internet domain on behalf of all Canadians. They are responsible for maintaining the .CA domain name system and implementing policies that support Canada's internet community. CIRA also offers various products and services related to cybersecurity and internet infrastructure.

Contact

Sue McCrae
Shuswap Economic Development Society
250-832-5932
sue@shuswapecdev.ca

Watch: [*Transforming the Rural Shuswap: High-Speed Internet for Underserved Communities*](#)

CIRA Announcement

<https://www.cira.ca/en/resources/news/net-good/grants-back-indigenous-rural-youth-initiatives/>

<https://www.globenewswire.com/news-release/2025/07/24/3121019/0/en/CIRA-s-Net-Good-Grants-back-Indigenous-rural-and-youth-led-initiatives-for-a-safer-more-connected-Canada.html>