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Hon. Minister Laurie Scott
Ministry of Infrastructure
777 Bay Street, 5th Floor
Toronto, ON, M5G 2C8

Hon. Maryam Monsef
Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Rural Economic Development
P.O Box 8097, Station T CSC
Ottawa, ON K1G 3H6

November 14, 2020

LIBRO CREDIT UNION THANKS BOTH LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT FOR NEW COMMITMENTS TO RURAL HIGH-SPEED INTERNET SERVICE.

Dear Ministers,

Libro Credit Union would like to thank both the Federal Government and the Provincial Government for recent funding commitments to rural high-speed internet across Canada and Ontario respectively. These investments will have a major impact on southwestern Ontario communities and their ability to build the desperately needed infrastructure to access the CRTC's recommended download and upload speeds of 50mbps and 10mbps respectively.

The \$750 million dollar investment in the Universal Broadband Fund was exactly what Libro called for in our consultation to the Federal Government around the program and in our recent finance committee budget asks. This fund can support rural Canadian communities in a flexible and efficient approach, and we call upon the government to continue to use it as a central channel for fund distribution. The recent announcement on November 9th will make a positive difference to ensure this fund remains stable over the years to come and able to better help support regions and municipalities in need of high-speed infrastructure.

The recent Ontario provincial budget made new commitments in the amount of \$315 million on top of the already committed \$730 million committed in the 2019 budget. While these funds are dedicated over the next 5 years, we ask the government to consider and find ways to put those funds to use as quickly as possible in 2020/21. Libro also recommends that the government continue to use SWIFT as the primary channel for internet infrastructure funding distribution. SWIFT remains a reliable distribution channel that is supported across the province by stakeholders and municipalities and continues to drive positive results in southwestern Ontario.

Internet is no longer a want; it is now an essential service and need. The COVID pandemic has shone a negative light on the continued need for infrastructure upgrades within southwestern Ontario as too many rural areas continue to suffer from a lack of fibre internet services, options and choice in their

internet services and reliable speeds for those that have access. At Libro our coaching model focuses on bringing coaching to our Owners through both in branch meetings and online through virtual coaching conversations. We have seen the continued challenge and frustrations from our Owners across southwestern Ontario who are unable to take part in video coaching sessions due to unreliable internet service or lack of high-speed options. As more government, social and business services shift online the need for reliable high-speed internet increases. High speed internet can transform our communities moving forward as more Ontarians seek to exit larger urban centres and move into southwestern Ontario communities to start a family, open a business or simply make a change in their life. Southwestern Ontario has so much to offer and the investments today will ensure that communities are ready to grow tomorrow.

Libro remains steadfast in our advocacy work to get more southwestern Ontario residents connected and with the recent announcements by both levels of government our optimism for 100% high-speed connectivity inches closer to reality.

Again, thank you to your governments for your recent broadband commitments, let's get these funds into the ground and working for all rural Canadians and Ontarians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Bolton', written in a cursive style.

Stephen Bolton
Head Coach, CEO and President
Libro Credit Union

CC

All southwestern Ontario MPs
All southwestern Ontario MPPs