ATTACHMENT 2 – CITY OF TORONTO FIBRE NETWORK HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The City of Toronto used to own and operate a dark-fibre network through Toronto Hydro Telecom ("THT", which was owned by Toronto Hydro). This network – which provided City Agencies, Boards and Commissions a favourable competitive rate for fibre access and network services – spanned 500 km and included "OneZone", a free-to-use, public Wi-Fi network in the downtown core. THT was a federally regulated telecommunications carrier that leased access to the unused portions of its network to private telecommunications service providers.

In 2008, City Council approved the sale of the fibre assets to the private market for $200 million (2008.EX22.16)[1]. The initial sale of the assets was to Cogeco Cable Inc. (operating as “Cogeco Pier 1”)[2], which later sold the fibre network to Digital Colony who subsequently changed the name of Cogeco Pier 1 to Aptum Technologies.[3] The assets were acquired by Beanfield Metroconnect in 2020 in a $255 million transaction.[4]

Since the time of the sale of these network assets, the City contracts fibre network services from fibre-based internet service providers, including Beanfield, to provide itself with the connectivity it requires for its daily operations.

[1] https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2008.EX22.16
[2] COGECO CABLE ACQUIRES TORONTO HYDRO TELECOM INC.
[3] Cogeco Peer 1 Changes Name to Aptum Technologies
[4] Digital Colony Announces Strategic Recapitalization of Beanfield Metroconnect – Beanfield Blog