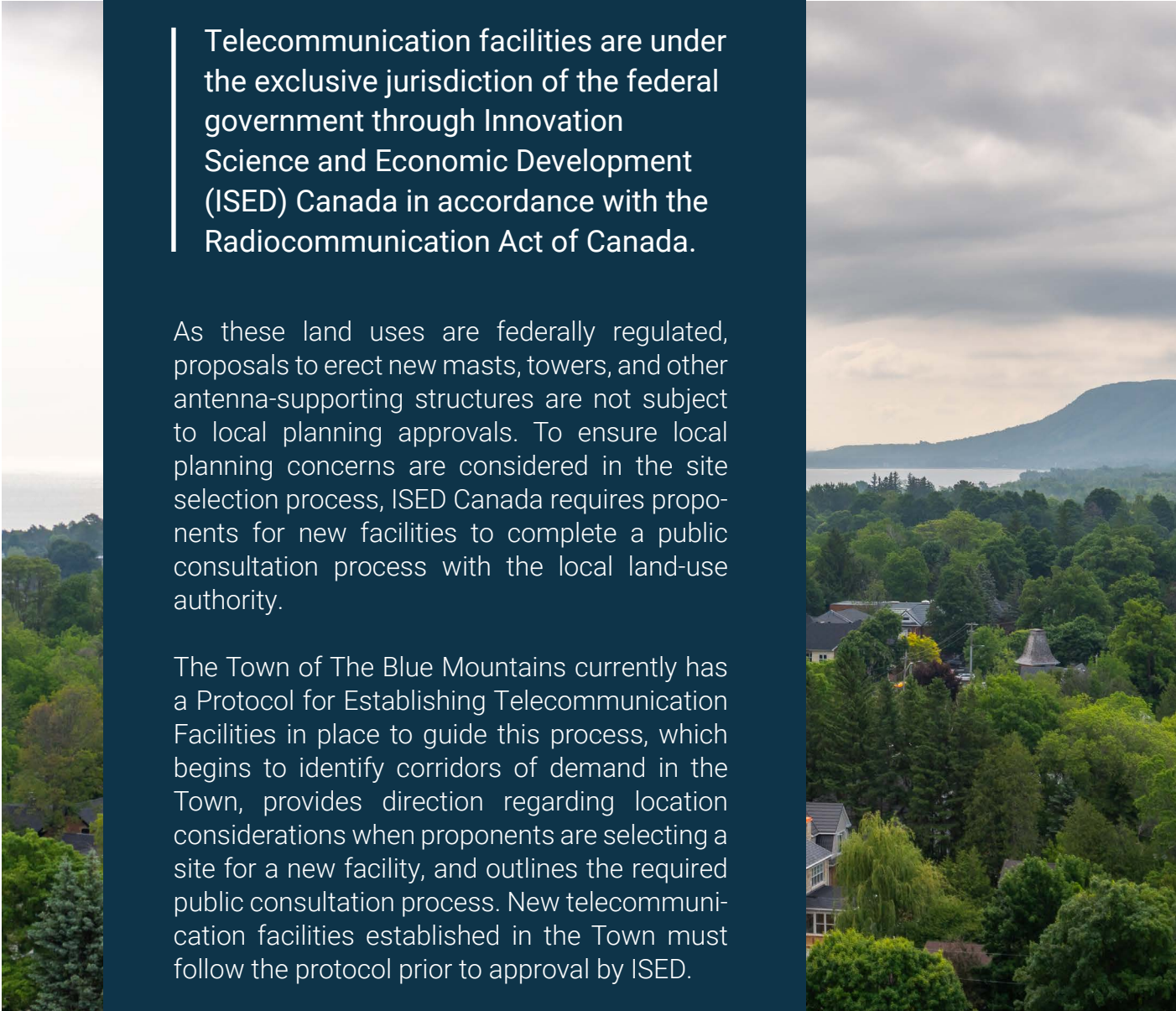


PROTOCOL FOR ESTABLISHING TELECOMMUNICATION FACILITIES



Planning & Development Services





Telecommunication facilities are under the exclusive jurisdiction of the federal government through Innovation Science and Economic Development (ISED) Canada in accordance with the Radiocommunication Act of Canada.

As these land uses are federally regulated, proposals to erect new masts, towers, and other antenna-supporting structures are not subject to local planning approvals. To ensure local planning concerns are considered in the site selection process, ISED Canada requires proponents for new facilities to complete a public consultation process with the local land-use authority.

The Town of The Blue Mountains currently has a Protocol for Establishing Telecommunication Facilities in place to guide this process, which begins to identify corridors of demand in the Town, provides direction regarding location considerations when proponents are selecting a site for a new facility, and outlines the required public consultation process. New telecommunication facilities established in the Town must follow the protocol prior to approval by ISED.



EXEMPTIONS FROM PUBLIC CONSULTATION

ISED Canada exempts certain proposals from public consultation based on height, structure type, and permanence. As such, these types of proposals are not required to proceed through the process outlined in the protocol. A list of types of exempt proposals is included in the protocol.



SAFETY

Health Canada has established safety guidelines for exposure to radio frequency fields in Safety Code 6. Compliance is mandatory for all telecommunication towers. If the levels of radio frequency fields permitted by Safety Code 6 are modified in the future, all sites must be re-certified to ensure they comply with the new permitted levels. More information can be found in Health Canada's resource ***Understanding Safety Code 6***.



SENSITIVITY

Proposals are evaluated on a site-by-site basis with consideration for impacts on the environment, visual landscapes, land use compatibility, corridors of demand and other community planning matters. The protocol outlines how these potential impacts are addressed through the review process through submission requirements and consultation with other agencies.

PROCESS

1

PRE-CONSULTATION:

Proponents are required to formally consult with Planning Services prior to submission of an application. Planning Services will provide comments and a list of required submission materials to the proponent in consultation with other Town departments and external agencies. This allows for an advanced understanding of the proposal and the opportunity to address significant issues early in the process.

2

FULL APPLICATION:

Planning Services reviews an application for completeness upon receipt. If any required materials are missing, the application will be deemed incomplete. The proponent must provide those missing materials prior to proceeding with the process. Once an application is deemed complete, a public project page containing all submission materials will be created on the Town website.

3

PUBLIC MEETING:

At least 30 days in advance of a Public Meeting, notice is provided via mail, by posting a development sign on-site, and, in certain cases, through advertisement in a newspaper. This is an opportunity for the public to submit written comments in support of or in opposition to the proposal. Members of the public may also choose to speak at the meeting. No decision is made at the Public Meeting.



4

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE:

Planning Staff write a report as a follow-up to the Public Meeting that outlines any concerns expressed through written and verbal comments and provides a recommendation for how best to proceed with the application. The Committee discusses the report and commentary provided during the Public Meeting and asks additional questions of Planning Staff. The Committee then votes on a motion for how to proceed, but the decision is not finalized until the following Council meeting.

5

COUNCIL:

Council either proceeds with a resolution based on the recommendation from the Committee of the Whole or pulls the application for additional discussion. Council issues either concurrence (support) or non-concurrence (opposition) for the application and may include conditions as part of the resolution. Planning Staff then forward this resolution to ISED Canada for final decision and approval.

LEARN MORE

For more information and to view the full Protocol, please visit www.thebluemountains.ca/planning or scan the QR code.



A background image of a cloudy sky, with the top and bottom portions visible as light gray clouds against a dark blue central band.

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