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Lac La Ronge Indian Band

For Immediate Release

Hall Lake Finally Gets Own Cellular Tower

○ Set up at a cost of \$377k, Small Community Solution to enhance communication for emergency services, education, safety and security

La Ronge, November 4, 2021 (Thursday): The SaskTel small community solution (SCS) cellular-services tower near Sally Ross School in Hall Lake was formally commissioned on Tuesday.

For many years, the Lac La Ronge Indian Band has been seeking assistance from the Provincial and Federal Governments for a cell tower for the communities of Sucker River and Hall Lake. Sucker River received expanded cellular services in 2020 at no cost to LLRIB. Unfortunately, LLRIB was unable to receive any financial support for cellular services in Hall Lake. The \$377,000.00-project to bring cellular connectivity to Hall Lake and surrounding areas is being paid by Lac La Ronge Indian Band's Education, Indian Child & Family Services (ICFS), Health Services and the Hall Lake administration.

LLRIB Chief Tammy Cook-Searson said: *"We lobbied both levels of government for funding but were unable to gain support for the project. The Band departments and councillor Norman Ross worked together to build the cellular tower for the safety of the community members of Hall Lake and traffic on Highway 165. We are pleased to finally have the cellular tower in the community of Hall lake."*

"In the past, it was challenging for the community, especially during times of emergencies such as the recent four-day power outage and forest fires in 2015. The new cellular tower will help in security for the residents, economic growth and community development. Further, we expect additional technology driven through education. For remote learning and virtual classes that have become part of the new norm of learning during COVID-19, the cellular tower in Hall Lake will surely help."

SaskTel began work on the Small Community Solution tower in the fourth quarter of last year and completed the project on November 2, 2021.

For further information please contact

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