

**DATE:** November 18, 2022

**TO:** Mayor and Members of Council

**FROM:** Zoran Postic, Deputy City Manager, Public Works  
Peter Pilateris, Director, Transportation and Fleet Management Services

**RE:** **COMMUNICATION – Committee of the Whole (1), November 22, 2022**  
**Presentation #2 – Mr. Liang Swee Ron Lim**

Violations of the integrity of his property, human rights and victimizing by the City of Vaughan and BCE

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### **Recommendation**

1. That the information provided in this communication be received

### **Background**

Bell Fibre to-the-home (Bell FTTH) infrastructure has been installed at Burgundy Trail in 2021. Resident Mr. Ron Lim (visually impaired) is disputing the location of the infrastructure installed in front of his property, while also claiming injury due to a trip and fall on the said infrastructure.

The Bell FTTH is an ongoing project within the City of Vaughan that involves upgrading telecommunications infrastructure City-wide through the installation of new cables, conduits, handwells, and grade-level boxes. This project allows all residents and businesses to have the option to run fibre directly to their homes. The improved network will significantly increase the quality of internet service available.

All infrastructure is installed within the municipal right-of-way. The *Telecommunications Act* as well as the Municipal Access Agreement allow contractors access to City boulevards to complete their work. The location/layout of such infrastructure is designed to allow the following:

- Sufficient clearance from existing utilities
- Safe access and constructability
- Locations of grade-level boxes are chosen to maximize efficiency of the network based on Bell building standards, strategically placing these to maximize the number of customers with the least amount of infrastructure and minimize disruption to the community

Infrastructure installed at Mr. Ron Lim's property is within the municipal right-of-way, confirmed by records and an in-field survey. All infrastructure is installed safely and abide by both Bell Canada and City processes. All construction permit processes were followed and approved. Consent has been obtained from the resident for service connection to the home. Sufficient notification of construction was given. This includes direct mail to the resident's home, and construction signage in the area in advance of construction.

Both City staff and Bell Canada representatives have visited the site at Burgundy Trail on multiple occasions to address Mr. Ron Lim's concerns and confirmed that the work is completed

safely, on municipal right-of-way, and in the allowable position. Concerns raised by Mr. Ron Lim have been addressed, including restoration of soft surface in the area and the grade-level box has been adjusted to more level with the surrounding area. Out of abundance of caution, Bell Canada has also offered to conduct a land survey of Mr. Ron Lim's property at Burgundy Trail to show the exact location of the property line. The completed survey confirms all infrastructure was installed in the municipal right-of-way.



Figure 1: Burgundy Trail



Figure 2: Burgundy Trail

## **Conclusion**

City staff have been responsive and provided Mr. Ron Lim with information regarding the project, installation, and restoration of this work. The work has been completed by Bell Canada following City processes and within the municipal right-of-way. The location of this grade-level box is strategically placed to reach the greatest number of customers and avoid existing utilities in the ground. The area has been visited multiple times in the past months and no noticeable deficiencies have been found. Bell Canada is committed to address any claims in an effort to resolve any outstanding concerns.

For more information, please contact:

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Prepared by:

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Respectfully submitted by:

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Zoran Postic  
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**Peter Pilateris**  
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Peter Pilateris  
Director, Transportation and Fleet Management Services