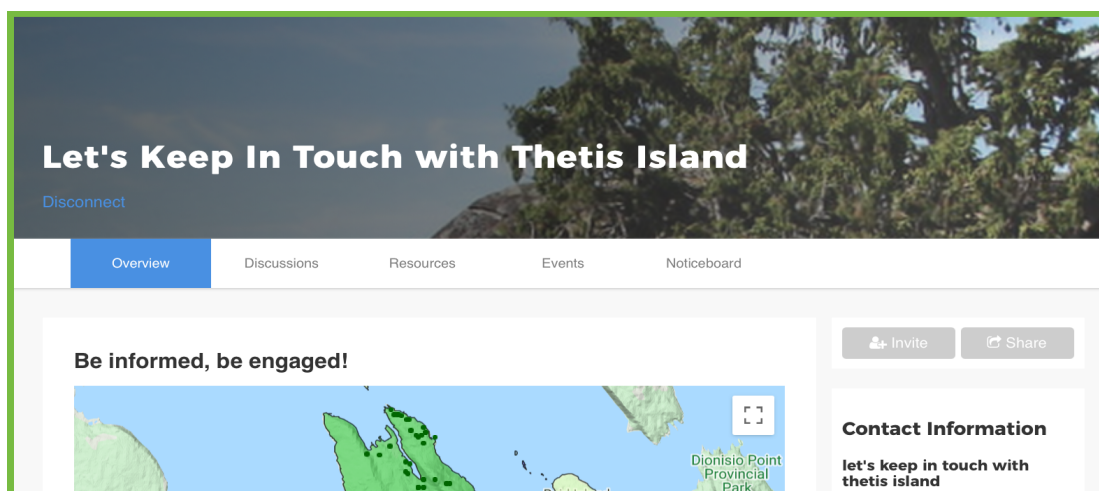


In this PDF file, the committee for the fibre optic initiative for Thetis Island is pleased to provide the community of Thetis Island with all emails and attachments that have been sent to all Thetis Island residents from our letskeepintouchthetisland@gmail.com from October 11, 2019 to January 24, 2021. As more information becomes available the committee will update this PDF file to include it.

Date	Email Title
Fri, Oct 11, 2019, 11:10 PM	Thetis Island engagement platform – introducing PlaceSpeak
Fri, Oct 18, 2019, 7:51 PM	PlaceSpeak platform is now live – please Sign Up
Sat, Nov 9, 2019, 12:38 AM	Fibre Optic Survey - PlaceSpeak Sign-Up Instructions - Forbes Hall Discussion
Sun, Nov 17, 2019, 10:41 PM	Survey Reminder – Fibre Optics for Thetis – Nov. 20 Deadline
Tue, Nov 26, 2019, 6:45 PM	Fibre Optics on Thetis - Where do We Stand?
Fri, Jan 31, 2020, 11:53 PM	UPDATES - Fibre Optics, Forbes Hall Correspondence
Tue, Mar 24, 2020, 10:19 PM	Helpful Resources - COVID-19
Thu, May 28, 2020, 5:23 PM	Fibre Optics for Thetis – how strong is our support?
Wed, Jun 3, 2020, 9:17 PM	Survey deadline – EXTENDED to June 9
Sat, Aug 8, 2020, 12:45 PM	Fibre Optics for Thetis Island Progress Report
Thu, Jan 21, 2021, 10:06 PM	Fibre Optic Initiative for Thetis Island - Update
Sun, Jan 24, 2021, 12:15 AM	Fibre Optic Initiative – Follow-Up to P. Luckham’s eSpokes Post





Let's Keep in Touch Thetis Island <letskeepintouchthetisland@gmail.com>

Thetis Island engagement platform – introducing PlaceSpeak

1 message

Let's Keep in Touch Thetis Island <letskeepintouchthetisland@gmail.com>

Fri, Oct 11, 2019 at 11:02 PM

Hello,

We are nearly there!

We are pleased to announce we have chosen **PlaceSpeak** as the engagement platform for Thetis Islanders.

We believe PlaceSpeak will be an effective solution allowing islanders to keep in touch with their community. It will allow participants to speak their mind on issues that may have an impact on Thetis Island. Residents will now be able to share information, provide feedback, and promote their ideas on “how to” solve problems.

Take a moment to familiarize yourself with how PlaceSpeak works in this short video: [CLICK HERE](#)

You can read more “About” PlaceSpeak on this link: [CLICK HERE](#)

Closer to the launch date, you will receive an email describing how to register on PlaceSpeak.

Your opinion matters. Let's Keep in Touch!

Best regards,

Glen Andison (temporarily on leave)
Rebecca Andison
Lesley Buhr
Denis Gagnon

Your advocates for an engaged Thetis Island

Please let us know if you do not wish to be contacted with further updates regarding community engagement.



Let's Keep in Touch Thetis Island <letskeepintouchthetisland@gmail.com>

PlaceSpeak platform is now live – please Sign Up

1 message

Let's Keep in Touch Thetis Island <letskeepintouchthetisland@gmail.com>

Fri, Oct 18, 2019 at 7:45 PM

Hello,

The “Let’s Keep in Touch with Thetis Island” community engagement platform is now live!

By 10 AM tomorrow (Saturday October 19) you will be receiving an email directly from the PlaceSpeak platform inviting you to join our "Let’s Keep in Touch with Thetis Island" topic. If you haven’t received anything by then, please check the Spam/Junk mail folder in your email account, in case your email provider has directed emails from PlaceSpeak there.

IMPORTANT – regardless of whether or not you have a PlaceSpeak account set up yet ...if you plan on signing up to the platform with an email that is **different** from what we’ve been reaching you with currently, you must notify us of this new email address and we will add it to the list of permitted participants.

As it is important for the platform to have the input and opinions of Thetis Islanders only (and not everyone from the world wide web), your email address acts as “the key” to participating on the platform (viewing content, leaving your comments, contributing your ideas etc.).

If you are signing up to PlaceSpeak for the first time

Once you have clicked on the above link in the invitation email to “Let's Keep In Touch with Thetis Island: Be informed, be engaged!” you will see a button that says “Participate.” Click on this “Participate” button and follow the “Sign Up” instructions. Your personal information will never be shared with third parties including the organizers of this engagement.

If you have previously signed up to PlaceSpeak and already have an account (and it is the same email address as the one in the invitation)

Simply log in to PlaceSpeak and look for the “Let’s Keep In Touch with Thetis Island” in your Topic list or under the Notification Bell in the top right of the screen. You must be signed in to see this and then choose to connect.

To confirm your sign up

If you are signing up for the first time, an activation email will be sent to your email inbox once



you have signed up. Click on the link in this email to activate your account. This will take you back to PlaceSpeak and will log you into your new PlaceSpeak profile page. You can see My Topics and your Activity Feed.

Check your spam / junk email folder

If you have not received the original invitation or the confirmation email, please check your Spam/Junk folder.

If your household currently only uses one email address for multiple people

Please consider signing up for a second email address if you wish for multiple individuals at your residence to be able to participate under their own name as well (and not share a name on the platform). We understand that many islanders use Telus as their internet provider; Telus allows up to 10 personal email addresses per account. If your household needs additional email accounts, please click here for instructions: <https://www.telus.com/en/ab/support/article/telus-webmail?lang=en&prov=ab>

There are also many free email providers such as Gmail, Outlook/Hotmail, Yahoo etc.

Trouble shooting

If you find a visual set of sign-up instructions easier to follow, check out PlaceSpeak's "The Registration Process" on video here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=-tSFgtZZVYI

If you have any further questions or problems when signing up to the site please let us know, we are happy to help! Contact us at letskeepintouchthetisland@gmail.com

This platform will only be as successful as we make it, as an engaged community where ALL voices are heard – please participate and have your say in a respectful way. We look forward to hearing your opinions, comments, and solutions!

Let's Keep in Touch!

Best regards,

Glen Andison (temporarily on leave)
Rebecca Andison
Lesley Buhr
Denis Gagnon

Your advocates for an engaged Thetis Island

Please let us know if you do not wish to be contacted with further updates regarding community engagement.





Let's Keep in Touch Thetis Island <letskeepintouchthetisland@gmail.com>

Fibre Optic Survey - PlaceSpeak Sign-Up Instructions - Forbes Hall Discussion

1 message

Let's Keep in Touch Thetis Island <letskeepintouchthetisland@gmail.com>

Sat, Nov 9, 2019 at 8:11 PM

1. PlaceSpeak platform sign-up and connect-to-topic instructions
2. A measure of interest for fibre optics on Thetis Island. SURVEY
3. Forbes Hall question now live on "Discussions" page of PlaceSpeak platform; telecom/antennae question temporarily suspended

=====

1. PlaceSpeak platform sign-up and connect-to-topic instructions

Hello,

Thank you to everyone who has already signed up to the PlaceSpeak platform, and connected with the "Let's Keep In Touch with Thetis Island" topic.

We understand there have been difficulties in the sign-up procedure; this is the first Private Topic PlaceSpeak has hosted. We do apologize. To facilitate the sign-up process, we have links to 5 different step-by-step sets of instructions below to assist you:

[1_SIGN UP and CONNECT \(click here\)](#)

[2_already signed up, need to CONNECT ONLY \(click here\)](#)

[3_How to navigate the platform \(click here\)](#)

[4_How to post comments anonymously \(click here\)](#)

[5_Troubleshooting \(click here\)](#)

(Alternatively, if clicking on the above links individually isn't working, then [click here to receive files via Dropbox](#))

There are currently many people who have signed up to PlaceSpeak, but are **not yet connected to our "Let's Keep In Touch with Thetis Island" topic.** Even if you think you may be connected, you may not be so. **You are nearly there! It's a quick process to connect** – please view the **"2_already signed up, need to CONNECT ONLY"** document to connect fully and begin engaging.



Don't be confused with the "Thetis Island Area" topic – this is NOT our topic.

Everyone who is still not yet connected to the "Let's Keep In Touch with Thetis Island" topic should have received a second invitation from PlaceSpeak at 9:30am PST yesterday morning.

Click on the following link to begin signing up or signing in: <http://placespeak.com/thetisland/>
Alternatively, you can also click on the link inside the PlaceSpeak email you received yesterday morning.

If you have not received this invitation to your email's inbox or junk/spam folder, please let us know at letskeepintouchthetisland@gmail.com

After following all sign-up, connect, and troubleshooting instructions, you find that you are still experiencing difficulties signing up to PlaceSpeak or connecting to the "Let's Keep In Touch with Thetis Island" topic, please let us know. We want to alleviate any frustration and ultimately have as many people engaging with the platform as possible so that there can be robust discussions happening that reflect as wide a variety of points of view/ideas as possible, with maximum engagement. We are happy to help you step-by-step through the sign-up process, so please do not hesitate to reach out.

2. A measure of interest for fibre optics on Thetis Island. SURVEY

Please note, there is now a preliminary survey pertaining to the option of fibre optics for Thetis Island included on the PlaceSpeak platform. Click [here](#) to sign up/login.

The survey is located on the "Overview" page of the platform; a visual of where this survey can be found is outlined in the "[3_How to navigate the platform](#)" document. There are 9 survey questions; ensure to scroll down after each question to click the "Next" button to advance to the next question.

In a letter dated December 21, 2016, the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission informed the Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development of its decision to establish a fund to help attain new internet access service levels for Canadians – including speeds of at least 50 Mbps download and 10 Mbps upload, and unlimited data plans for high-speed internet service. Federal budget 2016 committed \$500 million, which has been fully allocated under the Connect to Innovate program, including \$15 million to [Connected Coast](#), which is planning to establish a fibre-optic landing site on Penelakut. In 2019, the Government of Canada announced [Canada's Connectivity Strategy](#), a plan to deliver up to \$6 billion in investments for connecting rural Canadians over the next 10 years. According to the strategy, Canada's future depends on connectivity, and rural Canadians cannot be left behind.

Until now, Thetis Island residents have been excluded from any discussions regarding these funding programs. Moreover, the powers that be, have made the decision that an industrial-size telecommunications tower is in our best interests, denying our community the option of pursuing





the feasibility of a fibre-optic network for Thetis Island. As TELUS, the number one provider of fibre-optic network services in Western Canada states in its current advertisements, “PureFibre is the #1 internet technology for speed and reliability.”

Wireless connections are subject to latency issues arising from a number of factors, and towers or antennae must be in your line of sight for them to work. A wired network (e.g. fibre) is the starting point for all telecommunication services (including wireless); all networks are wired, they are only wireless up to as much as the last 5 miles or little as the last 5 feet. Wireless, including cell service, is an optional, adjunct service.

Given that funding is available to rural Canadians for [last mile](#) connection to your driveway, why should Thetis Island settle for second-class wireless internet service? We should be concerned about what second-class internet service means for our property values and how it will impact attracting future buyers of our properties, as well as the impact of attracting young people and families who work from home.

Please take a moment to complete the preliminary survey on the [PlaceSpeak platform](#). The survey will help ascertain the wishes of Thetis residents, and will provide a current picture of our connectivity and its performance for all to see. More importantly, it will set the stage for what happens next with respect to more data gathering, analysis, design, costing, vetting, and funding applications.

Because we are already behind other Canadians in this process and would like to catch up as soon as possible, please complete the preliminary survey at your earliest convenience; **the survey will close at midnight November 20, 2019.**

3. Forbes Hall question now live on “Discussions” page of PlaceSpeak platform; telecommunications tower question temporarily suspended

In light of the TICA Extraordinary General Meeting on Saturday November 16, we have now included a question on the “Discussions” page of the platform for the community to engage in.

The “Telecommunication Towers and Antennae” question has been put on temporary hold in light of this new information that needs community engagement prior to Saturday November 16.

Your opinion matters. Speak your mind. Make a difference.

Let's Keep in Touch!

Best regards,

Glen Andison (temporarily on leave)
Rebecca Andison
Lesley Buhr
Denis Gagnon





Your advocates for an engaged Thetis Island

Please let us know if you do not wish to be contacted with further updates regarding community engagement.



The following set of instructions is for if this is YOUR FIRST TIME SIGNING UP to PlaceSpeak; you have never signed up before/you don't already have an account set up

Before you even begin the sign-up process, the following points are important to note:

Please use [Google Chrome](#) or [Firefox](#) as an internet browser while you are registering and ensure your "Location Services" are turned on (Safari works most of the time but sometimes has hiccups). If your computer browser has location services turned off, it can hinder all map based programs including PlaceSpeak.

To know if your Location Services are turned on for your device, please Google search this question, as it will depend on your device (PC, Mac, Android, iPhone etc.) as to how you turn location services on.

Signing up to PlaceSpeak is a two-part process:

- a) **Sign up** to PlaceSpeak
- b) **Connect** to the "Let's Keep In Touch with Thetis Island" topic

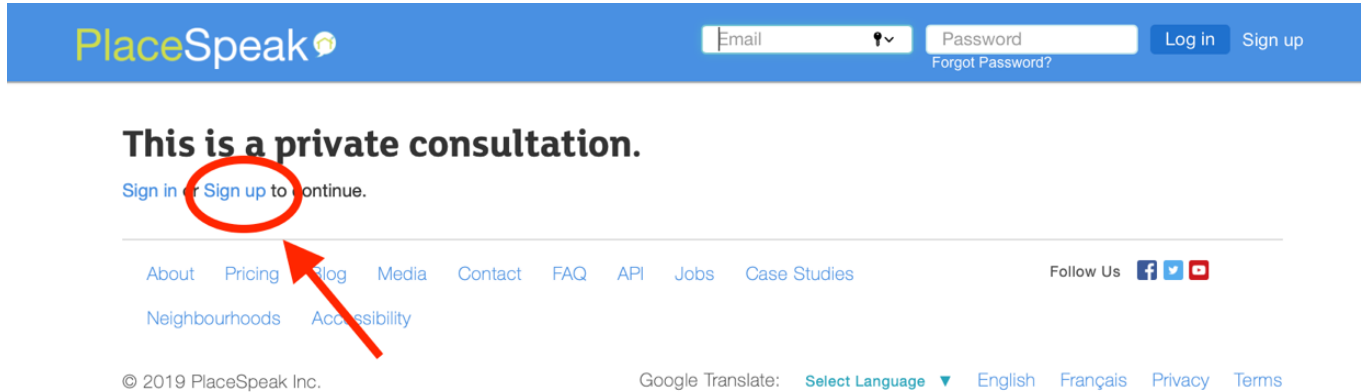
Don't be confused with the other "Thetis Island Area" topic that exists on PlaceSpeak ...by all means connect to this topic if you like, but **it's NOT our topic**, ours is "Let's Keep In Touch with Thetis Island."

It is important that you read the "address section" of these instructions carefully (Step No. 5, on pages 3 & 4) as there are some tips here to help you navigate Thetis Island's unique addressing system.

As of 9:30am Friday November 8, those people still not connected to the platform should have received an invitation from PlaceSpeak to your email's inbox or junk/spam folder. If you have not received an invitation, please contact us at letskeepintouchthetisland@gmail.com

Scroll down to see the step-by-step instructions to start the sign-up process ...

1. Click on this link to begin the sign-up process: <http://placespeak.com/thetisisland/>
2. Click on the blue “Sign up” words below the “This is a private consultation” sentence.

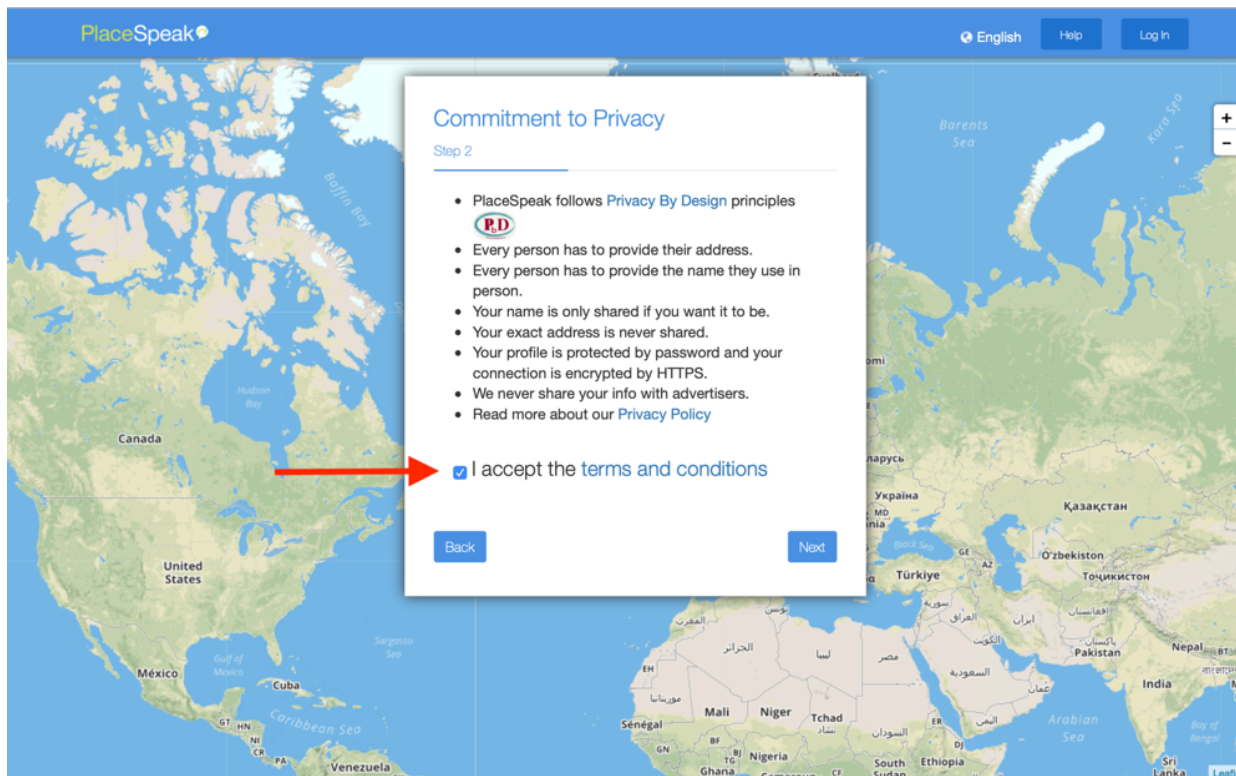


3. Fill in your personal information, and then click the “Next” button.

Note – for your email address, it **MUST** be the same email that we’ve been currently contacting you on. If it’s not, and you wish to use a different email address, please send this new email address to us at letskeepintouchthetisisland@gmail.com and we will add it to the contact list. Our “Let’s Keep In Touch with Thetis Island” topic is by invitation only and your email address is “the key” to accessing the platform.

Note – for choosing a password, you will need to include a capital letter and a symbol (for example / !). Save this password somewhere safe as you will need it for logging into the platform from here on out.

4. Click the “check box” to accept the terms and conditions. Then click the “Next” button.



5. Address: Enter your street address of where you reside on Thetis, for example, 105 Pilkey Point Road.

Note – do not use a P.O. Box number, and do not use an off-island address. If for some reason your Thetis Island street address does not automatically come up in the address box as you begin to type your address in, then press on the “Cannot find your address? ‘Click here’” blue text to enter your address manually.

Note – we have been working with the PlaceSpeak team and it appears there are several roads on Thetis Island that are not on Google Maps, which is a tool PlaceSpeak uses to initially locate your location. If you live on any of these roads, chances are, Google Maps will likely not find your address:

- | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1. Southern Edge Road | 5. Mill Road | 9. Hollyberry Lane |
| 2. Meadow Valley Trail | 6. Lupin Lane | 10. Blue Point Lane |
| 3. Meadow Valley Road | 7. Smith's Lane | |
| 4. Cufra Trail | 8. Porter Drive | |

There could be others that we’re not aware of?

* Kenwood Drive appears as Kenwood Road on Google Maps

Due to this issue, PlaceSpeak allows you to manually locate on a map by selecting "Cannot find your address? Click here."

Once prompted, enter your full street address into the field, for example:

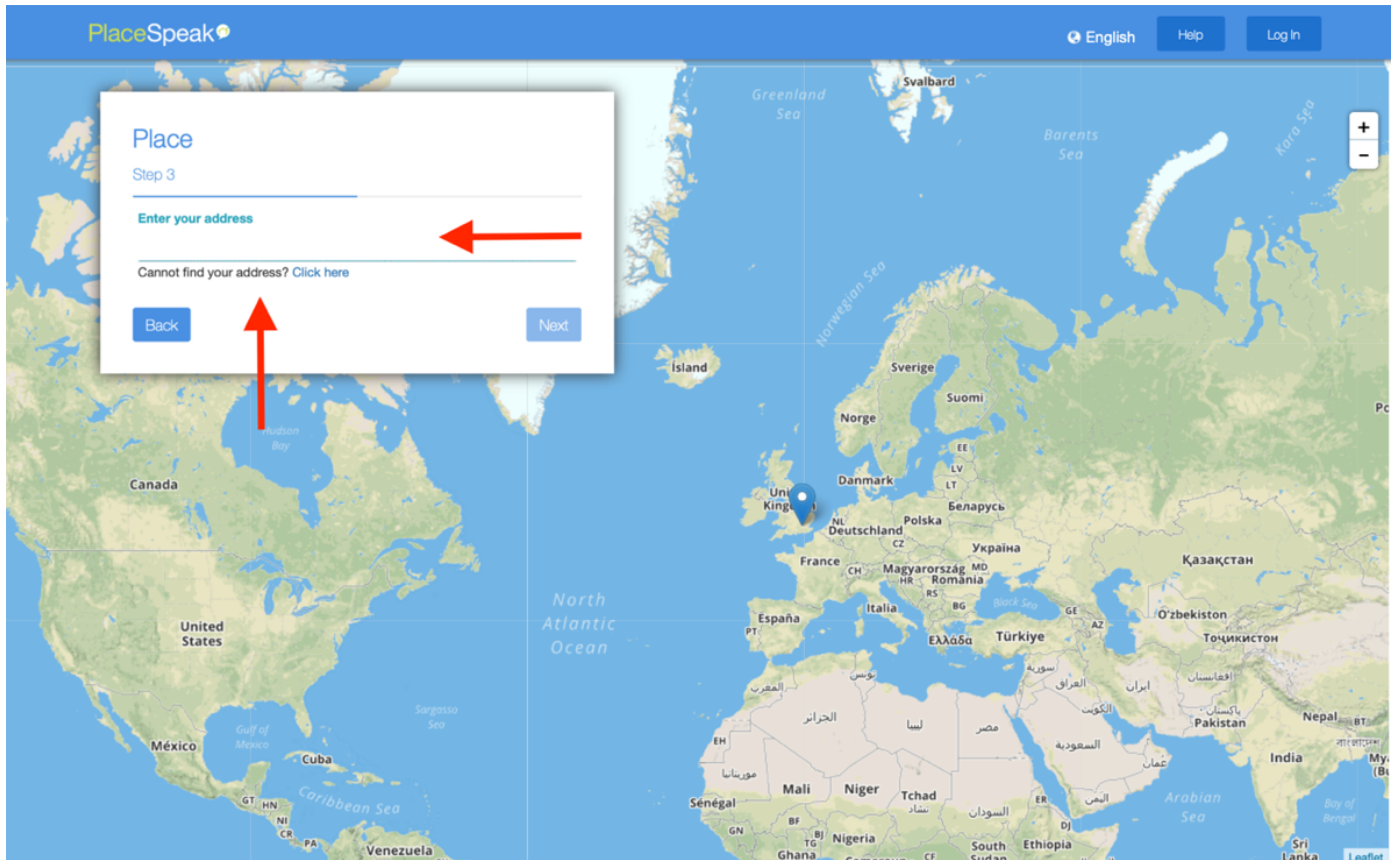
105 Pilkey Point Road, Thetis Island, BC, V0R 2Y0

...and the map will zoom in. By the time you enter the postal code, the map should be centred on Thetis Island.

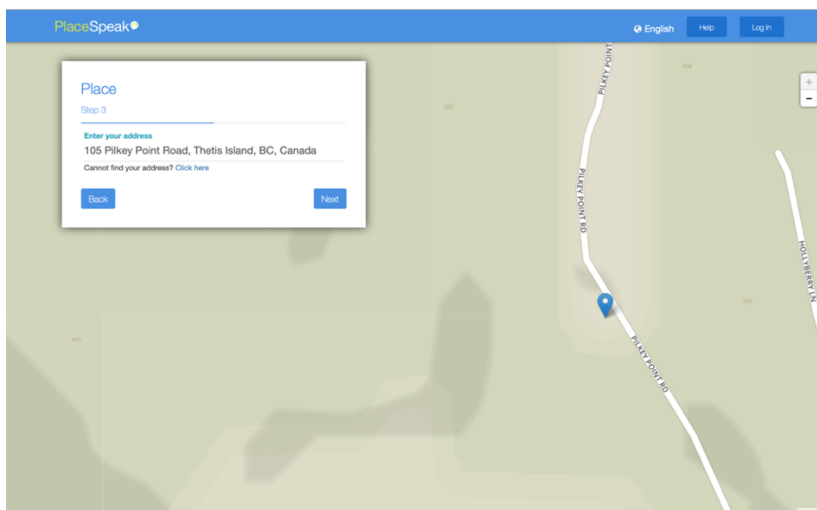
At this point, you can re-position the Marker in the middle of the map, to as close as possible to your location. This will allow PlaceSpeak to know that you fall within Thetis Island boundaries and near your home location.

All devices will have a similar option during the sign up process.

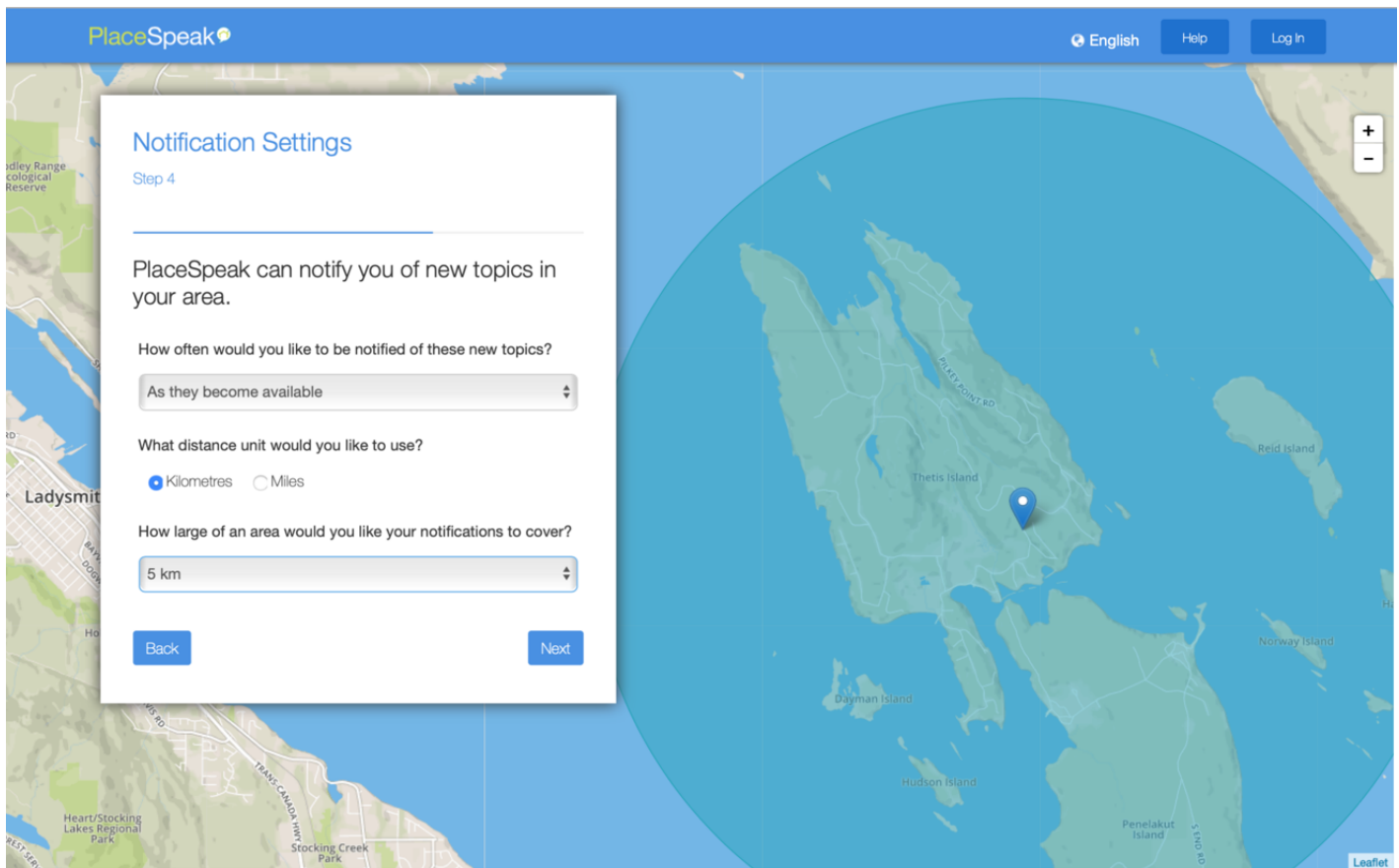
Note – if all else fails, then try using any different street address on Thetis. As long as you’re signing up with a Thetis Island street address, or the positioning marker falls within Thetis boundaries, you should be accepted to the platform.



6. You will then come to a page that looks like this. This is my street address just for the example, but obviously yours will be indicated. Click on the “Next” button.



7. Follow the instructions. Note - five kilometers will cover you for all of Thetis, but if you're interested in joining topics as far away as Duncan, Victoria, and Vancouver then click the 50 km option. Then click on the "Next" button.

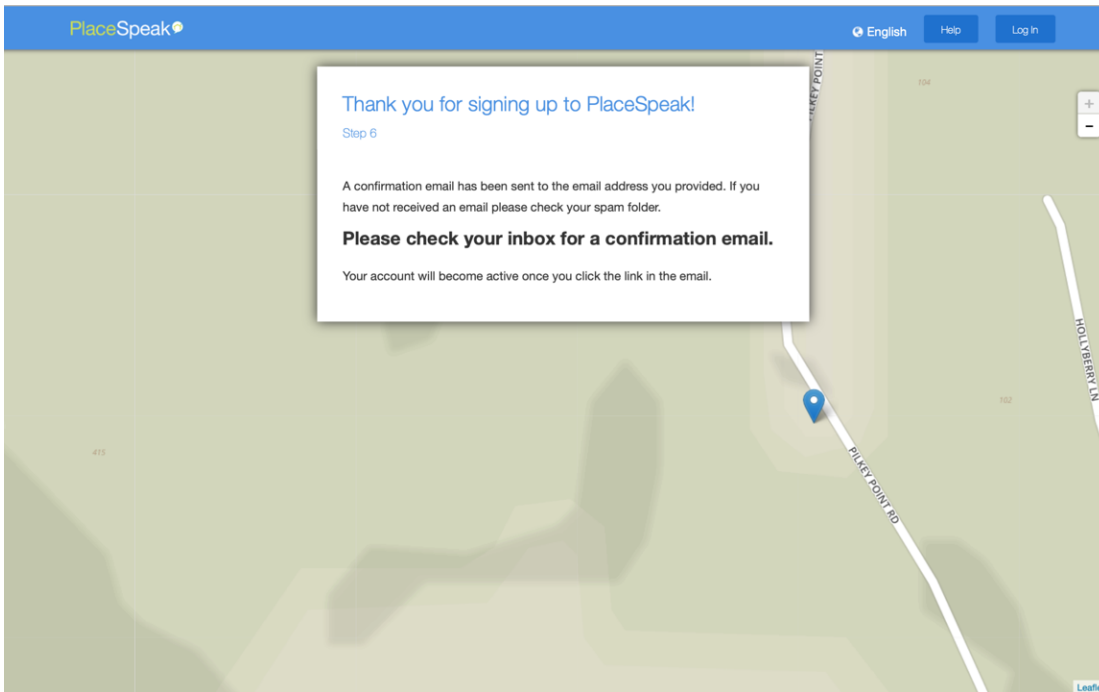


The screenshot shows the PlaceSpeak website interface. A blue header bar at the top contains the 'PlaceSpeak' logo, a language selector set to 'English', and buttons for 'Help' and 'Log In'. A map of Thetis Island is displayed in the background, with a blue location pin on the island. Overlaid on the map is a white 'Notification Settings' dialog box. The dialog box is titled 'Notification Settings' and 'Step 4'. It contains the following text and controls:

- Text: 'PlaceSpeak can notify you of new topics in your area.'
- Text: 'How often would you like to be notified of these new topics?'
- Dropdown menu: 'As they become available'
- Text: 'What distance unit would you like to use?'
- Radio buttons: 'Kilometres' (selected) and 'Miles'
- Text: 'How large of an area would you like your notifications to cover?'
- Dropdown menu: '5 km'
- Buttons: 'Back' and 'Next'

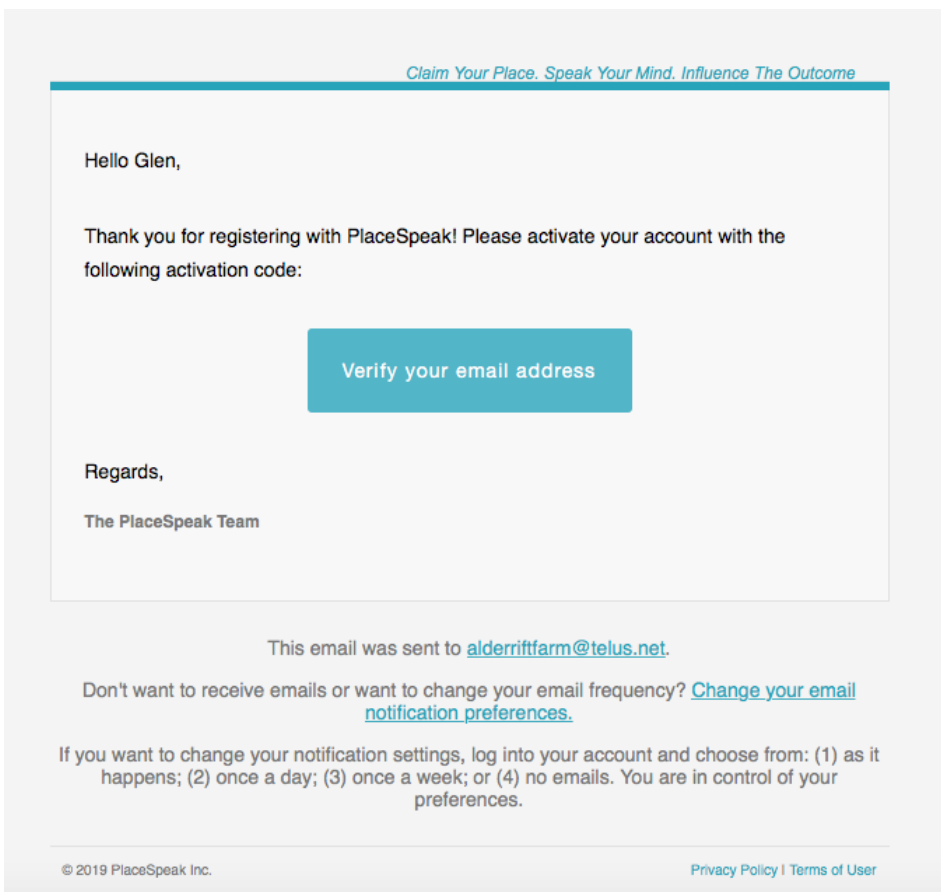
8. You will then come to a page that looks like this. You are nearly done the first step of the sign-up process

...don't stop here though, as there is still another VERY IMPORTANT step left to do!

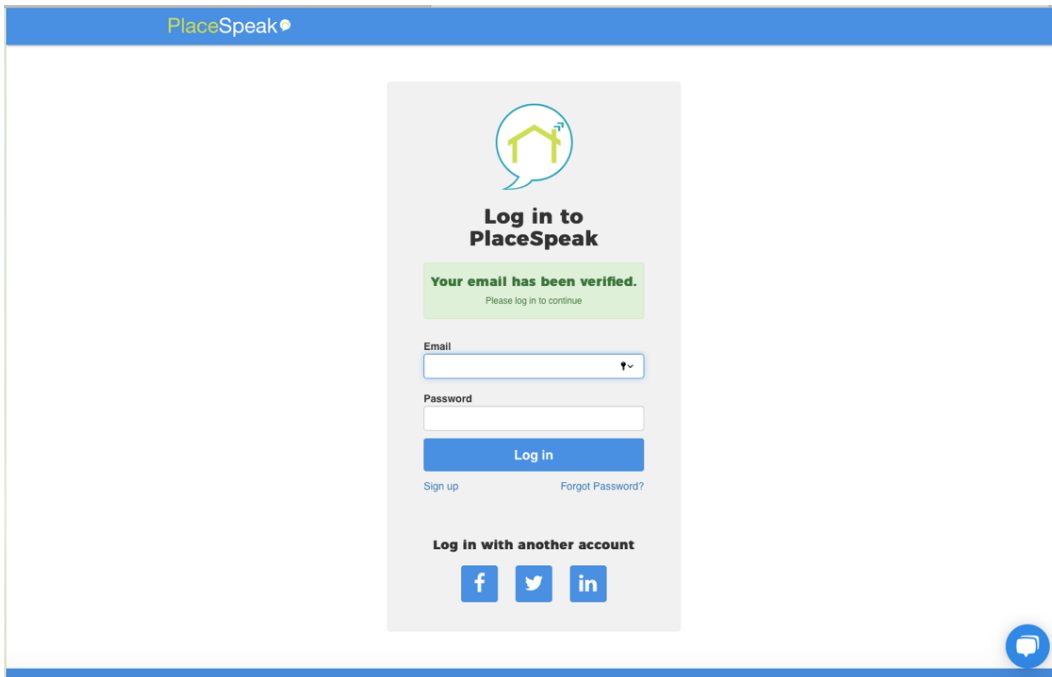


9. Log into your email account (the same email that you signed up to this site with). If you don't immediately see the PlaceSpeak invitation in your inbox, then check you junk/spam folder as it may have gone there.

10. Open the PlaceSpeak invitation email and click on the "Verify your email address" button.



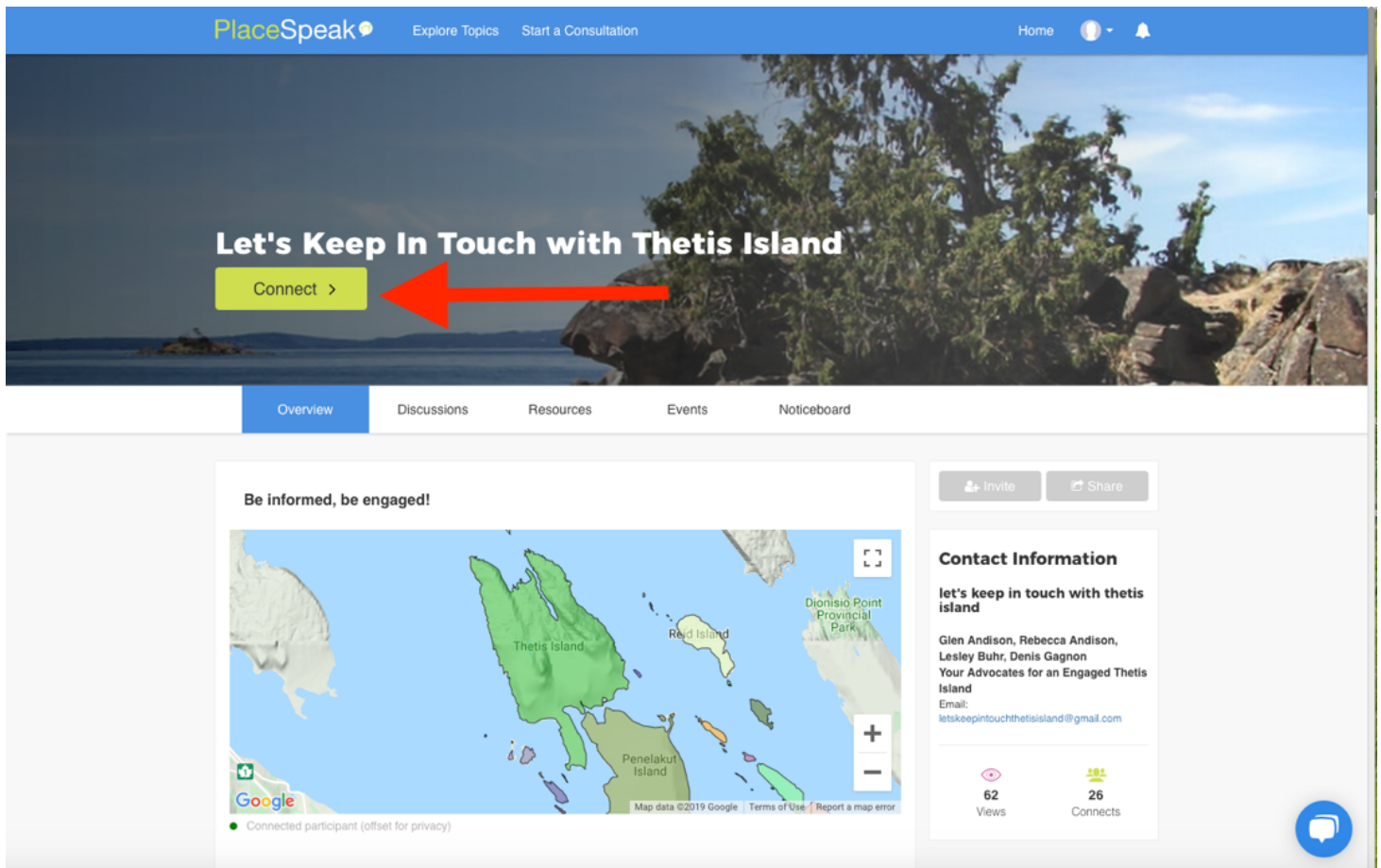
11. Enter your email address and the new password that you just created.

The image shows a web browser window with the PlaceSpeak logo in the top left corner. The main content area is a light gray box with a house icon inside a speech bubble at the top. Below the icon, the text "Log in to PlaceSpeak" is displayed. A green message box states "Your email has been verified. Please log in to continue." Below this, there are input fields for "Email" and "Password". A blue "Log in" button is positioned below the password field. At the bottom of the login box, there are links for "Sign up" and "Forgot Password?". Below the login box, there is a section titled "Log in with another account" with icons for Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn. A blue speech bubble icon is located in the bottom right corner of the browser window.

12. You should now be inside the platform! This is the “Overview” homepage of the “Let’s Keep In Touch with Thetis Island” topic.

Very important, this is the final step of sign-up process – you MUST click on the green “Connect” button to begin connecting/engaging with our topic.

(You never need to click on this button again; if you click on the blue “Disconnect” text, you will no longer be able to connect/interact with the platform and will need to connect again).



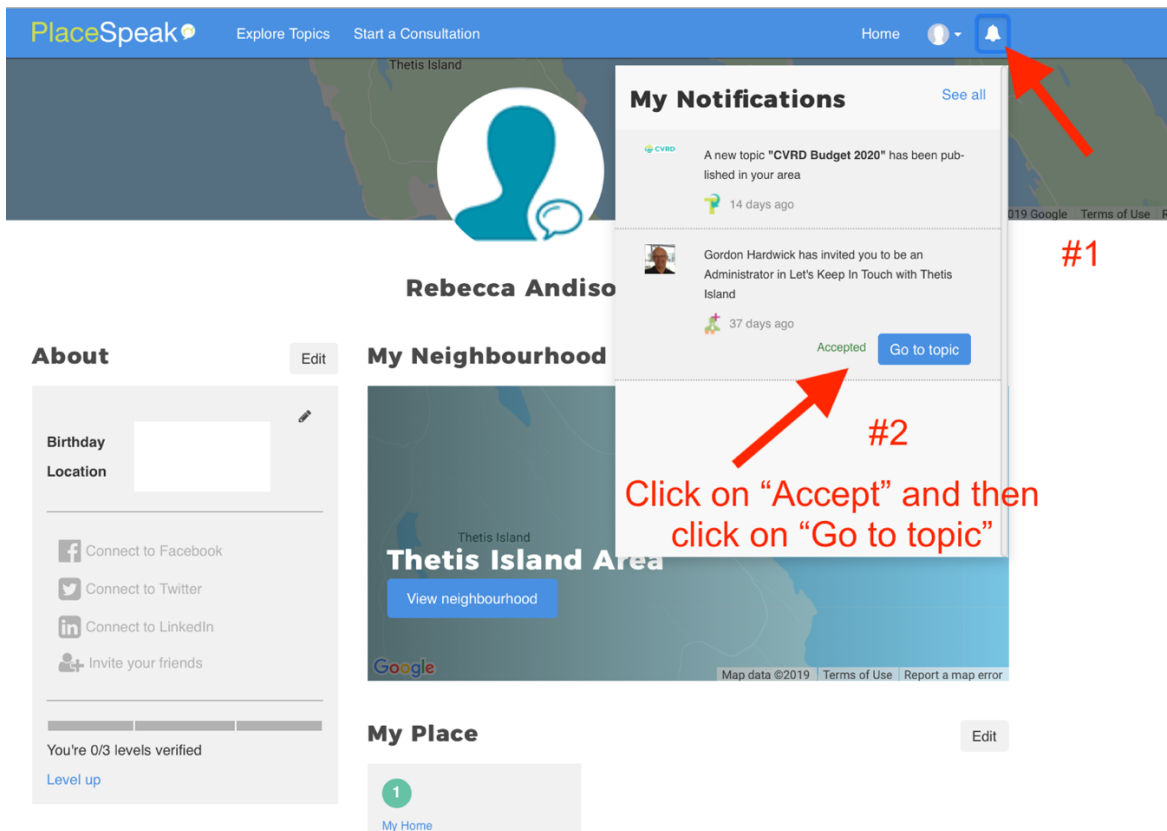
13. Now that you are connected, you can begin interacting with the site, posting your comments, viewing/downloading resources etc.

If you don't see the above image, that means you are NOT actually connected with the "Let's Keep In Touch with Thetis Island" topic yet.

Some troubleshooting tips are below if you are still not seeing the above page... for more in-depth help, see the "Troubleshooting" document

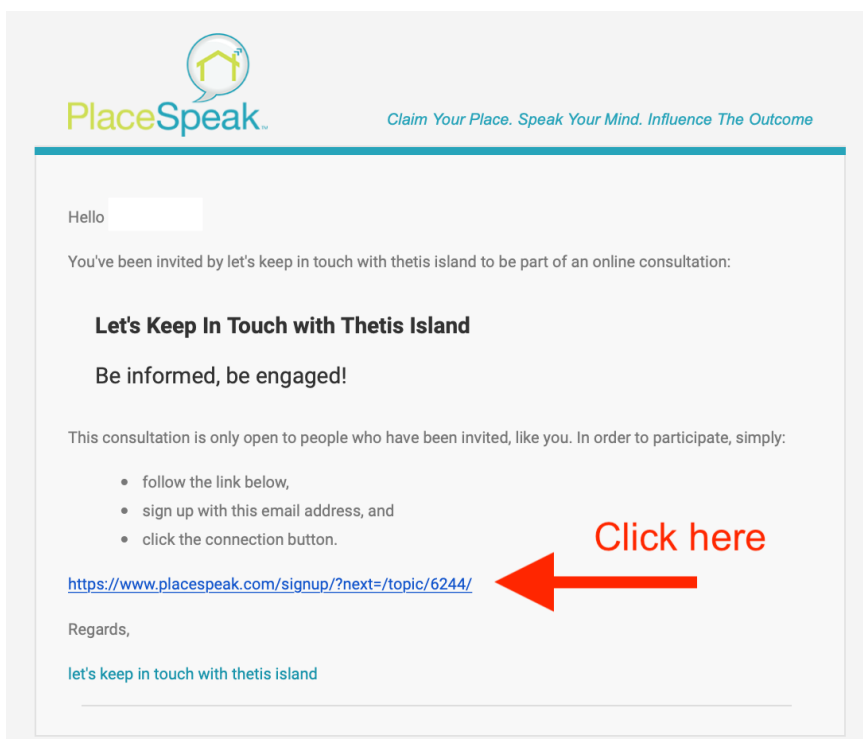
14. Click on the little bell "Notifications" icon (#1). A drop-down should show your invitation to PlaceSpeak here (#2). Click on the "Accept" button, and then click on the "Go to topic" button.

Note – "Notifications" (the little bell icon) can be clicked on from ANY page in the platform.

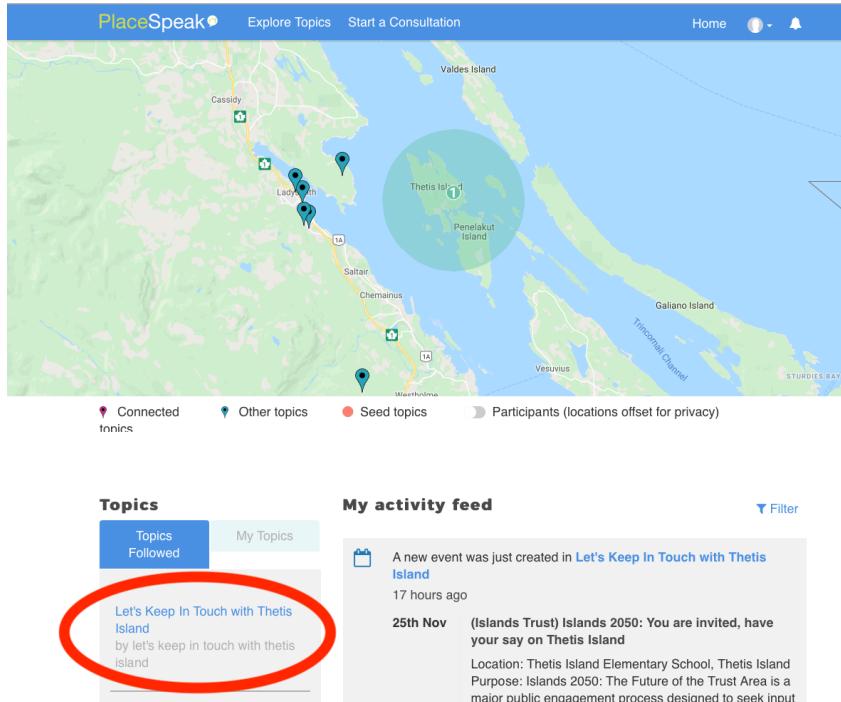


You should now be inside and connected to the “Let’s Keep In Touch with Thetis Island” topic. Click on the green “Connect” button to join the topic.

15. If not ...then additionally, try logging out of the platform and then signing back in by going into your email’s inbox or junk/spam folder and open the invitation from PlaceSpeak that you should have received at 9:30am November 8, 2019. Click on the link. (See bottom of this doc for how to log out).

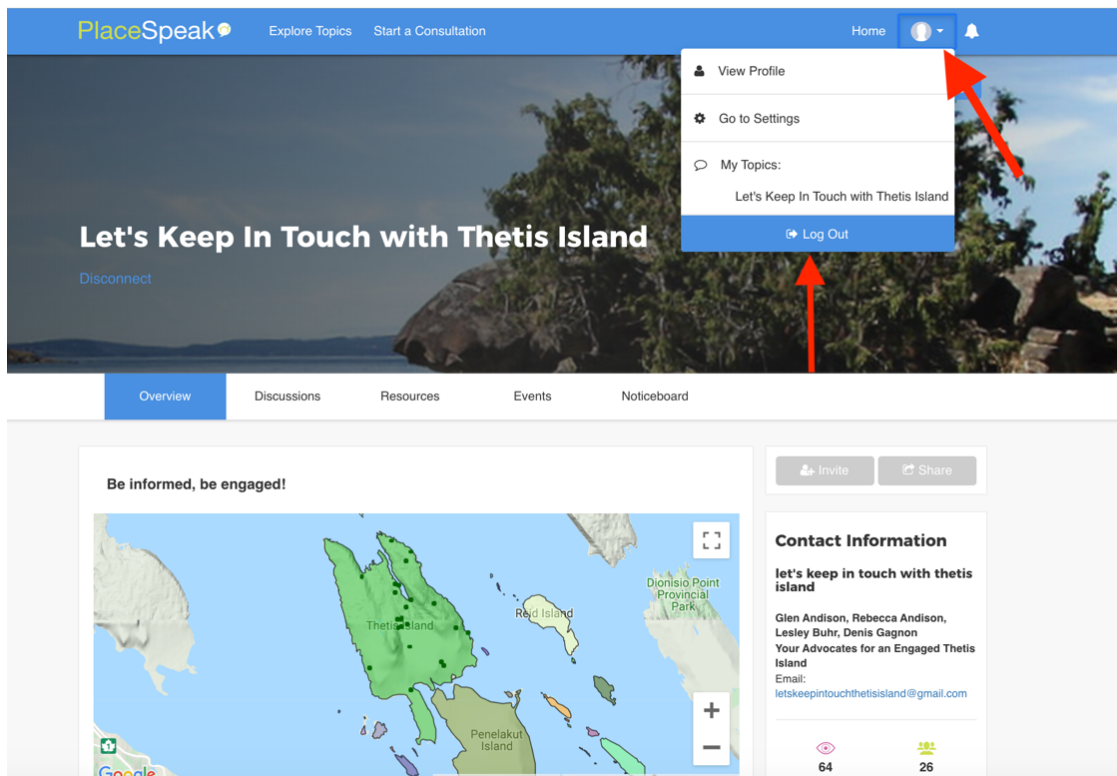


16. You will come to a page that looks like this. Click on the blue “Let’s Keep In Touch with Thetis Island” to begin engaging with the topic 😊



17. To log out, simply click on the little “human head” icon in the top right of the screen and click the “Log Out” button.

DO NOT click the blue “Disconnect” text underneath the white “Let’s Keep In Touch with Thetis Island” text (unless you want to be disconnected from the entire platform itself).



You are all logged out now.

Save this URL address – it is the one you will need to log in to the platform from here on out:
<http://placespeak.com/thetisisland/>

After following all sign-up, connect, and troubleshooting instructions, you find that you are still experiencing difficulties signing up to PlaceSpeak or connecting to the “Let’s Keep In Touch with Thetis Island” topic, please let us know. We want to alleviate any frustration and ultimately have as many people engaging with the platform as possible so that there can be robust discussions happening that reflect as wide a variety of points of view/ideas as possible, with maximum engagement. We are happy to help you step-by-step through the sign-up process, so please do not hesitate to reach out!

Any questions or feedback let us know by email us at letskeepintouchthetisisland@gmail.com

The following set of instructions is for if you have **ALREADY SIGNED UP to Placespeak but can't seem to find/connect with the "Let's Keep In Touch with Thetis Island" topic on the platform**

Signing up to PlaceSpeak is a two-part process:

- a) You have already completed the first step and have signed up to PlaceSpeak
- b) Your last step now is to **CONNECT** to the "Let's Keep In Touch with Thetis Island" topic

Don't be confused with the other "Thetis Island Area" topic that exists on PlaceSpeak ...by all means connect to this topic if you like, but it's NOT our topic, ours is "Let's Keep In Touch with Thetis Island."

As of 9:30am Friday November 8, those people still not connected to the platform should have received an invitation from PlaceSpeak to your email's inbox or junk/spam folder. If you have not received an invitation, please contact us at letskeepintouchthetisland@gmail.com

You are nearly there!!! Let's CONNECT:

1. Click on this link: <http://placespeak.com/thetisland/>
2. Click on the blue "Sign in" words below the "This is a private consultation" sentence.

The screenshot shows the PlaceSpeak website interface. At the top, there is a blue header with the PlaceSpeak logo on the left and login fields on the right. The login fields include an 'Email' input, a dropdown arrow, a 'Password' input, and a 'Forgot Password?' link. To the right of these are 'Log in' and 'Sign up' buttons. Below the header, the main content area has a large heading 'This is a private consultation.' followed by the text 'Sign in or Sign up to continue.' A red arrow points to the 'Sign in' link. Below this, there is a horizontal navigation bar with links: 'About', 'Pricing', 'Blog', 'Media', 'Contact', 'FAQ', 'API', 'Jobs', 'Case Studies', 'Neighbourhoods', and 'Accessibility'. To the right of these links is a 'Follow Us' section with icons for Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube. At the bottom, there is a footer with copyright information '© 2019 PlaceSpeak Inc.', a 'Google Translate' section with a 'Select Language' dropdown, and links for 'English', 'Français', 'Privacy', and 'Terms'.

PlaceSpeak

Email Password Log in Sign up
Forgot Password?

This is a private consultation.

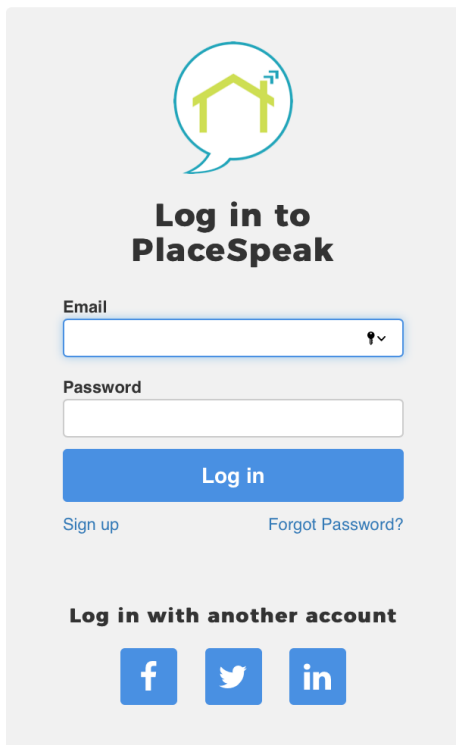
Sign in or Sign up to continue.

About Pricing Blog Media Contact FAQ API Jobs Case Studies
Neighbourhoods Accessibility

Follow Us Facebook Twitter YouTube

© 2019 PlaceSpeak Inc. Google Translate: Select Language English Français Privacy Terms

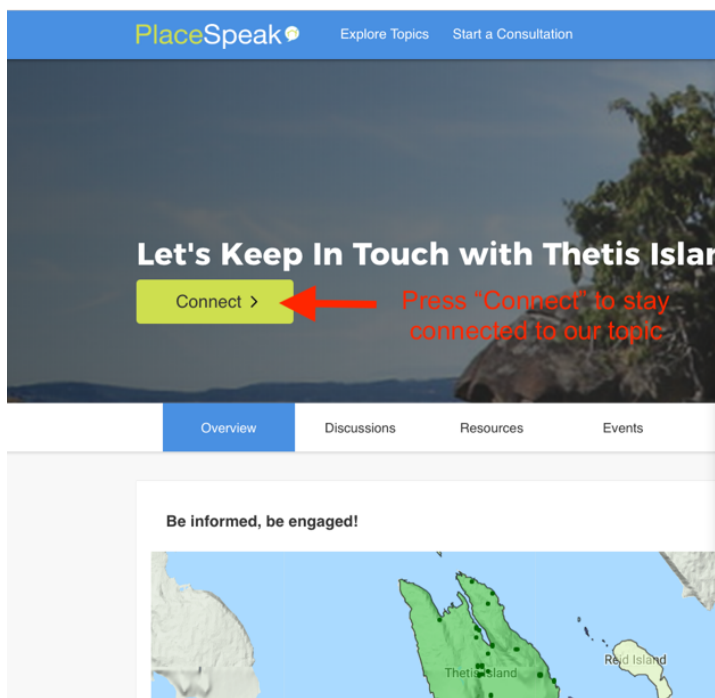
3. Enter your email address and password.



The login form for PlaceSpeak features a logo at the top consisting of a house icon inside a speech bubble. Below the logo, the text "Log in to PlaceSpeak" is displayed. The form includes two input fields: "Email" and "Password". A blue "Log in" button is positioned below the password field. Below the button, there are links for "Sign up" and "Forgot Password?". At the bottom, a section titled "Log in with another account" includes icons for Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn.

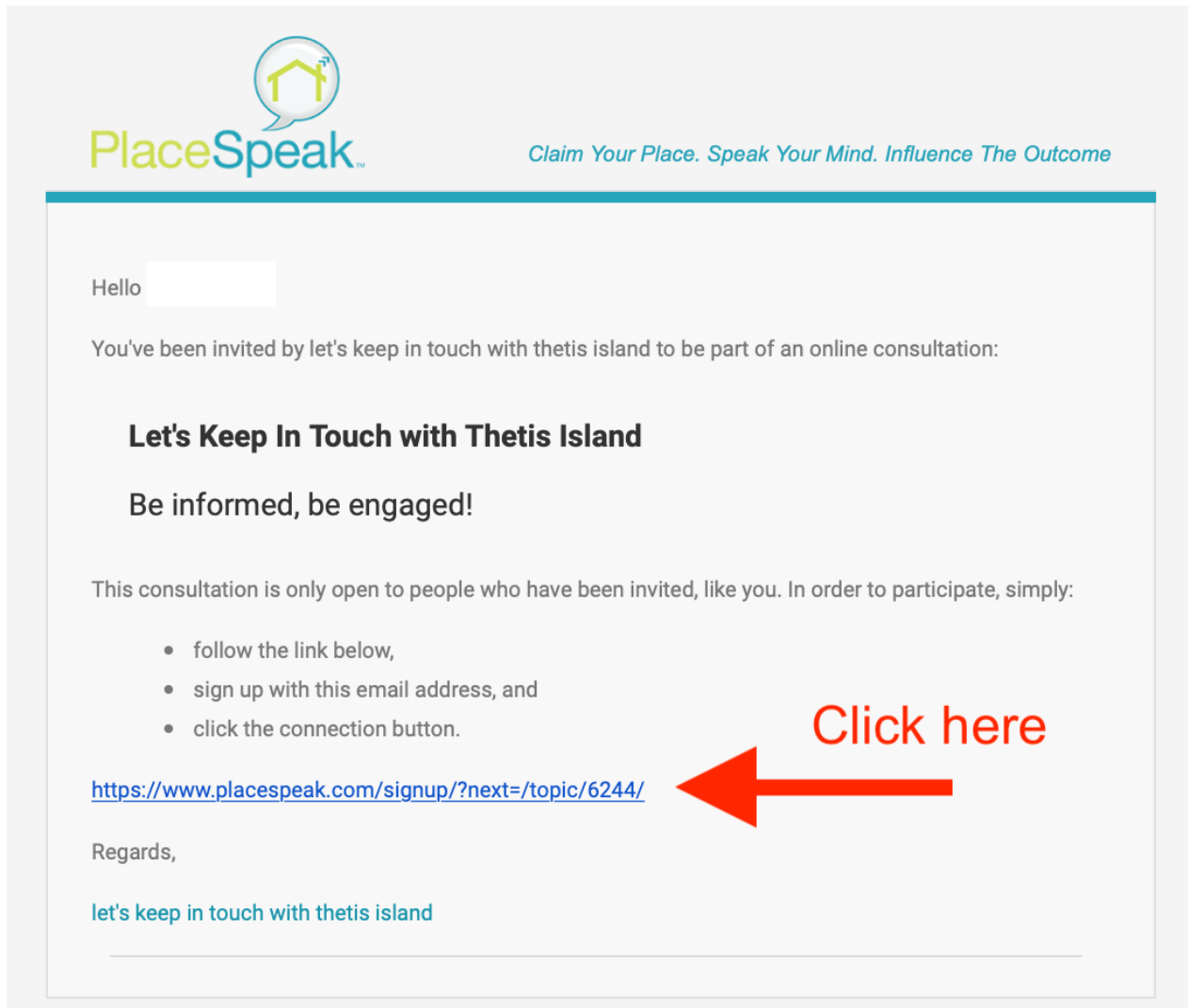
4. Very important – Click on the green “Connect” button to connect to and begin engaging with our “Let’s Keep In Touch with Thetis Island” topic.

To ensure you are always connected to this topic, ensure that the green “Connected” button has been pressed and stays “on.” (If you click on the blue “Disconnect” text, you will no longer be able to connect/interact with the platform and will need to connect again).



If you don't see this page for some reason, try this ...

5. Go into your email's inbox or junk/spam folder and open the invitation from PlaceSpeak that you should have received at 9:30am November 8, 2019. Click on the link.

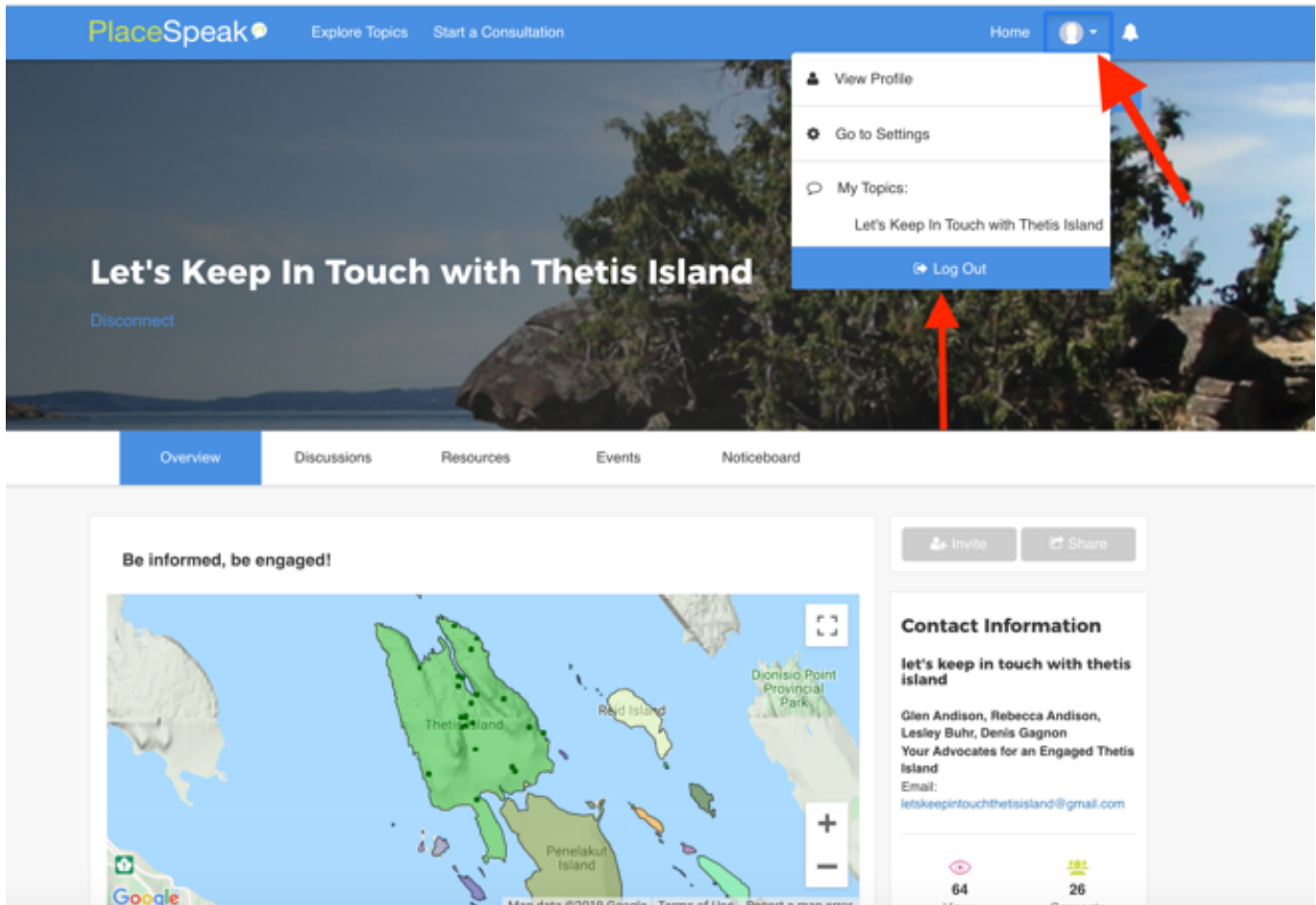


It should take you to the "Let's Keep In Touch with Thetis Island" topic, where you can connect by pressing on the green "Connect" button.

For more troubleshooting tips, see the "Troubleshooting" document

After following all sign-up, connect, and troubleshooting instructions, you find that you are still experiencing difficulties signing up to PlaceSpeak or connecting to the "Let's Keep In Touch with Thetis Island" topic, please let us know. We want to alleviate any frustration and ultimately have as many people engaging with the platform as possible so that there can be robust discussions happening that reflect as wide a variety of points of view/ideas as possible, with maximum engagement. We are happy to help you step-by-step through the sign-up process, so please do not hesitate to reach out!

To log out, simply click on the little “human head” icon in the top right of the screen and click the “Log Out” button.

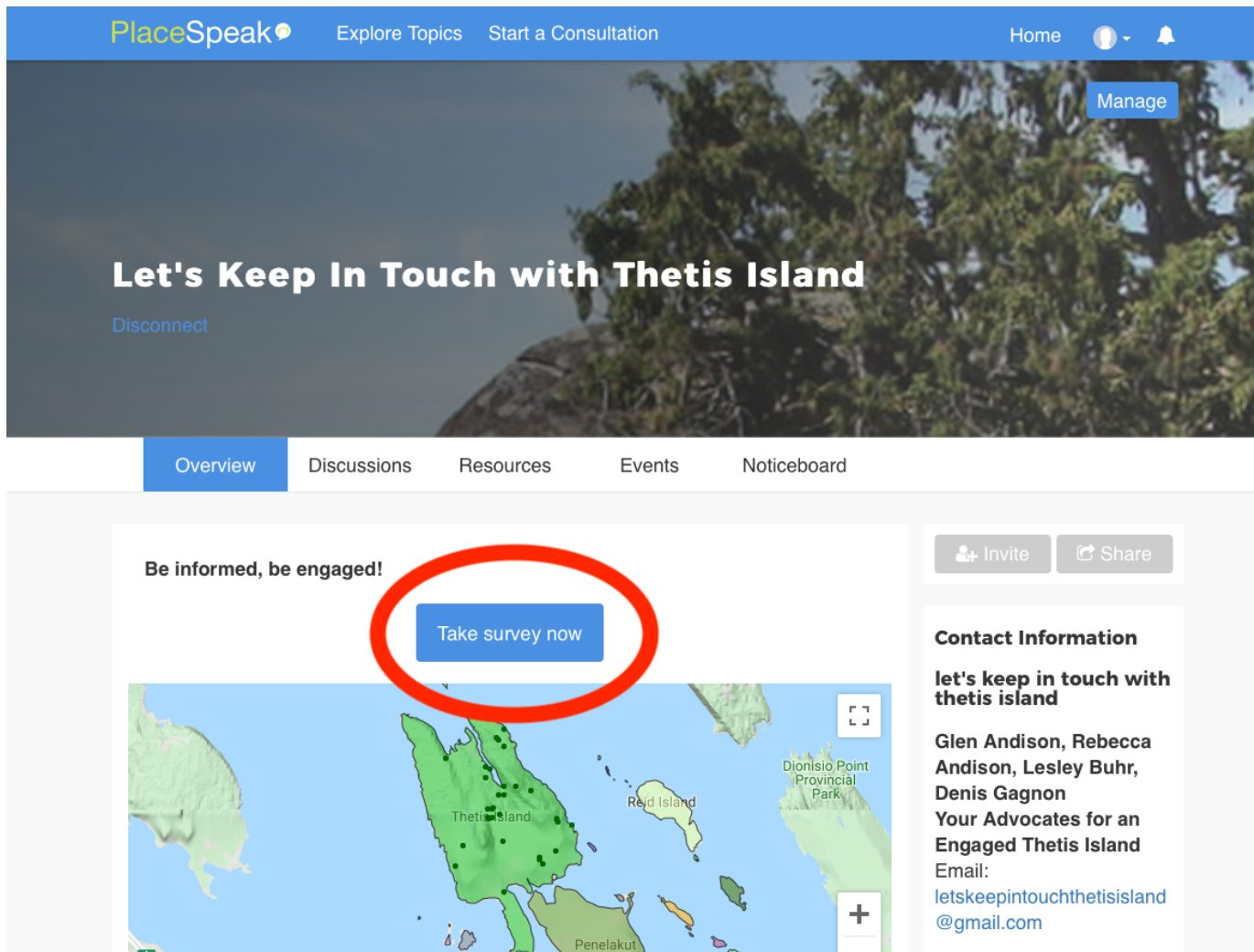


Save this URL address – it is the one you will need to log in to the platform from here on out:
<http://placespeak.com/thetisland/>

Any questions or feedback let us know by email us at letskeepintouchthetisland@gmail.com

How to navigate your way around the “Let’s Keep In Touch with Thetis Island” topic

Remember to fill out the Fibre Optic Survey! It can be found on the home “Overview” page of the platform; click on the blue “Take Survey Now” button above the map of Thetis Island.

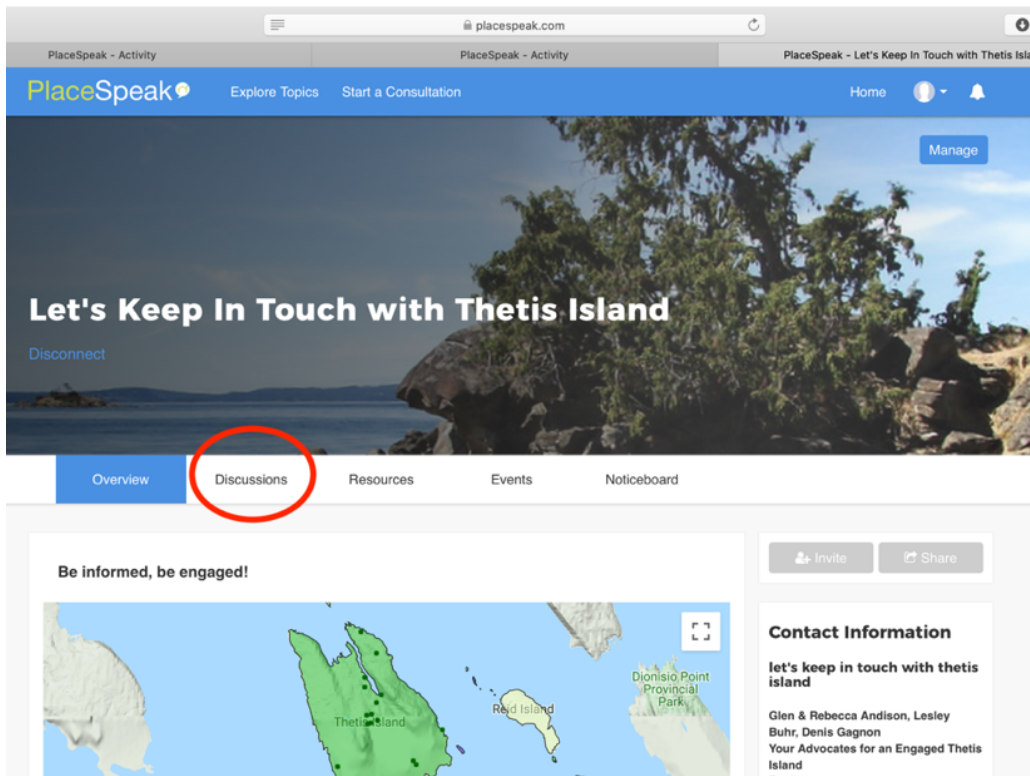


On the “Overview” page, we will keep you up-to-date with any new happenings or postings to the platform. See the large red text underneath the map of Thetis Island.

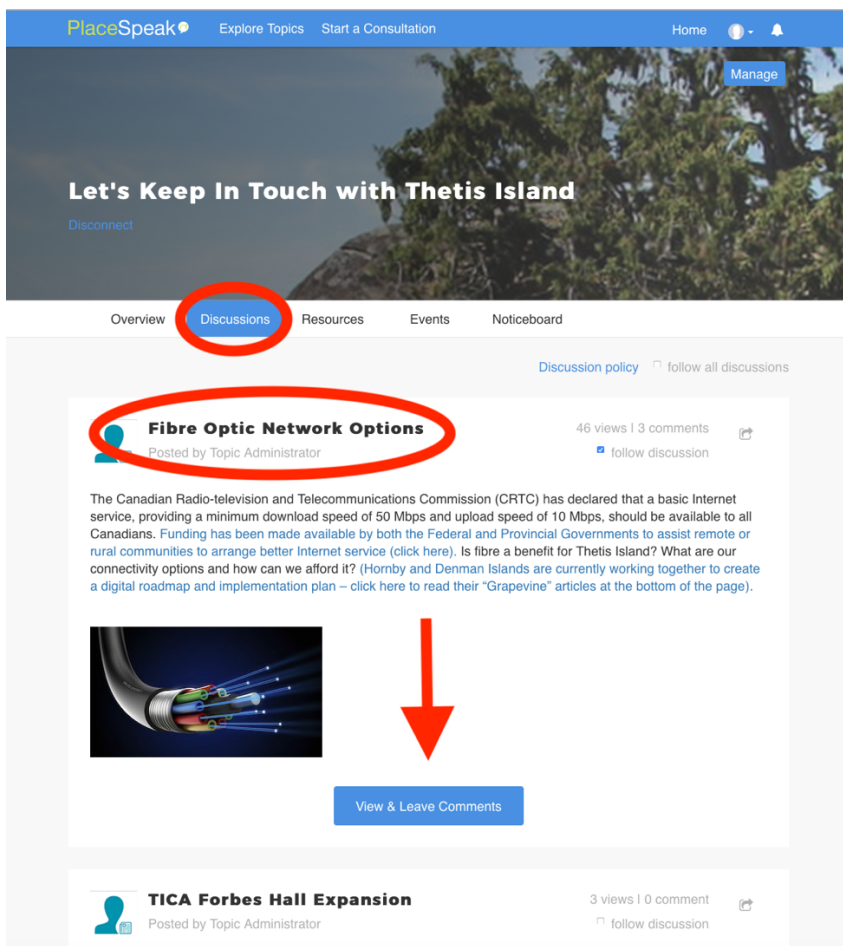
Click on the **“Discussions”** page to view the two topics that Thetis Islanders chose to engage in first:

- 1) TICA Forbes Hall Expansion
- 2) Fibre Optic Network Options

** The Telecommunications Towers and Antennae question has been put on hold temporarily.*



Click on the blue “View & Leave Comments” button to view what others have said and to leave your own comments.



When you leave a comment, your full name will automatically appear attributed to your post. If you do not wish to have your name attributed to any comment you leave, you are able to do so anonymously. It's an easy process; see the "How to post comments anonymously" document for instructions.

On the "**Resources**" page you will find documents applicable to "Discussions" questions. Click on the PDF documents or links to view in full. You will be able to post URL website links in your comments, but if there are documents you think are relevant to the topics and would like to see posted for everyone to see, then please email us the documents (in PDF format) at letskeepintouchthetisisland@gmail.com and we will add them to the "Resources" page.

On the "**Events**" page you will see information about both upcoming and past events. Links to meeting agendas and minutes are also included. Past meetings will remain on the platform so that you are still able to access the various notes and links that accompanied these events.

On the "**Noticeboard**" page you will be able to comment with your ideas and solutions for fixing problems on Thetis. This is a positive space where we want to hear your solutions and constructive "how to" ideas.

Any questions or feedback let us know by email us at letskeepintouchthetisisland@gmail.com

How to post comments anonymously within the platform

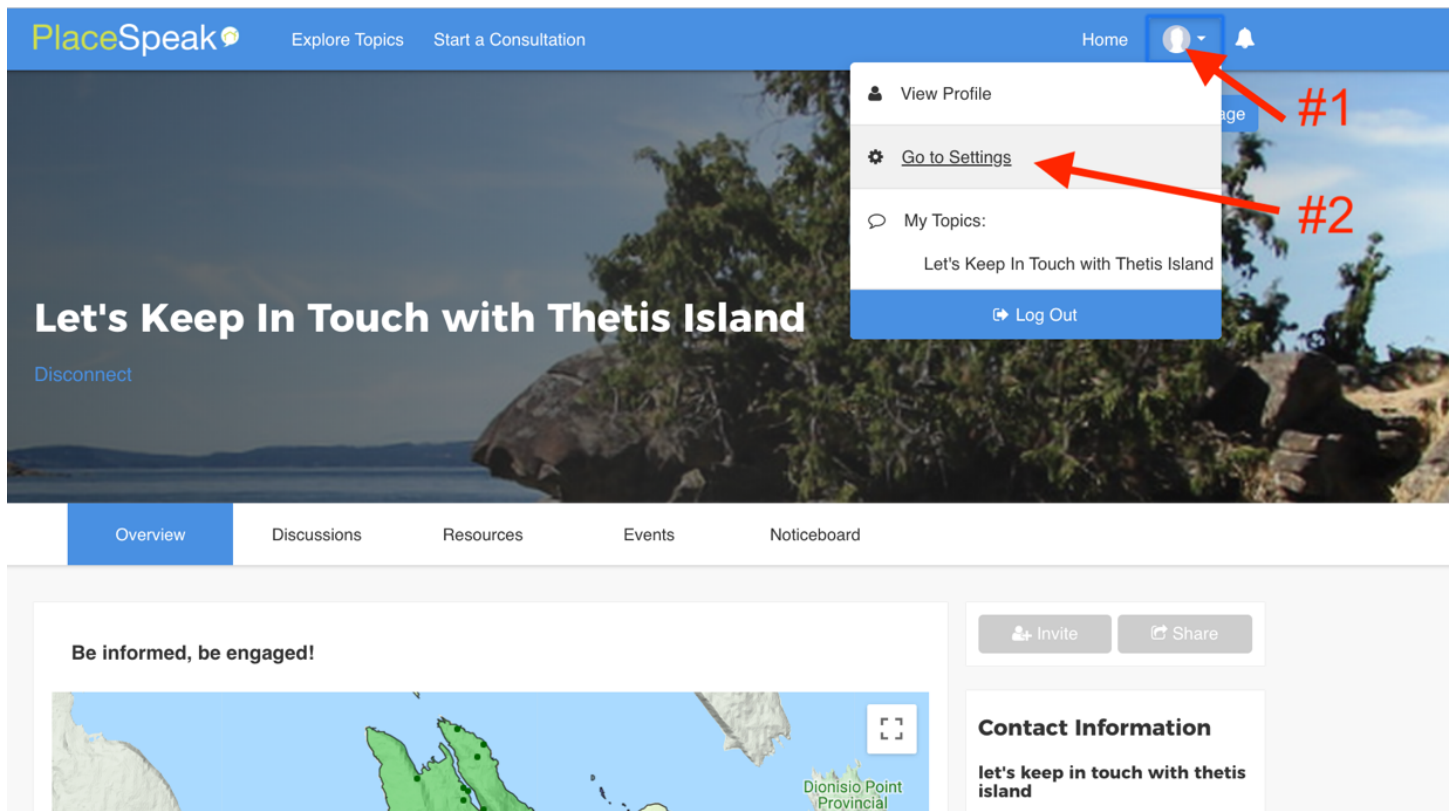
Our “Let’s Keep In Touch with Thetis Island” is a private topic, meaning that only Thetis Island residents can access our topic, read and post comments, take polls or surveys etc. If you know of Thetis residents who aren’t connected to the site but would like to be, please tell them to contact us via email at letskeepintouchthetisland@gmail.com and we can add their email address to the PlaceSpeak contacts list.

Your email address is “the key” to accessing the topic. We have made our topic private purposely so that people on the other side of the world cannot be influencing engagement that happens on Thetis Island, or taking surveys and altering outcomes.

Additionally, your name will not be visible or searchable on the world wide in association with PlaceSpeak, meaning that anything you comment or post on in the PlaceSpeak platform will not appear on the world wide web in any Google search etc.

While we encourage transparency, we also understand some people want to keep their online presence anonymous. If you would like to post comments anonymously on the site and not have your real name shown, follow these steps:

1. Click on your “Profile” (the little human head icon on the main “Overview” page of the platform)
2. Click on “Go to Settings”



3. Click on "Topic Privacy"

PlaceSpeak Explore Topics Start a Consultation Home

Thetis Island

Change profile picture

Rebecca Anderson

< Back to Profile

Account

account

verification

topic privacy

add/edit places

First Name: Rebecca

Last Name: Anderson

Birthday: [Month] [Day] [Year]

Gender: [Dropdown]

Facebook: Place your Facebook url

4. Click the little grey "down" arrow to the right of "Let's Keep In Touch with Thetis Island"

PlaceSpeak Explore Topics Start a Consultation Home

Thetis Island

Change profile picture

Rebecca Anderson

< Back to Profile

Topic Privacy

Let's Keep In Touch with Thetis Island **Click here →** ▼

Thetis Island Area ▼

account

verification

topic privacy

add/edit places

5. The platform's default is to have both boxes checked, which means your name will be shown any time you post a comment.

6. If you want to post a comment anonymously with your name not showing (it will just read "Anonymous" next to your comment) then ensure that the second check box is unchecked, like this:

PlaceSpeak Explore Topics Start a Consultation Home

Thetis Island

Change profile picture

Rebecca Andison

< Back to Profile

account

verification

topic privacy

add/edit places

Topic Privacy

Let's Keep In Touch with Thetis Island

☒ Show my profile picture next to my name when I post

☐ Show my name (instead of "Anonymous") when I post.

Disconnect

Thetis Island Area

If you leave this box unchecked, the word "Anonymous" will appear besides your posts / comments (your name will not appear)

7. Any time you want to start showing your name beside your comments again, then just follow the above steps and ensure that both boxes in this "Topic Privacy" section are checked.

For more on PlaceSpeak's privacy policy, click here: <https://www.placespeak.com/en/privacy/>

After following all sign-up and connect instructions, you find that you are still experiencing difficulties signing up to PlaceSpeak or connecting to the "Let's Keep In Touch with Thetis Island" topic, please let us know. We want to alleviate any frustration and ultimately have as many people engaging with the platform as possible so that there can be robust discussions happening that reflect as wide a variety of points of view/ideas as possible, with maximum engagement. We are happy to help you step-by-step through the sign-up process, so please do not hesitate to reach out!

Any questions or feedback let us know by email us at letskeepintouchthetisland@gmail.com

Troubleshooting

When in doubt, start from the beginning.

Remember that it's a two-part process. Many people have signed up to PlaceSpeak, but just haven't **CONNECTED** to the "Let's Keep In Touch with Thetis Island" topic yet ...and are therefore unable to engage with the platform.

Once you have completed step one and have signed up to PlaceSpeak, **don't be confused with the "Thetis Island Area" topic you will see in PlaceSpeak – this is NOT our topic.** Our topic is "Let's Keep In Touch with Thetis Island."

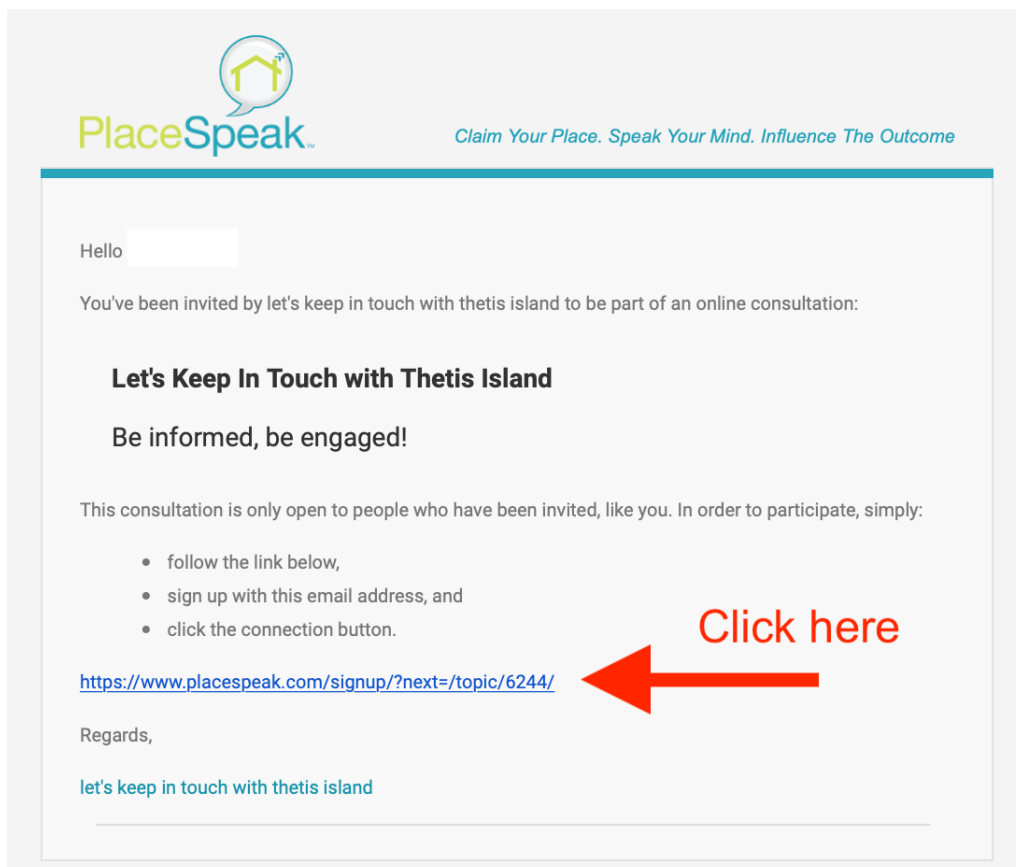
Start the sign-up or sign-in process from the invitation you should have received from PlaceSpeak a couple of weeks ago ...or from the invitation reminder that was sent out again from PlaceSpeak at 9:30am November 8, 2019.

If you never received these emails, make sure to check your email's inbox or junk/spam folders in case the invitations went there. If they are still not showing up anywhere, then please contact us at letskeepintouchthetisland@gmail.com

1. To begin the sign-up/sign-in process, you can either click on the following link:

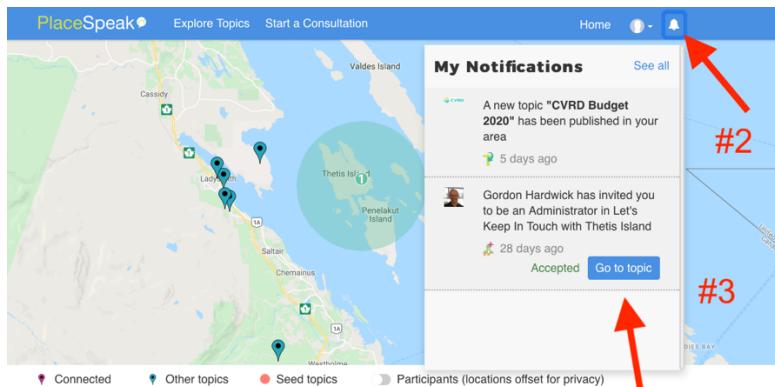
<http://placespeak.com/thetisland/>

...or alternatively, you can click on the link that's included in your invitation email from PlaceSpeak:

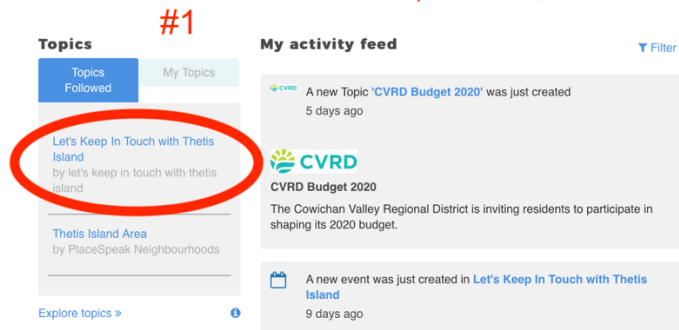


2. If, after entering your login details (email & password), you first see a page like this, then click on the blue “Let’s Keep In Touch with Thetis Island” text under “Topics” (#1) in the lower left corner of the screen. This should connect you to the platform.

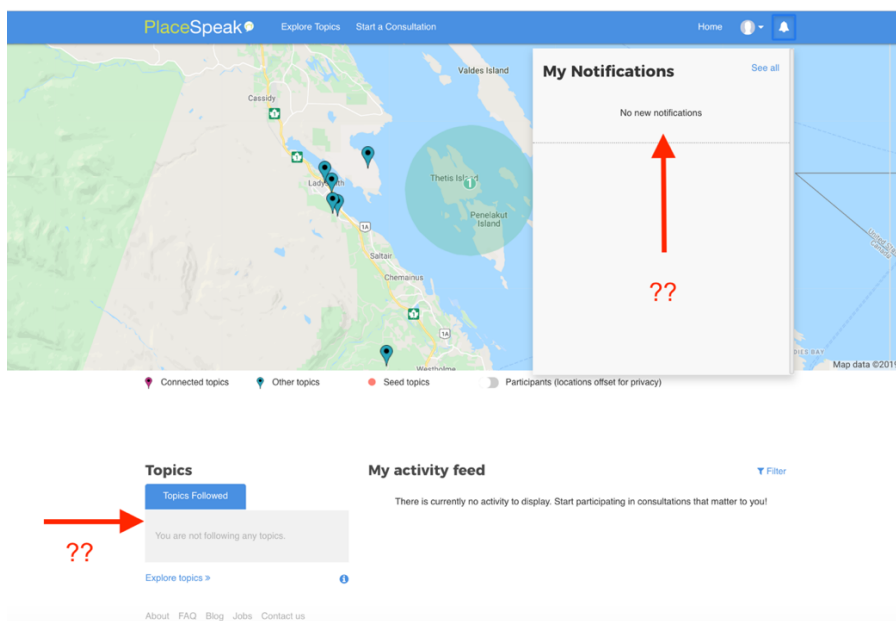
Additionally, to ensure you are connected to the platform, you can click on the little bell “Notifications” icon in the top right of any page of the platform (#2). You should see an invitation from PlaceSpeak here. Click on “Accept” and then click on “Go to topic” – this should connect you to the platform.



Click “Accept” invitation, and then “Go to topic”

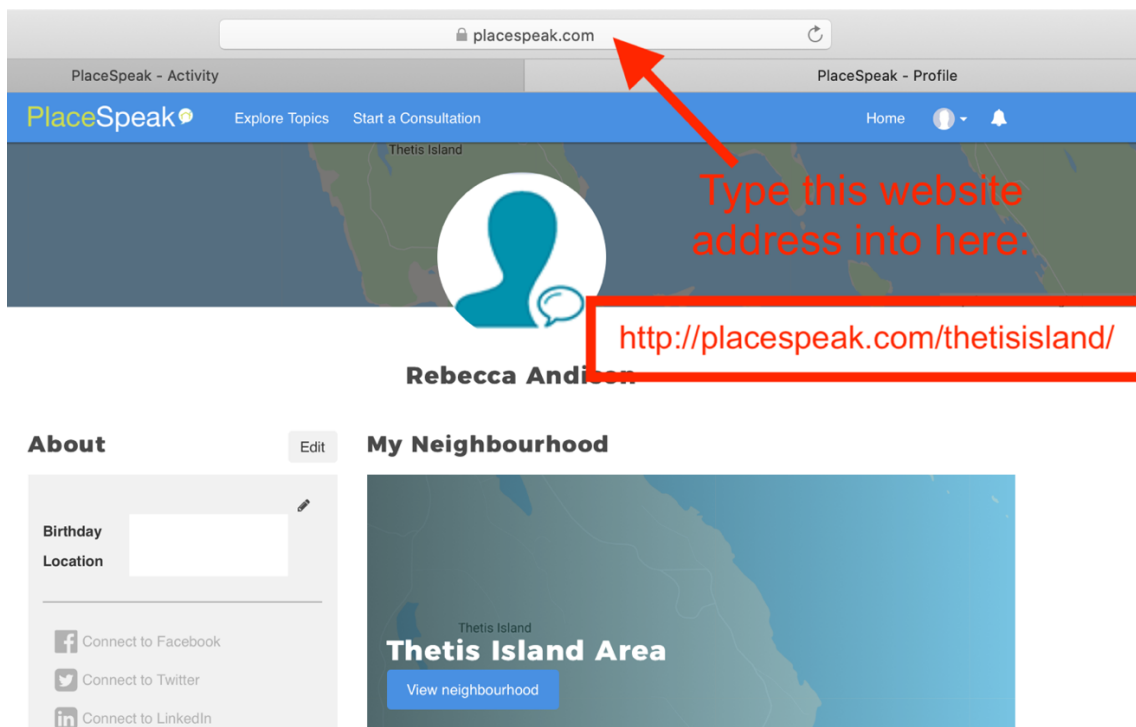


3. If for some reason you don’t see anything in the “Topics” section, nor in the “Notifications” section by the little bell icon in the top right of screen (“Notifications” can be accessed from ANY page of the platform, not just this one specifically) it will look like this:



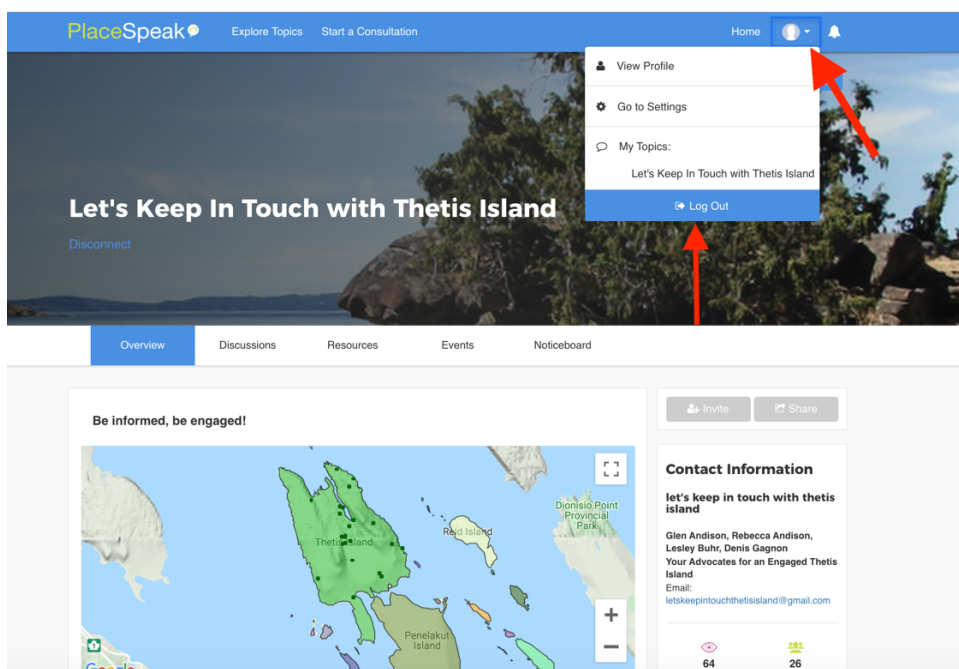
4. Type the following into the URL address bar (type it into the current page you are in, although technically it shouldn't matter which page of the platform you're on):

<http://placespeak.com/thetisisland/>

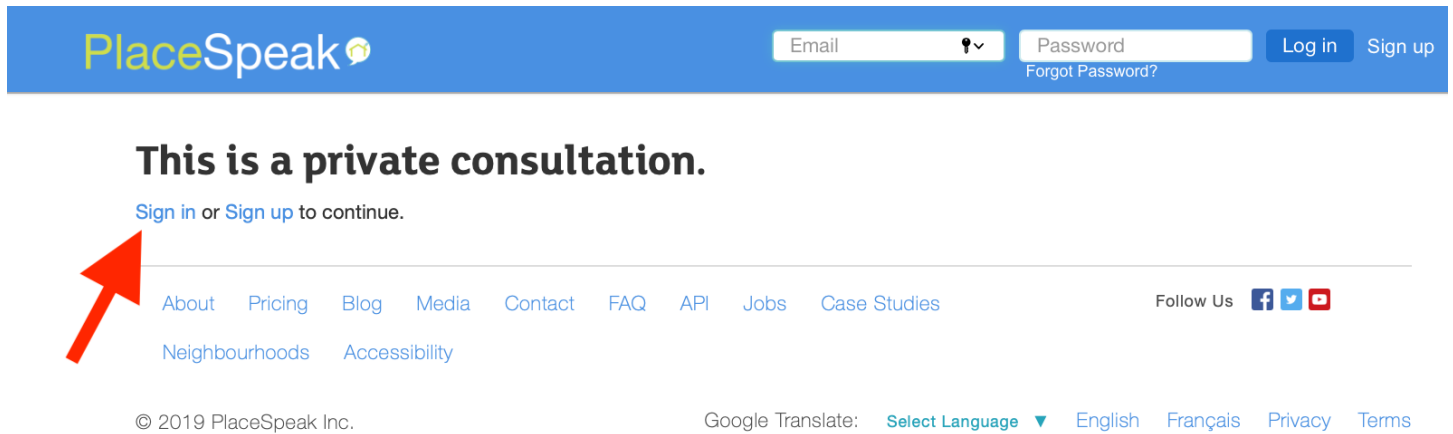


This should connect you to the “Let’s Keep In Touch with Thetis Island” topic.

5. If all else fails, and you still aren’t connected, log out of the platform and try signing back in again. To log out of the platform, simply click on the little “human head” icon in the top right corner of any of the platform pages, and click “Log Out.”

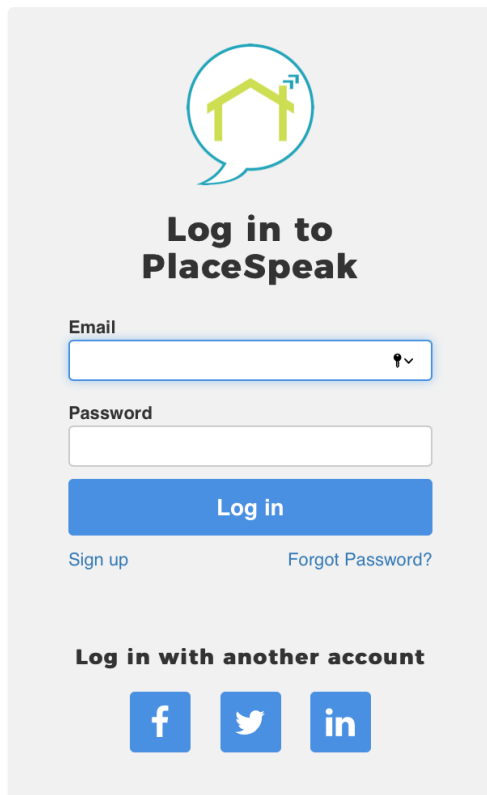


6. Sign back into the Platform. Because you have already created a profile, you should be able to just “Sign in.”



The screenshot shows the top section of the PlaceSpeak website. The header is blue with the PlaceSpeak logo on the left. On the right, there are input fields for 'Email' and 'Password', a 'Log in' button, and a 'Sign up' link. Below the header, a message reads 'This is a private consultation.' followed by a link to 'Sign in or Sign up to continue.' A red arrow points to this link. Below the message is a navigation menu with links: About, Pricing, Blog, Media, Contact, FAQ, API, Jobs, Case Studies, Neighbourhoods, and Accessibility. On the right of the navigation menu are social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube, and a 'Follow Us' link. At the bottom of the header, there is a copyright notice '© 2019 PlaceSpeak Inc.', a Google Translate link, a language selector 'Select Language' with a dropdown arrow, and links for 'English', 'Français', 'Privacy', and 'Terms'.

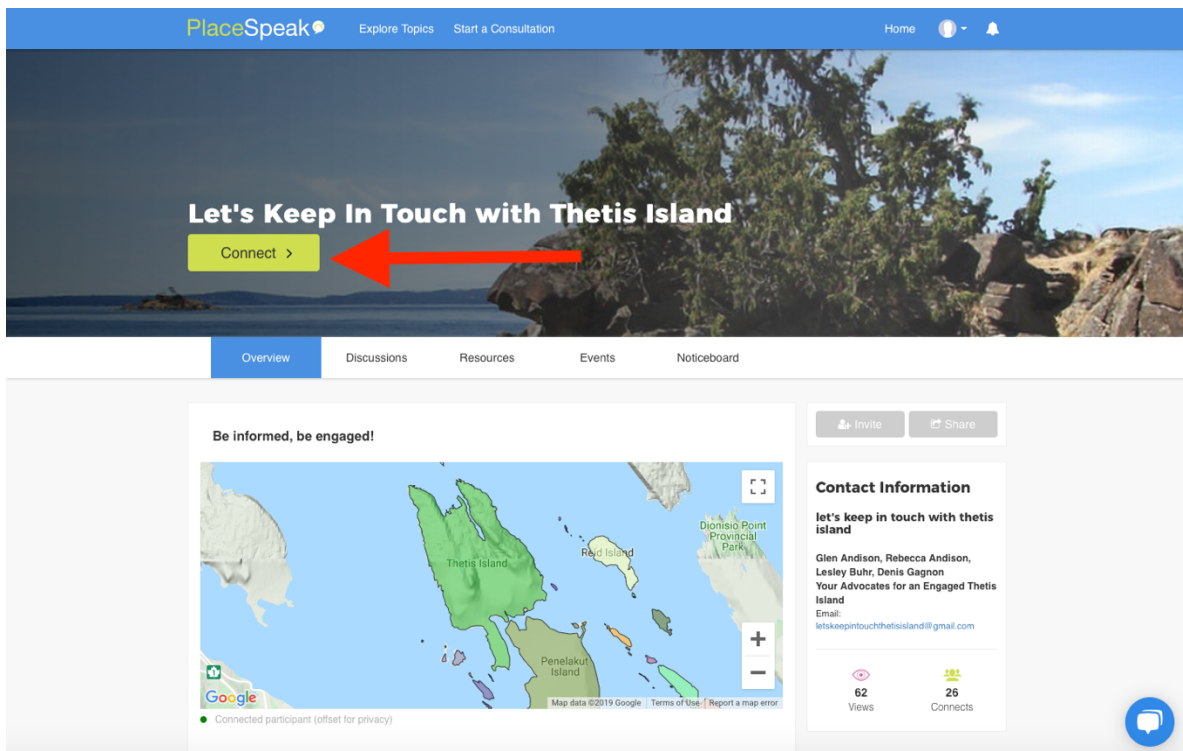
7. Fill in your email address and password that you just created.



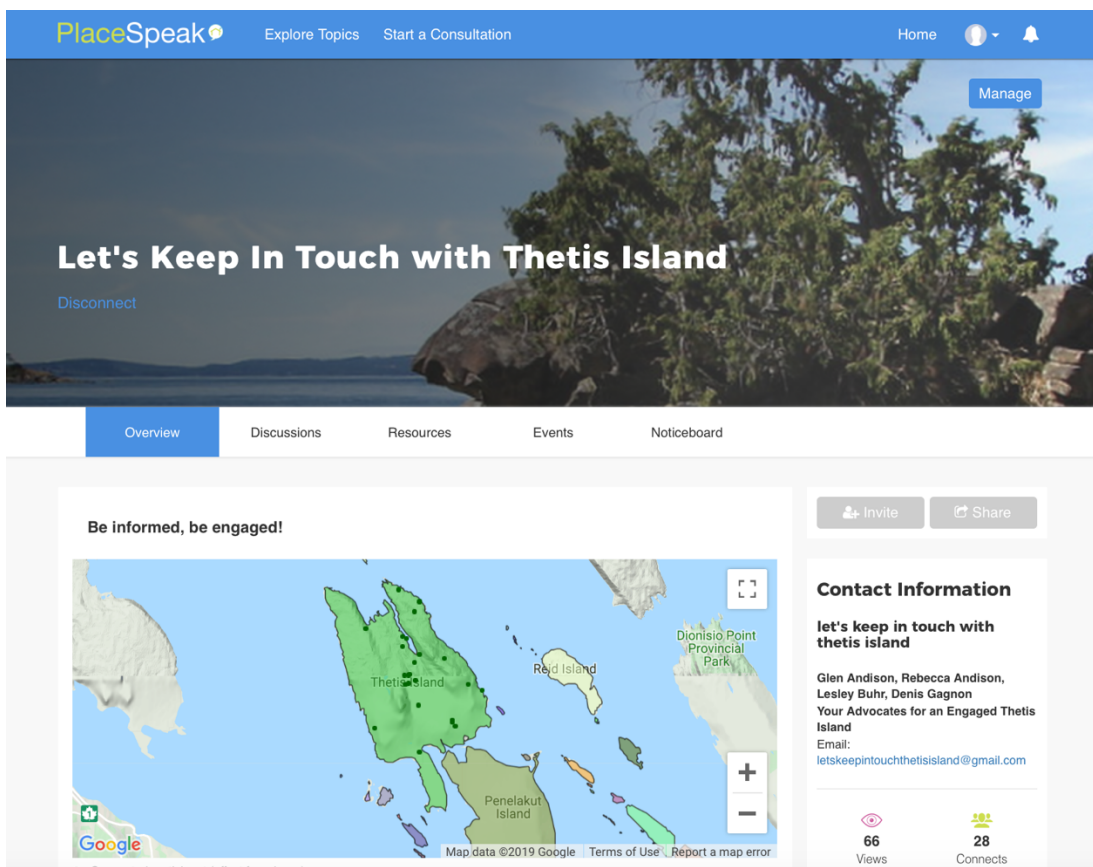
The screenshot shows the login form on the PlaceSpeak website. At the top is the PlaceSpeak logo, which consists of a house icon inside a speech bubble. Below the logo is the text 'Log in to PlaceSpeak'. The form has two input fields: 'Email' and 'Password'. Below the 'Email' field is a 'Log in' button. Below the 'Log in' button are two links: 'Sign up' and 'Forgot Password?'. Below these links is the text 'Log in with another account'. At the bottom are three social media icons: Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn.

8. Don't forget the most important part, to CONNECT to the “Let's Keep In Touch with Thetis Island” topic!

It should look like this when you are just about to connect:



And once you are fully connected, it should look like this & you can begin engaging 😊



After following all sign-up, connect, and troubleshooting instructions, you find that you are still experiencing difficulties signing up to PlaceSpeak or connecting to the “Let’s Keep In Touch with Thetis Island” topic, please let us know. We want to alleviate any frustration and ultimately have as many people engaging with the platform as possible so that there can be robust discussions happening that reflect as wide a variety of points of view/ideas as possible, with maximum engagement. We are happy to help you step-by-step through the sign-up process, so please do not hesitate to reach out!

Any questions or feedback let us know by email us at letskeepintouchthetisland@gmail.com



Let's Keep in Touch Thetis Island <letskeepintouchthetisland@gmail.com>

Survey Reminder – Fibre Optics for Thetis – Nov. 20 Deadline

1 message

Let's Keep in Touch Thetis Island <letskeepintouchthetisland@gmail.com>

Sun, Nov 17, 2019 at 10:38 PM

Hello,

This is a friendly reminder that it is not too late to sign up for PlaceSpeak, the Thetis Island Community engagement platform, and take the Fibre Optics Survey.

If you are already signed up, thank you. If you are having difficulties signing up and need assistance, please contact us at letskeepintouchthetisland@gmail.com

There are very positive and encouraging developments regarding fibre optics taking place on our neighbouring Gulf Islands which can be found on the "Resources" page of the platform.

Regardless of whether you are in favour of Fibre Optics for Thetis Island, what matters is that you engage on the platform to share your thoughts. If you have already taken the survey, thank you.

If not, **please respond to the survey on the platform before midnight November 20, 2019** by clicking here: <http://placespeak.com/thetisland/>

In order to move forward with an implementation plan for Fibre Optics for Thetis Island, a majority interest in the project must be recognized from the survey.

We are currently in the process of conducting a community assessment of our current and future connectivity needs. The information collected, and the resulting level of interest, will form the basis upon which we can enter into meaningful discussion with service providers.

Your opinion matters. Speak your mind. Make a difference.

Let's keep in touch with Thetis Island!

Best regards,

Glen Andison (temporarily on leave)
Rebecca Andison



Lesley Buhr
Denis Gagnon

Your advocates for an engaged Thetis Island

If you know of a resident or property owner who did not receive this email, or the last email, and would like to join PlaceSpeak and take the survey helping to determine the feasibility of Fibre Optics for Thetis Island, please ask them to email us at letskeepintouchthetisland@gmail.com

Please let us know if you do not wish to be contacted with further updates regarding community engagement.





Let's Keep in Touch Thetis Island <letskeepintouchthetisland@gmail.com>

Fibre Optics on Thetis - Where do We Stand?

1 message

Let's Keep in Touch Thetis Island <letskeepintouchthetisland@gmail.com>

Tue, Nov 26, 2019 at 6:47 PM

Hello,

A letter made available at the November 19, 2019 Islands Trust Local Trust Committee (LTC) meeting from Penelakut Band's administrator suggests that the Telus telecommunication tower proposed for Lot 155 is postponed indefinitely. This letter is posted on the "Resources" page in the PlaceSpeak platform ([click here](#)). This matter must be resolved between Telus and the Penelakut Tribe. A proposed Telus tower on Denman and Hornby received a letter of non-concurrence from their LTC.

Our current options for internet service are Telus copper and wireless, and Xplornet 4G satellite. They are both inadequate. Neither meet the recommended standard of the CRTC (Canadian Radio and Telecommunications Commission). They don't come close; the upload and download speeds of Thetis Island residents indicated from the survey are approximately half of the CRTC's recommendations.

If we do not unite and act now, moving forward with fibre optics for Thetis Island, we may end up without high-speed internet.

Two senior levels of government (CRTC and ISED [Innovation, Science and Economic Development]) have recognized the need to provide reliable high-speed internet to rural and remote communities. They have stated that this should be a right for all citizens. They have created programs to address this need and funding is in place for these programs.

These government programs are only available to community-driven initiatives, not to internet service providers (ISPs), such as Telus or Shaw. Both the CRTC and ISED favour partnerships between community organizations and existing ISPs.

If we want to participate in these programs and qualify for funding to bring high-speed internet to all of Thetis, our community must take the initiative and show strong support for the need for improved internet service, and have plans in place to implement this service.

The recent fibre-optic survey results may be found in the "Resources" page of the PlaceSpeak platform ([click here](#)). The survey had 56 respondents. The overwhelming majority of respondents, who answered the question, favoured fibre optics for Thetis Island; many provided excellent comments.



So there is no misunderstanding, PlaceSpeak is an online tool which enables communication; it is designed to unite Thetis Island, so that ALL voices are heard, allowing the opportunity for residents to interact and provide feedback. Our “Let’s Keep In Touch with Thetis Island” topic on the PlaceSpeak platform is a private topic that enables all residents, full-time and seasonal, to engage.

The platform also allows for polls and surveys that help to gauge the opinions of Thetis Island residents. It is a “meeting place” active 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It provides the instantaneous ability to garner support, or lack thereof, for any idea or project that has an impact on Thetis island.

Currently Telus, our major internet provider, has indicated no interest in bringing fibre optics to Thetis Island. However, this does not mean that we cannot pursue the services of other providers such as Shaw, AEBC Internet Corporation, TNW, or even look into having our own community-based internet. A community-based internet service would result in a significant portion of the near \$100,000 we pay per month collectively for telephone and internet to stay in the community.

We must rally around; unite now and show strong support if we want fibre optics for Thetis Island. Please consider signing up to PlaceSpeak and connecting to the “Let’s Keep In Touch with Thetis Island” topic so that we may progress to the next steps.

Again, to qualify for funding, communities must take the initiative and show strong support for the desire for improved internet service and be prepared to develop plans to implement it.

Below is a screenshot of what the “Let’s Keep In Touch with Thetis Island” topic homepage looks like. If you are having difficulties signing up to PlaceSpeak or connecting to our topic, please refer to the instructions we sent out with our last email on November 17, 2019 or contact us immediately at letskeepintouchthetisland@gmail.com

Your opinion matters. Speak your mind. Make a difference.

Let's Keep in Touch!

Best regards,

Glen Andison (temporarily on leave)
Rebecca Andison
Lesley Buhr
Denis Gagnon

Your advocates for an engaged Thetis Island

Please let us know if you do not wish to be contacted with further updates regarding community engagement.



PlaceSpeak

Explore TopicsStart a Consultation

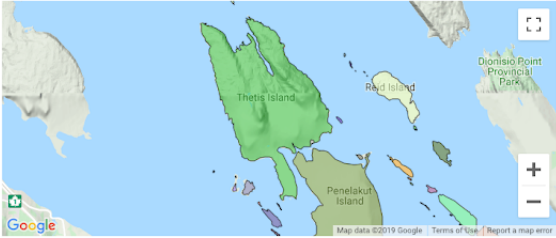
Home

Let's Keep In Touch with Thetis Island

Connect >

OverviewDiscussionsResourcesEventsNoticeboard

Be informed, be engaged!



Map data ©2019 Google Terms of Use Report a map error

Connected participant (offset for privacy)

InviteShare

Contact Information

let's keep in touch with thetis island

Glen Andison, Rebecca Andison, Lesley Buhr, Denis Gagnon
Your Advocates for an Engaged Thetis Island
Email: let'skeepintouchthetisland@gmail.com

62Views

26Connects

Page 3 of 3

The survey results have been edited only where it was necessary to protect the identity or the anonymity of the respondents. There are some great comments at the end. Thanks to everyone who participated. [dg]

	Results
Number of Records in This Query:	69
Total Records in Survey:	69
Percentage of Total:	100.00%

Internet Connectivity Speed Test, Download (Mbps)?

Note - We realize that part-time residents who are currently off island will be unable to complete the Connectivity Speed Test. If this reflects your situation, please state "part-time resident" next to the "unavailable" line.

Answer	Count	Percentage
Answer	30	43.48%
No Answer ("Part-time")	31	44.93%
Not Completed or Not Displayed	8	11.59%

ID	Response
11	13.15
5	7.61
24	22.62
27	?
17	7.61
21	3.9
28	7.61
9	7.61
4	1.6
35	3.07
16	15.5
36	7.63
32	Internet not currently available at my Plateau Road home
68	28.17
59	12
65	1.29
49	7.52
72	7.61
53	3.15
50	3.0
37	6.1
75	6.66
38	7.61
54	16.39
60	25.5
57	15.6
41	16.8
45	7.6
44	7.61
67	7.61

Internet Connectivity Speed Test, Upload (Mbps)?

Note - We realize that part-time residents who are currently off island will be unable to complete the Connectivity Speed Test. If this reflects your situation, please state "part-time resident" next to the "unavailable" line.

Answer	Count	Percentage
Answer	29	43.48%
No Answer ("Part-time")	31	44.93%
Not Completed or Not Displayed	8	11.59%

ID	Response
11	1.38
5	0.90
24	6.26
27	?
17	0.90
21	1.0
28	0.90
9	0.90
4	0.84
35	0.83
16	1.17
36	0.92
68	6.43
59	4.0
65	0.86
49	0.92
72	0.90
53	0.75
50	0.79
37	0.80
75	1.25
38	0.90
54	2.41
60	6.67
57	2.56
41	6.48
45	1.0
44	0.90
67	0.90

Internet Connectivity Speed Test, Ping (ms)?

Note - We realize that part-time residents who are currently off island will be unable to complete the Connectivity Speed Test. If this reflects your situation, please state "part-time resident" next to the "unavailable" line.

Answer	Count	Percentage
Answer	29	43.48%
No Answer ("Part-time")	31	44.93%
Not Completed or Not Displayed	8	11.59%

ID	Response
11	600
5	120
24	9
27	?
17	12
21	25
28	12
9	12
4	23
35	29
16	21
36	31
68	13
59	46
65	24
49	16
72	12
53	12
50	38
37	12
75	679
38	12
54	12
60	9
57	12
41	10
45	12
44	12
67	12

Does your location use the Internet?

Answer	Count	Percentage
Telus Internet	33	47.83%
No Telus Internet available	9	13.04%
Satellite Internet (Xplornet etc.)	9	13.04%
Tethering Cell Phone to Computer Internet	4	5.80%
Smart Hub Internet (Telus, Bell, Rogers, etc.)	0	0.00%
Direct Access Cell Phone Internet	6	8.70%
Don't Use Internet	2	2.90%
Don't Want to Use Internet	0	0.00%
Other	2	2.90%
Not Completed or Not Displayed	13	18.84%

ID	Response (Other)
17	Have Xplornet backup
46	Future user

How many people in total on your property use the Internet?

Answer	Count	Percentage
1-2	27	39.13%
3-5	14	20.29%
5+	6	8.70%
Other	7	10.14%
Not Completed or Not Displayed	13	18.84%

ID	Response (Other)
24	Up to 4 with regular visitors
48	None
62	Shared ownership - up to 16 people would use service, if available
51	0
46	Future users, 2
44	Usually 2 people, but we often have additional guests

Please choose the view that best applies to you.

Answer	Count	Percentage
I am Satisfied with my Internet Service Now	8	11.59%
I am Satisfied with my Present Internet Service for the Foreseeable Future	6	8.70%
I am Not Satisfied with my Internet Service	29	42.03%
Other	6	8.70%
No Answer	7	10.14%
Not Completed or Not Displayed	13	18.84%

ID	Response (Other)
5	Expensive
24	Usually ok BUT Telus can be problematic to deal with when there is a problem
23	Expensive
51	Not connected
73	I would prefer the security, reliability and lessened health risks from fibre - Not Ever 5G
53	Would like to see faster speeds more consistently

What is the primary use for your cell phone when on your property?

Answer	Count	Percentage
Both Phone Calls & Internet	26	37.68%
Phone Calls Only	11	15.94%
Internet only	4	5.80%
I do Not Own/Use a Cell Phone	2	2.90%
Other	14	20.29%
Not completed or Not displayed	13	18.84%

ID	Response (Other)
17	Not used on property
12	We can't use our cell phones no service
21	No reliable cell service here
19	No cell service
29	Emergency use only
35	No cell service
68	Texting, and internet usage over wifi
62	Service does not reach
49	No access in house
50	Texting
37	Have a cell phone, but no service at this location
54	Cell does not work here
57	Basically no service
67	Only use cell phone in town

How would you describe the quality of cell-phone service on your property?

Answer	Count	Percentage
Non Existent	9	13.04%
Exists But is Unreliable (cuts in and out)	23	33.33%
Okay Most of the Time	13	18.84%
Good	4	5.80%
Excellent	3	4.35%
Nobody on the Property Has/Uses a Cell Phone	0	0.00%
Other	3	4.35%
Not Completed or Not Displayed	13	18.84%

ID	Response (Other)
30	Very spotty
75	Okay in the house; sketchy on other parts of the property
60	Good on some parts of the property, but unreliable on other parts of the property

**Would you consider installing a small cell antenna on your property
in order to obtain or improve cell service?**

Answer	Count	Percentage
Yes (Y)	27	39.13%
No (N)	25	36.23%
No answer	4	5.80%
Not Completed or Not Displayed	13	18.84%

I would like fibre-optic Internet for Thetis.

Answer	Count	Percentage
Yes (Y)	48	69.57%
No (N)	1	1.45%
No answer	7	10.14%
Not Completed or Not Displayed	13	18.84%

Other comments:

Answer	Count	Percentage
Answer	28	40.58%
No Answer	28	40.58%
Not Completed or Not Displayed	13	18.84%

ID	Response
11	I have answered that I would like fibre optic on Thetis but only if it does not cost more than my satellite service, and preferably less.
5	Why settle for second best!
24	I'm not certain of the ramifications of installing fibre optic i.e. eventual long term or hidden costs, will it resolve all reception issues for those with problems, is this instead of a cell tower, length of time for project to install during what time period, a few questions.
26	Internet connectivity has become a necessity in everyday life; even more so in semi-remote or remote locations. The Southern Gulf Islands are located between two populated areas (Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland) yet has inferior cell phone reception and internet connectivity. The number of full time and part time residents is sufficient to justify the improved connectivity to at least the minimum level proposed by the Federal Government and the CRTC. It is overdue and should be a priority.
17	Although fiber optic would be a good solution for internet, Telus has consistently refused to provide it or any substitute. Also, it does not address the other communication problems on Thetis. My doubts that this will ever be provided for us are large.
21	We will need faster internet in order to be able to run home based businesses etc.
19	We have neither cell service nor the internet and we want very much to be able to receive both. Telus in the past have refused to extend their broadband to our end of Thetis island, so, as this is a government funded promotion for connecting rural areas and Penelakut qualify to receive fibre-optic internet, I wonder why Thetis would not. Thetis and Penelakut are virtually connected, and we currently have no cell service and no internet where we are, so it would seem only fair and logical to include Thetis at the same time. Particularly for those areas that currently have no internet or cell coverage. During the storm last December, our landline was cut off and we had no other means of communicating had there been any kind of emergency. All our neighbours are also part-time residents, so there was no-one at that time close by to help. The new cell tower may not make any difference to cell service on the north east area of Thetis, since its position will unlikely be line of sight for residents on the north east of the Island and we will still be in the cell shadow of the island's natural ridge line and Moore Hill. Telus should

- prioritize making sure that wherever they position any new tower that it will provide service to those areas currently without any cell service. I am unaware if Penelakut already has any Telus Broadband, as some residents on Thetis do, but if they do then the internet situation on Thetis and Penelakut is the same.
- 29 Interesting that Penelakut has Optic TV that is routed through Thetis yet Thetis has no option for this service to replace a grandfathered Satellite service.
- 9 My dissatisfaction with Telus Internet has to do with charges for excess Usage.
- 23 I am opposed to a cell tower on Thetis. Telus is advertising that the future is for fibre optics and I agree 100%. Very remote communities are being provided with fibre optics and I feel strongly that we should have that service on Thetis as well.
- 25 In order to have any sort of Island economy, internet is a must. Many people also work remotely so the only way to keep up with the times is to keep up.
- 30 Thetis island may be considered remote and rural, but its residents deserve to have the same internet capabilities as urban centres. We should not be ignored by service providers such Telus who are providing fibre optic internet connections throughout British Columbia at no cost to residents.
- 32 We are planning to retire on Thetis but cannot do so until there is better internet and cell phone service. Our land line through Telus doesn't work properly either.
- 34 I have internet 15, and it is very reliable. Not a great speed but it is adequate for my current needs. i think it is very expensive for what we get. Fibre optic may not be reasonable cost wise for the island. It would be great if it could get paid for by government grants, and if Penelakut is getting it (i think they are under a plan to help the native communities) maybe we could join in somehow with them? to make it affordable. I also have very good cell reception and good data speeds, but need more data than my current plan allows. I have wondered about trying a smart hub, but not sure it would be as reliable as the wired internet has been. I think i pay too much for this service as it is not much cheaper than my fiber optic in Vancouver and is much less data and less speed. I am part time but there a lot, as i can work remotely. I need decent internet to be able to work on Thetis so it is important to me, and choose a property where there was good internet for that reason. I would support us getting better internet. It would be great to get it wired, but not sure if that is realistic. We may need accept getting it by improved wireless connectivity , ie a tower.
- 62 Our land phone line is pretty much our sole means of connection to the world.
- 56 Our property has very limited cell service (even with an installed signal booster antenna). We have both a Shaw Satellite Dish and Xplornet but locating them on our property has been a challenge. The property to the South of us is both higher and heavily treed and directly in line with currently
-

- available satellites. TELUS does not service our end of the island with anything but phone lines. Xplornet is slow and unreliable due to our location but is better than nothing. Cell service is not adequate for internet use as available towers are either too far away or face the other side of the island. I very much in favour of a cell tower or fibre optics on the island. Heck I would gladly take copper if TELUS would run the line out our way.
- 47 Fibre Optic ,high speed internet, would be a major upgrade both in high speed ,and the need for a satellite dish,when visiting Vancouver, use Telus optic , so much better
- 71 Today, it is always beneficial to have the best available technology or at least meet the standard goal prescribed. If we are not at that standard yet, we should advocate for better or we will fall behind quickly. For those of us who may have home-based (telecommuting) businesses, the ability to have clear unimpeded calls and Skype/Facetime meetings is important.
- 72 I would like to see a feasibility study on fibre optics that outlines the cost/benefits and roll out options including how to pay for it.
- 66 Having access to the internet should be a given, especially in rural and remote areas. Having access to the internet has become critical to all areas of life, from health and education to safety and citizenship. Large carriers such as Telus, with government support, have an obligation to provide such access. I would like to see equitable access on our Island.
- 37 6mbs is adequate for HD streaming on 1 reciever, but the 6mbs frequently drops. The upload speed (.8 mbs) is too slow for any cloud related use. This would be adequate service for 2000, but time has moved on.
- 75 I think that we ought to consider every option! If Telus installs a cell tower and we ask all residents who are interested they would provide fibre optics because of the same government mandate referred to at the begin this survey. It's all about business and having enough customers. It takes community wide engagement to make it worth while. Thanks for putting this survey together.
- 54 We had telus fibre optic in Fernie as one of the first customers. There were some initial glitches with the unit for the telephone but this was rectified over time and afterwards we had phone, TV, and internet all on the one line, we were very happy with it. improvement for us here would be the T.V. The telus satellite system is poor, they are using the Bell system and resell it. Quite often the audio does not match the video ie: speech. They may even discontinue the T.V. service here as apparently they are focusing on the fibre optic elsewhere. Fibre optic would be an excellent service for Thetis.
- 63 The better my communication capability is the better for many reasons, safety being #1 like in the 8 day power outage and the February snowstorm. The more remote the area (Thetis Island) the greater the need for reliable connection. Let's Keep In Touch information and survey don't come to me by Pony Express.
-

- 60 ...with Internet needs constantly increasing, it always seems like our needs are always greater than our service can deliver and fibre would certainly be desirable for the near future and long term.
- 57 Fiber optic would improve our TV service, going from past experience.
- 44 I asked Telus if they planned to extend internet service to our area and they told me that they had no plans to do so. Therefore, their proposed cell tower will be of little to no benefit to us. Our internet service with Xplornet is extremely expensive and very Slow.
- 64 I would like fibre optic only if it can be installed for a reasonable price. We would need to obtain grants similar to Denman/Hornby.



Let's Keep in Touch Thetis Island <letskeepintouchthetisland@gmail.com>

UPDATES - Fibre Optics, Forbes Hall Correspondence

1 message

Let's Keep in Touch Thetis Island <letskeepintouchthetisland@gmail.com>

Fri, Jan 31, 2020 at 11:46 PM

Hello,

Launched as a way to provide information about our community to all Thetis Island residents, PlaceSpeak participants have continued to grow. However, there are still a number of people who have signed up for [PlaceSpeak](#), but are not yet CONNECTED to the "Let's Keep In Touch with Thetis Island" topic. They are still showing as pending/not connected to the topic. Please reach out to us at any time for assistance: letskeepintouchthetisland@gmail.com

As a result of the strong support shown in favour of Fibre Optics by residents in the November 2019 survey, we have proceeded to the next step. We are well aware that Fibre Optics for Thetis Island faces several corporate challenges. We are being told that getting another landing site is costly and faces incredible risk due to the CRTC requirement that maximum contract terms can only be two years. As well, last-mile connection costs are prohibitive due to our small population.

The good news is that Telus already has a Fibre-Optic landing site on Thetis which has now been extended to Penelakut. Our combined population is similar to Hornby or Denman; they are already in the process of pursuing Fibre Optics for their islands. See the following links for more info:

Hornby & Denman Islands Pursuing Community-Based Fibre-Optic Networks (November 4, 2019): <http://willthomasonline.net/hornby--denman-islands.html>

Hornby Island Community Economic Enhancement Corporation (October 2019) – see "Grapevine" articles at the bottom of this page: <http://www.hiceec.org>

More good news is that Provincial and Federal funding is available for last-mile connection. However, this funding is only being made available to communities after two legitimate and complete feasibility applications. The first application will be required for funding for a feasibility study, including a detailed design and a business plan; the second application(s) is for construction.

Other good news is that we have two competitive options for last-mile connection on Thetis



Island, Telus and Shaw. But, *the best news* is that we have been successful in engaging [Primary Engineering](#) to provide us with a quote to do a feasibility study, which will add huge credibility to our funding application.

As more residents have joined PlaceSpeak since the last survey, we are going to repeat Part 1 of the "Measuring Thetis Island's Internet Connectivity" Survey. Part 2 will follow in due course.

Information provided in the PlaceSpeak survey will help us gain access to funding for Fibre Optics for Thetis Island. We encourage everyone to take the survey(s). We will notify you when the survey becomes live via letskeepintouchthetisland@gmail.com

The [PlaceSpeak](#) platform will be the vehicle used to share information on the progress of Fibre Optics in our community. We encourage all residents to make comments or ask questions in the "Discussion" section. A community meeting to further discuss the feasibility of Fibre Optics on Thetis Island is being planned for early spring.

Information on other topics or events in our community will continue to be posted on PlaceSpeak in "Resources" or "Events." Currently, information regarding Forbes Hall Expansion has been posted in "[Resources](#)" ([click here](#)). Please take a moment to read compiled emails and letters written by concerned Thetis-Island residents to the TICA board, as well as TICA's responses to these concerns, following the December 8, 2019 Extraordinary Meeting.

Your opinion matters. Speak your mind. Make a difference.

Let's Keep in Touch!

Best regards,

Glen Andison (temporarily on leave)
Rebecca Andison
Lesley Buhr
Denis Gagnon

Your advocates for an engaged Thetis Island

Please let us know if you do not wish to be contacted with further updates regarding community engagement.





Let's Keep in Touch Thetis Island <letskeepintouchthetisland@gmail.com>

Helpful Resources - COVID-19

1 message

Let's Keep in Touch Thetis Island <letskeepintouchthetisland@gmail.com>

Tue, Mar 24, 2020 at 10:18 PM

Dear Friends,

These are turbulent and unprecedented times ... where the improvement of the economic stability of a country is dependent on the improvement on statistics of a virulent influenza.

Most of us can offer little, if any, assistance in making a positive impact on the economy. However, we, as individuals, can and should, play a very important part in curtailing the spread of COVID-19 within our community, our state, province, country and, ultimately, the world.

Yesterday a friend forwarded a link to our attention. There is no way to authenticate its source. To some, this may be trying, but the fact of the matter is that the contents of this audio file offers steps to help slow down the spread of the disease by taking personal precautions to prevent oneself from getting the COVID-19 infection. Many of these precautionary suggestions are common sense, and should be adhered to whether the virus is the common cold, the common influenza and, in particular, the novel COVID-19 virus.

PLEASE! Take a moment to listen to this link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ms8qA85VRDc>

Practise these simple "good-health" steps to assist in abating this disease. After listening to the audio, please consider forwarding this email on to ten friends, and ask those ten friends to contact ten more friends. Working together, we will help to slow down the spread of the disease, and get our friends and families back to work, and our country back on its feet again.

To further help navigate this Coronavirus pandemic, both the Provincial and Federal levels of government have provided useful support links with health, financial, and administrative information; see the bottom of this email.

These links below, as well as the audio link above, have been posted to the "Let's Keep In Touch with Thetis Island" PlaceSpeak platform. Look under "[What's New](#)" and also in "[Resources](#)" for this information, as well as, further updates regarding the Coronavirus.



Let's work together and beat the spread of this disease: For some, it's a matter of life or death!

Please forward this email on as soon as possible to ten friends. Don't wait.

Keep healthy! Be strong! Be positive!

Kindly,

Denis, Lesley, and Rebecca

BC PROVINCIAL RESOURCES

HealthLinkBC Helpline

<https://www.healthlinkbc.ca>

Telephone 8-1-1 (for the deaf and hard of hearing, call 7-1-1)

Province of BC: COVID Symptom Self-Assessment

If you are feeling unwell, you can check your symptoms online here. This resource is available 24 hours a day:

<https://bc.thrive.health>

BC Centre for Disease Control: COVID-19

http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19?utm_campaign=20200311_GCPE_AM_COVID_2_NOTIFICATION_BCGOV_BCGOV_EN_BC_NOTIFICATION

Province of British Columbia: COVID-19 Provincial Support and Information

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support>

FEDERAL RESOURCES

Government of Canada: Coronavirus Disease

https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html?utm_campaign=not-applicable&utm_medium=vanity-url&utm_source=canada-ca_coronavirus

Government of Canada: Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html>





Let's Keep in Touch Thetis Island <letskeepintouchthetisland@gmail.com>

Fibre Optics for Thetis – how strong is our support?

1 message

Let's Keep in Touch Thetis Island <letskeepintouchthetisland@gmail.com>

Thu, May 28, 2020 at 5:08 PM

Hello,

Is the internet speed fast enough on your premises? Fibre Optics for Thetis Island – do we have your support?

We are at our first milestone regarding the feasibility of Fibre Optics for Thetis. Please read the following information and complete the **SURVEY** in the link indicated below.

THE LAUNCH

This is one of several emails you have received from this committee regarding Fibre Optics for Thetis Island. Nearly one year ago, a committee was formed to improve community engagement and to investigate the possibility of Fibre Optics for Thetis Island. At the same time, and to facilitate the dissemination of information regarding Fibre Optics, this same committee established the Thetis Island Community Engagement Platform known as [PlaceSpeak](#).

We may be only a short ferry ride from Vancouver Island, but the vast digital divide leaves us feeling disconnected and out of touch. Presently, 20 percent of our residents have dial-up as the only wired internet option. When you have faster internet speeds, you are able to do more online. Higher internet speeds will allow the connection to transfer more data to your device at any given time. Since many households now involve multiple users and devices, faster internet speeds are essential towards ensuring everyone can enjoy a reliable internet experience.

Never has it been more evident that Thetis Island must have improved internet speed, than right now, amid the chaos of the COVID-19 pandemic. With insufficient bandwidth and multiple users, residents may not have reliable access to telehealth services and virtual doctors' appointments that rely on video-conferencing to deliver health and wellness services. With many doctors' offices closed during this period of self-isolation, the health and well-being of our residents is challenged. Individuals seeking treatment for minor issues, must go in person to receive medical attention, rather than potentially solving the problem via a virtual telemed session.



Slower internet speeds make it almost impossible for residents who rely on the internet for daily business and online educational activities to take advantage of even a small portion of what the internet has to offer, especially as meetings and lessons move to virtual techniques using Zoom or Skype. **Fibre-Optic infrastructure will bring high-speed internet to each and every residence and business on Thetis Island.**

CREATING A PATH FORWARD

The objective of this committee has always been to build a credible proposal in order to be in a position to seek the funding required to bring Fibre Optics to our island. Credible means that we are taken seriously and that we have negotiating strength. Seriously means that we have reached out and have been transparent in obtaining genuine support from our community.

It is the [mandate of the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission \(CRTC\)](#) to ensure that every Canadian household has high-speed internet by the year 2026, providing each premises with internet speeds of 50 Mbps download/10 Mbps upload. Thetis Island currently falls far below these speeds. The Commission also realizes that improvement requests for rural and remote areas such as Thetis Island are often overlooked and placed at the bottom of the work pile. For this reason, the CRTC has made funding available to rural and remote locations. However, funding is not available to individuals, only to corporate entities. For this reason, the committee proceeded, thanks to incorporation funding provided by the Thetis Island Community Fund, to form a corporation that will be known as “Thetis Island Community Economic Enhancement Corporation Inc.”.

It is very difficult to acquire the attention of an engineering company required to design this project. Fortunately, the Thetis Island Community Economic Enhancement Corporation has crossed this hurdle, and is currently working with a company to provide detailed plans, in order to make informed network proposals, and to assist in decision making in what will ultimately be the implementation of a Fibre-Optics project. These plans will include costs for both aerial (hung on existing BC Hydro poles) and civil (buried) cable in order to maximize security of the network.

However, **we are at a critical juncture** where we need to convince our provincial government that Thetis Island *does* indeed need improved connectivity speeds, and that Fibre Optics is the most reliable and efficient way to ensure that high-speed internet is available to *all* Thetis Island residents.

Our proposal must be supported by documentation generated through surveys, comments of support and testimonials. **The most significant community support that we can provide is an approval rating in excess of 80 percent.** Once provincial support is granted, we can move on to the next milestone of the project by applying for funding and working on the detailed design and negotiations with internet service providers.

We need your support to cross over this next hurdle. Please fill out the comprehensive survey by clicking on the link below. This survey will ask, among other questions, your location by lot number or your Local Emergency Response Neighbourhood (LERN) designation, as well as your connectivity speed when physically on your premises. We ask Thetis Island residents





who are currently off the island to please still complete the survey. This information is private and confidential and will be used only to document how much our internet connectivity is deficient in order to demonstrate to our provincial government our immediate need for improved high-speed internet connectivity.

Please complete the survey by clicking on the link below. This survey will close by midnight of Thursday June 4, 2020.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YWR2DX9>

IT'S A WRAP

For safety and sustainability, Thetis island must catch up on the technology of today, while at the same time, prepare for the future. In the case of Fibre Optics, it will take the community to make it happen. A special community of which we are all a part.

We anticipated having an outdoor public meeting to further discuss Fibre Optics with the community. However, as gatherings are still limited to 50 persons and until the government directive changes, all information regarding the Fibre-Optics project will be posted on PlaceSpeak.

In the meantime, as we remain self-isolated, should any questions or comments arise regarding Fibre Optics, please post your questions in the comments of the "Discussion" section under the "Fibre Optics" topic on PlaceSpeak. Our responses to your questions will be posted under the comment in the reply section.

We look forward to your participation in the survey above, and more importantly, to your support for improved internet connectivity for our island.

PLEASE JOIN THE CONVERSATION!

If you have not had the time, or have not been able to sign up for the PlaceSpeak Platform, please take a moment to do so now. The committee monitoring the PlaceSpeak platform has worked diligently with the creators of the program to simplify the sign-up procedure. Please click on the link below to ensure that you are kept up-to-date on the progress of the Fibre-Optics project:

<http://placespeak.com/thetisland/>

Should you experience issues signing up, please contact us at letskeepintouchthetisland@gmail.com and we will be pleased to assist.

Keep Healthy! Keep Safe! Keep Connected!

Rebecca Andison





Lesley Buhr
Denis Gagnon

Your committee for a better-connected Thetis Island

Please let us know if you do not wish to be contacted with further updates on the Fibre Optics project for our island.





Let's Keep in Touch Thetis Island <letskeepintouchthetisland@gmail.com>

Survey deadline – EXTENDED to June 9

1 message

Let's Keep in Touch Thetis Island <letskeepintouchthetisland@gmail.com>

Wed, Jun 3, 2020 at 9:19 PM

Hello,

Please take a moment to read the important information that follows:

Thank you to everyone who has already completed the 10-question survey regarding Fibre Optics for Thetis Island. However, many islanders have not yet completed it. We have extended the deadline to respond to the survey in order to allow more time for you to decide what is best for you and your island. **The survey will now close at midnight June 9.**

Click here to complete the survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YWR2DX9>

Today, we have the opportunity to bring the best internet connectivity technology to our island through the implementation of Fibre Optics.

To be clear, it will come at no cost to the residents of Thetis Island and the project will be fully funded. We can assure you that at no time will a resident be obligated to connect their premises to the Fibre-Optic network; nor will they need to change their current service provider, unless they choose to do so.

Currently, the internet connectivity for Thetis Island falls far below acceptable limits. Thetis Island is a remote and rural community, but this does not mean we cannot have or do not deserve the best internet connectivity available.

In order for our committee to proceed, we need at least 80% support from islanders for this project to attract government funding and internet service providers. These two entities must know that Thetis is seriously interested in Fibre Optics before they will proceed.

This is a one-time opportunity for Thetis Island. At this point we do not know if or when there will



be a further funding launch available to apply for the government grants needed to fund this Fibre-Optics project.

If you have any questions about the survey, please contact us at letskeepintouchthetisland@gmail.com

Fellow islanders: we cannot wait! We are at a critical juncture and we need to hear from you! Regardless of whether or not you support Fibre Optics for Thetis Island, **we need to know where you stand on this issue.**

Your committee for a better-connected Thetis Island,
Rebecca Andison
Lesley Buhr
Denis Gagnon

Please let us know if you do not wish to be contacted with further updates regarding Fibre Optics or PlaceSpeak.





Let's Keep in Touch Thetis Island <letskeepintouchthetisland@gmail.com>

Fibre Optics for Thetis Island Progress Report

1 message

Let's Keep in Touch Thetis Island <letskeepintouchthetisland@gmail.com>

Sat, Aug 8, 2020 at 12:45 PM

Hello,

Great news – our committee has secured an internet service provider to deliver Fibre Optics to Thetis Island! Please log in/sign up for PlaceSpeak to read about the details ([click here](#)).

Also, the detailed breakdown of the Fibre Optic survey data is now posted on the "[Resources](#)" [page in PlaceSpeak \(click here\)](#).

As more details emerge regarding the Fibre-Optics project on Thetis, we will keep you informed with updates on PlaceSpeak. We look forward to hearing your feedback, comments, questions etc. on the "Discussions" page in PlaceSpeak. Or, you can always email us at: letskeepintouchthetisland@gmail.com

Your opinion matters. Speak your mind. Make a difference.

Your committee for a better-connected Thetis Island,

Rebecca Andison
Lesley Buhr
Denis Gagnon

Please let us know if you do not wish to be contacted with further updates regarding Fibre Optics or PlaceSpeak.

Fibre Optic Survey Results – June 9, 2020

The data below shows the final results of the survey. It includes the results of both the online SurveyMonkey survey and those that gave their opinion via verbal consent over the phone:

Based on 384 premises/lots on Thetis Island:

160 lots were identified from respondents directly answering the survey

47 persons responded to the survey not directly identifying the lot number

107 lots were identified by verbal support

2 respondents answered no

1 respondent was undecided

= 317 lots (or 82% of the 384 Thetis Island property owners) supported the committee to move forward with Fibre Optics on Thetis Island

98% of all respondents supported moving forward with Fibre Optics on Thetis Island

The graphs below show ONLY the data from the online SurveyMonkey survey. Question 1 of the survey does not appear in these graphs but, rather, in the visual format of the map of Thetis titled, "Figure 1 ADSL internet speed and coverage on Thetis Island, 2020"

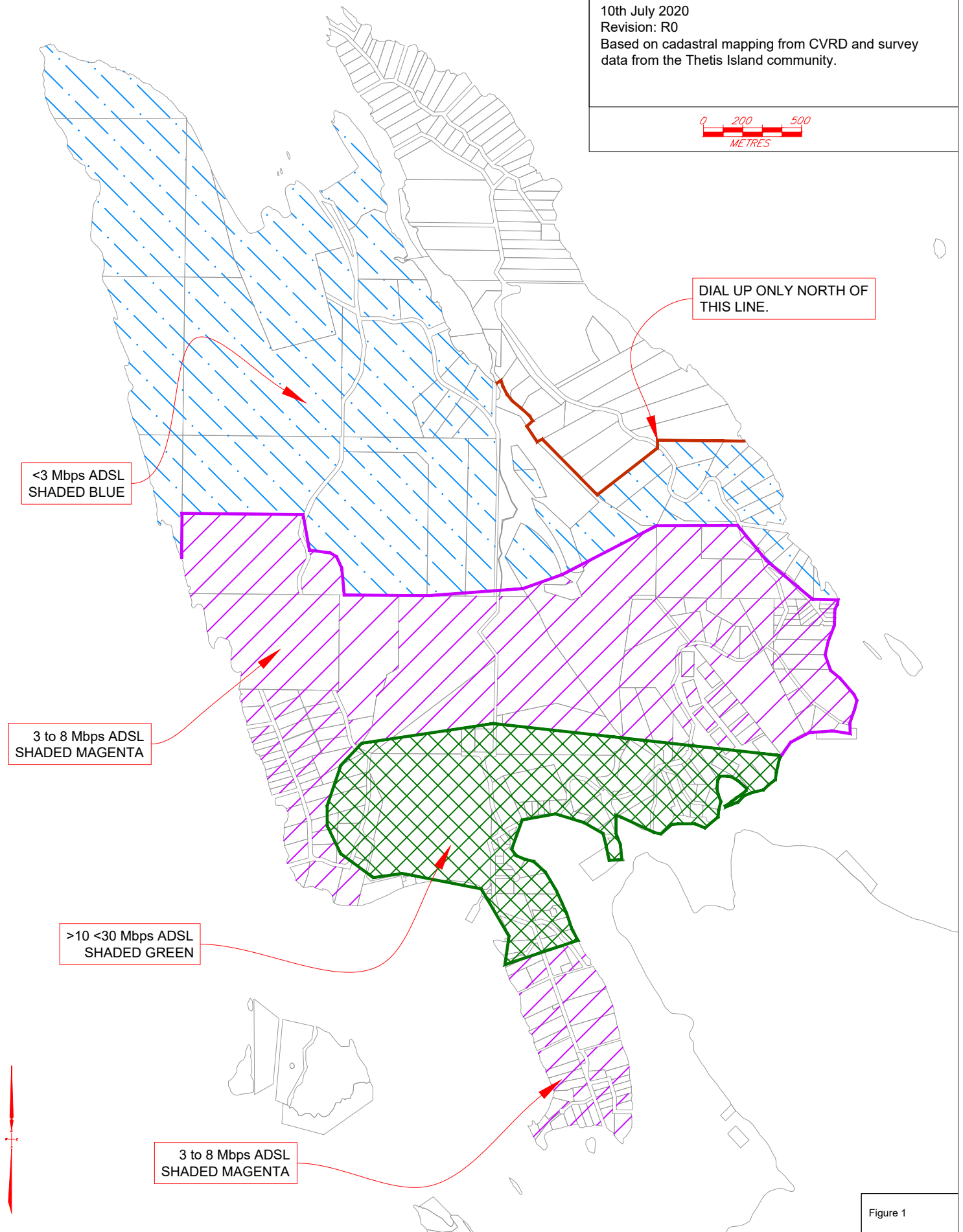
See below

Figure 1 ADSL internet speed and coverage on Thetis Island, 2020

10th July 2020

Revision: R0

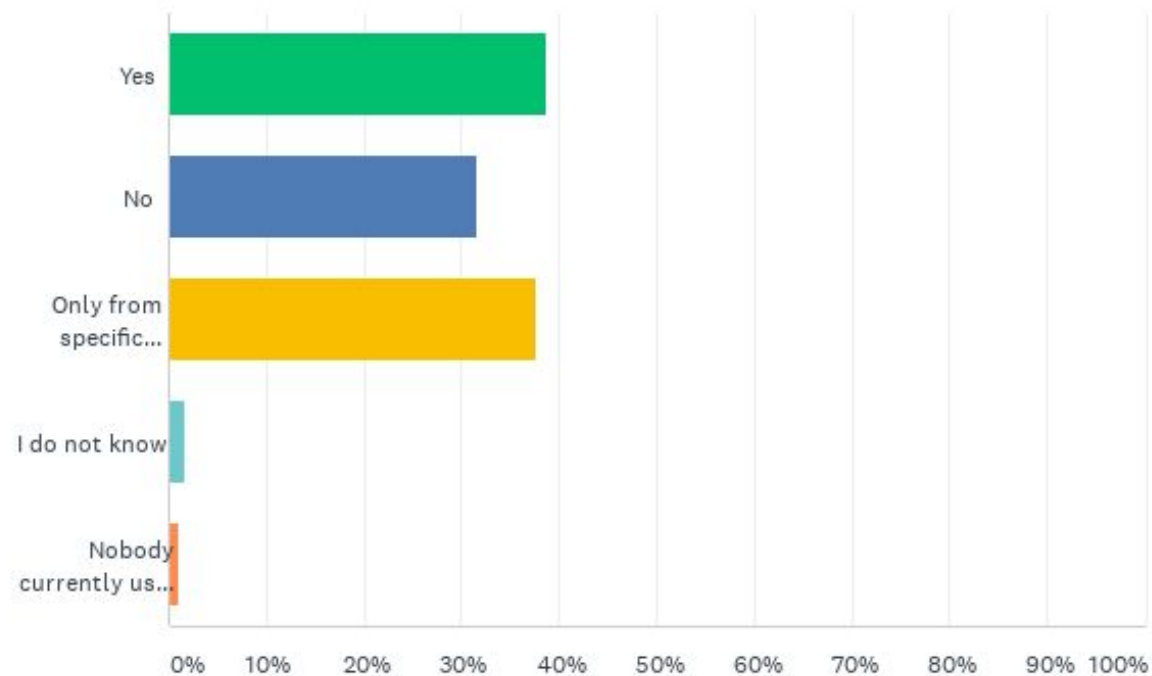
Based on cadastral mapping from CVRD and survey data from the Thetis Island community.



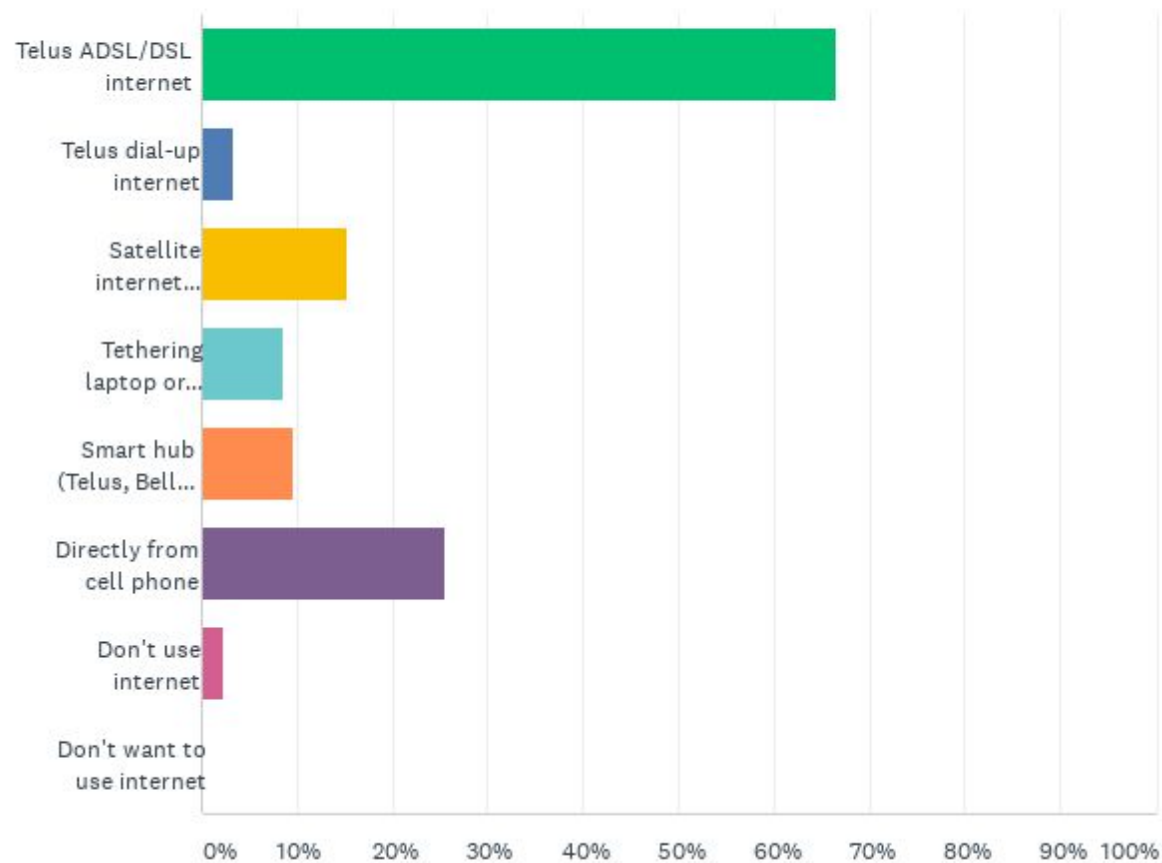
Thetis Island Fibre Optics Initiative

Survey II - June 2020

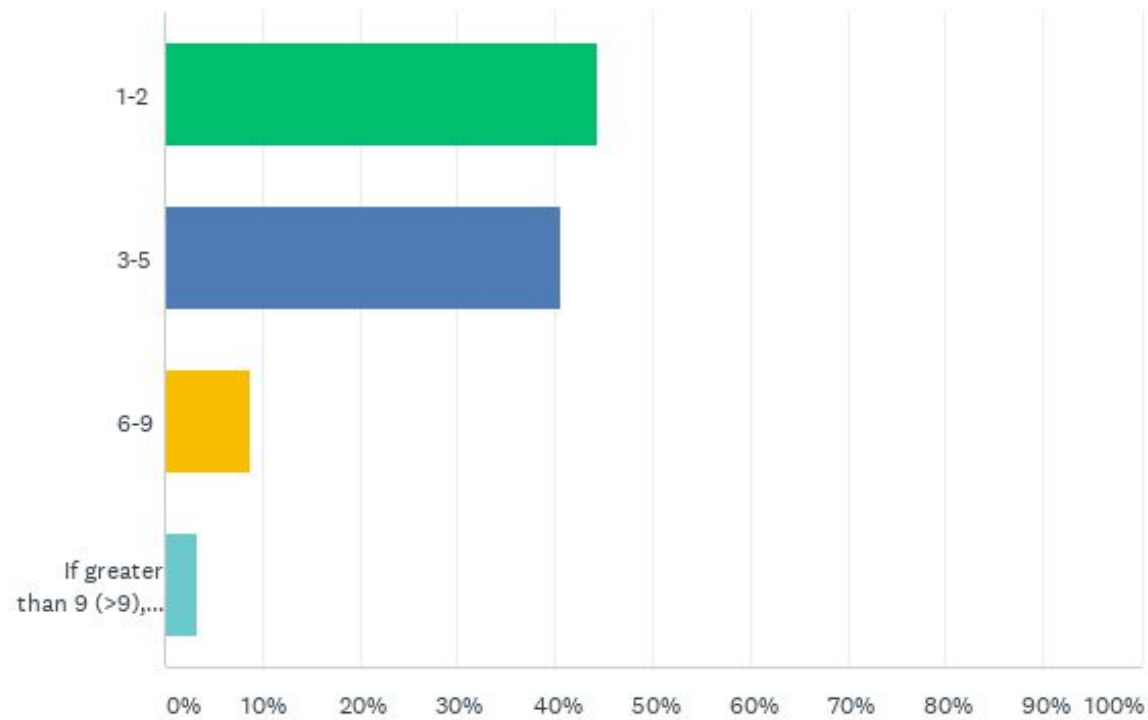
Q2 In the event of an emergency, could you make a cell phone call from anywhere on your premises?



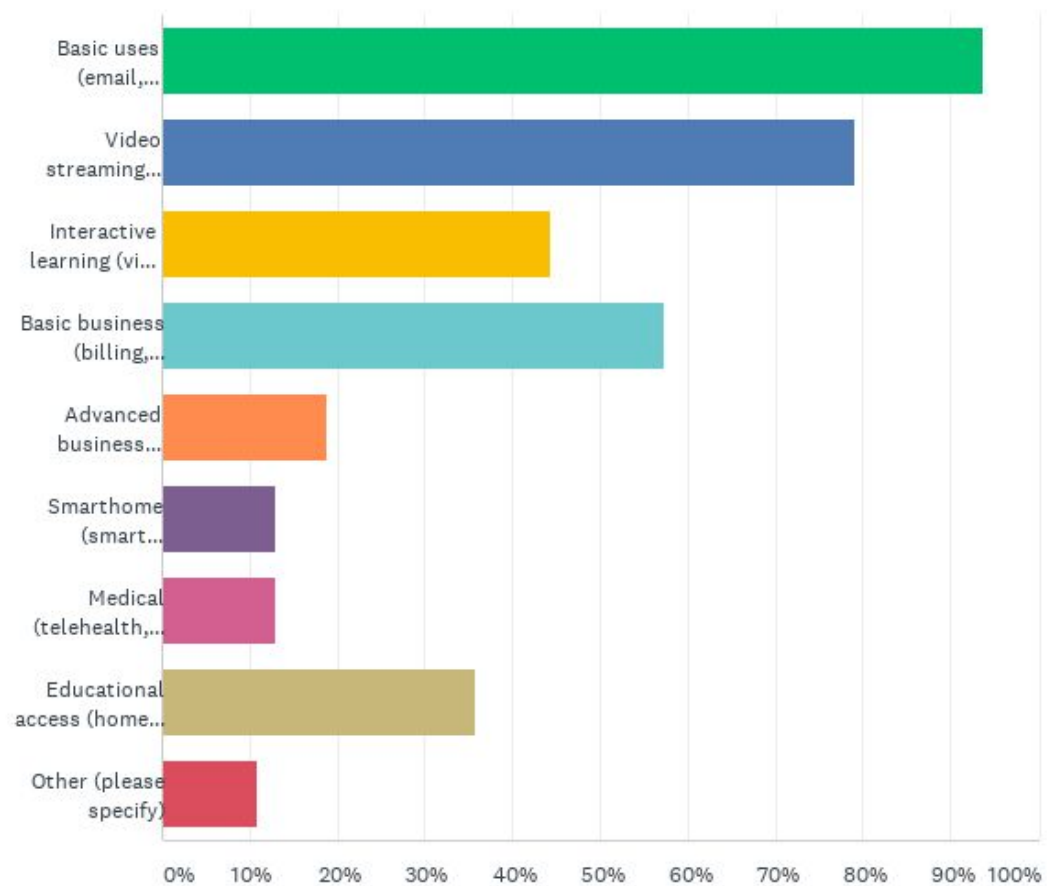
Q3 Is the internet available on your premises? (check all that apply)



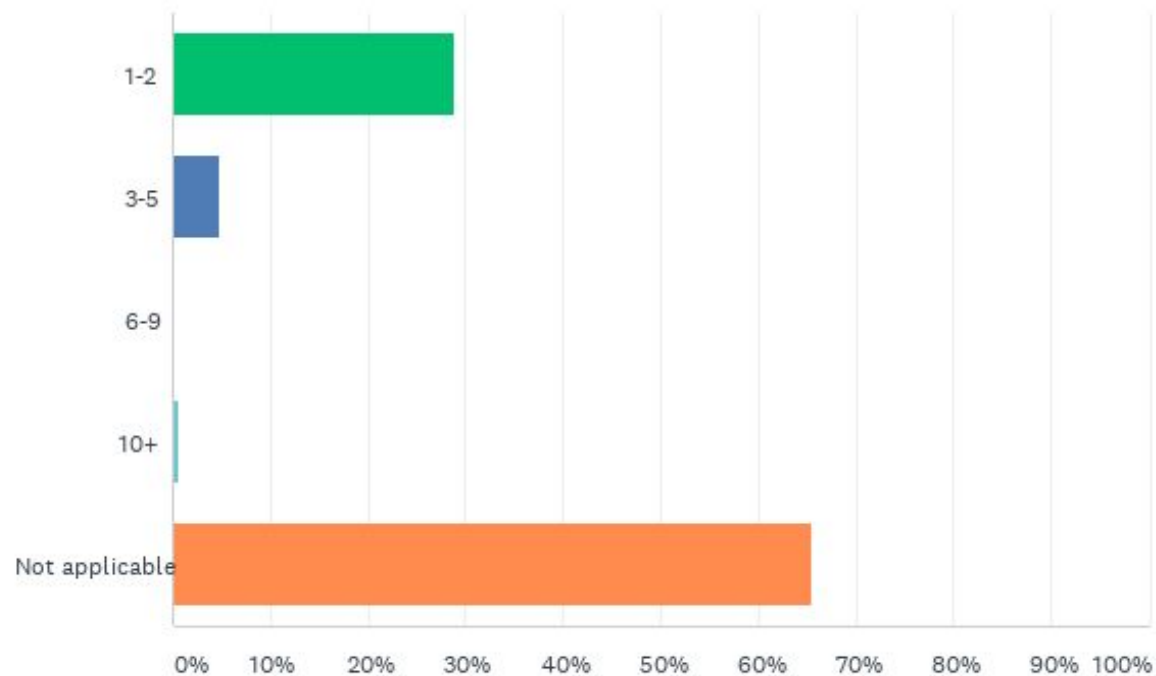
Q4 How many internet users could there be on the premises at any one time?



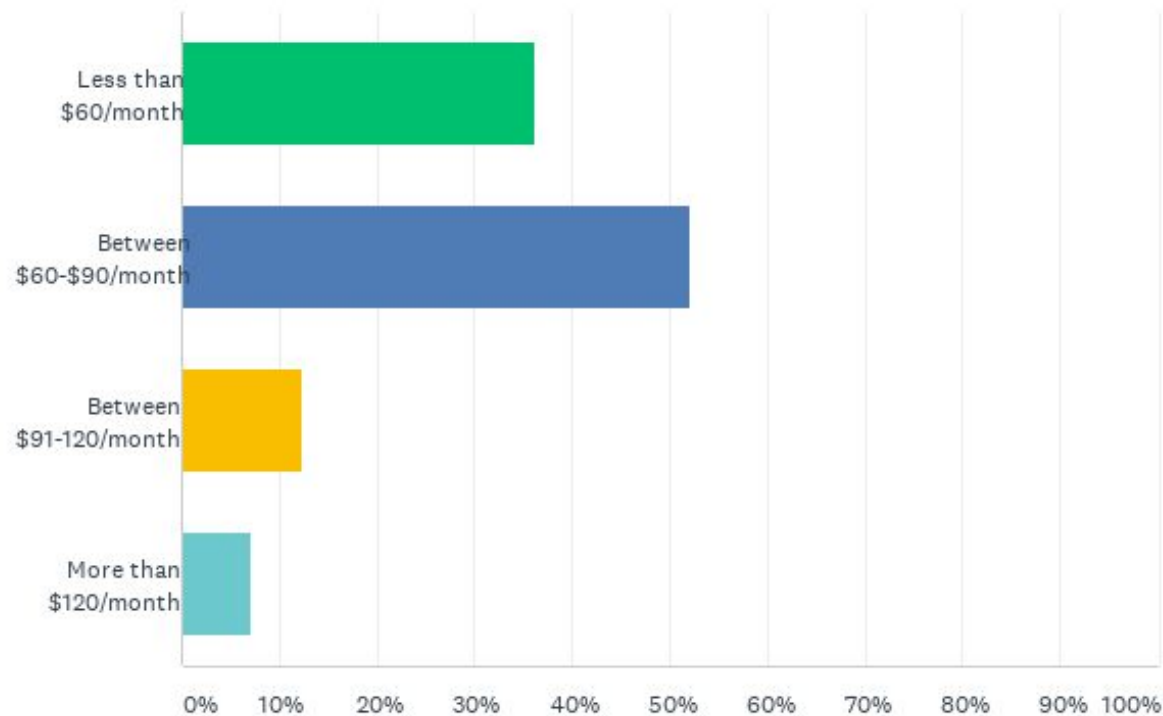
Q5 How is the internet used on the premises? (check all that apply)



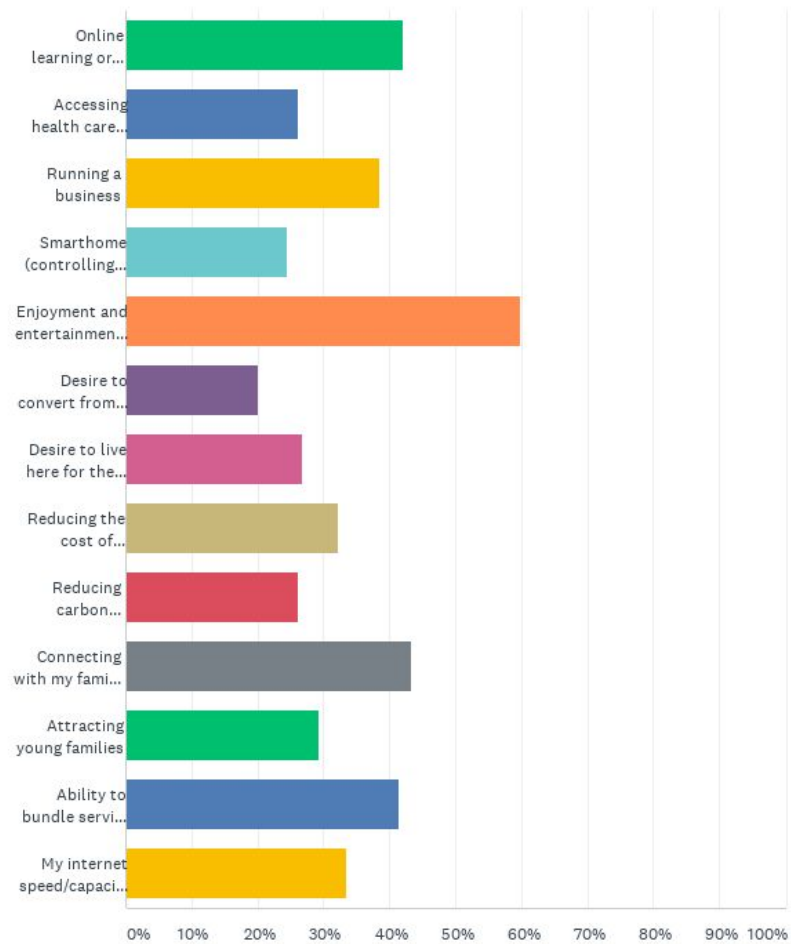
Q6 If you are a business, enter the number of owners and employees who work on the premises?



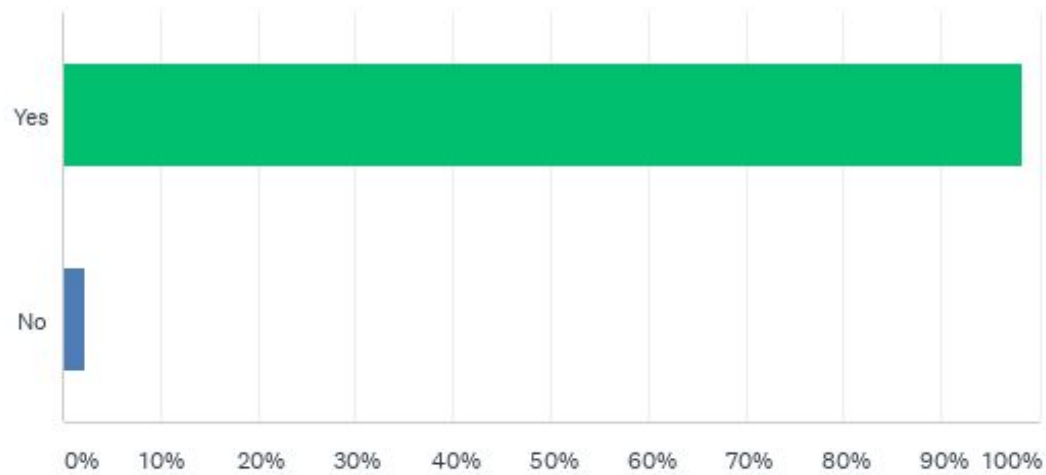
Q7 What would you be willing to pay for faster, reliably consistent and higher broadband internet service?



Q8 My internet speed/capacity/reliability is inadequate for (check all that apply)



Q9 I support the fibre-optics initiative for Thetis Island.





Let's Keep in Touch Thetis Island <letskeepintouchthetisland@gmail.com>

Fibre Optic Initiative for Thetis Island - Update

1 message

Let's Keep in Touch Thetis Island <letskeepintouchthetisland@gmail.com>

Thu, Jan 21, 2021 at 9:57 PM

Hello Thetis Island Residents,

We are pleased to be writing to you today to update all Thetis Island residents of the progress of the Fibre Optics Initiative for Thetis Island.

Recently this committee was approached by the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) with an opportunity involving an alternate internet service provider interested in our project for improved internet service on the island. Two separate meetings were held including all members of this committee, as well as representatives from the CVRD, Strathcona Regional District, CityWest, TIRRA, TIID and Islands Trust.

After careful evaluation of the opportunity presented, this committee concluded that the outcome of this particular proposal would not be in the best interest of Thetis Island residents and businesses. We thanked the CVRD for their thoughtfulness in including us in their conversation and declined any further meetings on this matter.

It is the opinion of this committee that the agreement for improved connectivity that is in place with TELUS meets the needs of our community.

There were several differences in the two proposals that led us to decline the invitation by the CVRD requiring this committee to change internet service providers for this project. The agreement with TELUS does not require a financial contribution from Thetis Island residents. The project as it stands will be fully funded. All premises and businesses on Thetis Island will receive a PureFibre connection increasing the internet connectivity speeds to a minimum of 50 Mbps for downloads /10 Mbps for uploads. TELUS was able to provide this committee with a written proposal that includes a cost review analysis. TELUS is our partner in this venture and has financial involvement. The other offer could not compete with the TELUS proposal.

As this committee moves forward to improve connectivity, we have regular meetings with TELUS, as well as the Provincial Government. We are currently working to update the mapping of internet connectivity speeds on the island. This is the next step in the process leading to funding applications with both Provincial and Federal governments. We wish to thank all the residents who recently provided us,



yet again, with current internet speeds and their comments of the difficulties relating to poor internet service on the island.

We look forward to sharing the next step in the process for fibre optic implementation on Thetis Island in the near future.

Keep Healthy! Keep Safe!

Kindly,

Thetis Island Community Economic Enhancement Corporation
Committee Members
Rebecca Andison
Lesley Buhr
Denis Gagnon

Email: letskeepintouchthetisland@gmail.com

Please let us know if you do not wish to be contacted with further updates regarding Fibre Optics or PlaceSpeak.





Let's Keep in Touch Thetis Island <letskeepintouchthetisland@gmail.com>

Fibre Optic Initiative – Follow-Up to P. Luckham's eSpokes Post

1 message

Let's Keep in Touch Thetis Island <letskeepintouchthetisland@gmail.com>

Sun, Jan 24, 2021 at 12:13 AM

Hello Thetis Island Residents.

As transparency is the core of this committee's values, we are writing in response to the posting in eSpokes on Saturday, January 23, 2021, submitted by Peter Luckham, Trustee, Islands Trust.

Please be advised that the aforementioned eSpokes post contains incorrect facts and implications, as well as omissions, and as such, should not be fully relied upon.

Two meetings, initiated by the CVRD, were held among representatives from the CVRD, Thetis Island representatives (TIRRA, TIID and Islands Trust) and the Thetis Island Community Economic Enhancement Committee (the committee) for the purpose of discussing a proposal among the CVRD, Strathcona Regional District and CityWest, to partner on last mile infrastructure funding for Thetis Island, through the Universal Broadband Fund (UBF).

Discussions involved committing to CityWest as the internet service provider. This would replace TELUS, with whom we currently have an agreement in place to provide Fibre Optic connections to ALL residents and businesses on Thetis Island. The contents of this agreement were posted on PlaceSpeak on August 8, 2020, after the committee notified the community of this posting via email through the letskeepintouchthetisland email address.

The CVRD recognized and appreciated our island's urgent need for improved internet connectivity through last mile infrastructure. As an invitee, we were prepared to share the information that we have provided to all residents over the course of the last year. At all times, we listened carefully, evaluating all the information provided to this committee, in anticipation of perhaps a better proposal for our community for improved internet service.

At the same time, in an email on January 17, 2021 from the CVRD, given the sensitivity of the material to be disclosed, all parties were asked not to share any information provided beyond the invitees to the meeting, at the request of the CVRD, Strathcona Regional District and CityWest. As the CVRD asked us not to disclose details of their proposal, they had full understanding that this committee would not provide the details of the TELUS agreement.

In posting the information on eSpokes, Mr. Luckham has breached the understanding and agreement in



the email forwarded to invitees.

We are pleased that the CVRD included us in their discussions and thanked them for their thoughtfulness. At the end of the meetings, and as stated in an email from the CVRD on January 21, 2021, the manager of the Economic Development for the CVRD wrote:

“Given that it is not possible to submit two applications for the same fund, the CVRD cannot move forward with SRD/CityWest joint funding application. Doing so would jeopardize the TICEEC/TELUS application.”

We, this committee, appreciate their understanding and look forward to working together with the CVRD in the future.

What we are able to share with Thetis Island residents in regard to the recent CVRD proposal is, that this proposal was not in writing and lacked clarity. This committee is not a risk taker and, after careful consideration saw no benefit in changing internet service providers. We could not involve this community in another project where the details were not made available to the community in writing prior to proceeding. For these reasons we declined further discussions on Fibre Optics for Thetis Island, with SRD/CityWest, and notified the CVRD of our intentions. At the same time, TELUS was respectfully notified that we were approached and were involved in discussions with another internet service provider at the request of the CVRD.

TELUS continues to be our partner, and is committed to moving forward to bring improved internet connectivity to ALL residents and businesses on Thetis Island, by way of PureFibre fibre optic connection.

As a prerequisite of the funding process, this committee formed a cooperation known as Thetis Island Community Economic Enhancement Corporation (TICEEC). This was made possible through a generous donation provided by the Thetis Island Community Fund. Once again we wish to thank them for their support and confidence in our ability to move forward with this project on behalf of Thetis Islanders.

In order to reiterate the timeline of events regarding this committee's actions, this committee will, for the record, clarify that all our actions have been carried out with the best interests of Thetis Island in mind.

In October 2019 in order to improve community engagement, and to facilitate the dissemination of information regarding Fibre Optics, this committee established the Thetis Island Community Engagement Platform known as PlaceSpeak. While investigating the possibility of Fibre Optic infrastructure for Thetis Island, this committee has worked towards building a credible proposal in order to be in a position to seek the necessary funding to bring Fibre Optics to our island. And, to this end, we have received the overwhelming support from our community.

The progress and actions of this committee have been identified in the numerous surveys and emails sent out to all residents and businesses on the island. At all times, the survey results have been collected and made public either by emailing to residents or posting on PlaceSpeak. At the same time, notification of the availability of the results were acknowledged in an email sent to all residents from the letskeepintouchthetisland@gmail.com email address.





In November of 2019, a preliminary survey was made available to all Thetis Island residents on the PlaceSpeak platform, in order to measure the interest for Fibre Optics on Thetis Island. This survey helped to ascertain the wishes of residents and provide a picture of the island's internet connectivity and performance for all to see. The results were posted on PlaceSpeak.

In May of 2020, a more in-depth survey was prepared by this committee and made available to all residents of Thetis Island. The main purpose of this survey was to determine:

Is the internet speed fast enough on your premises? Fibre Optics for Thetis Island – do we have your support?

To ensure that ALL residents had an opportunity to participate, the deadline of the survey was extended. The results were posted on PlaceSpeak on August 8, 2020.

The results of this survey concluded that of the 384 premises on Thetis Island, 82% participated in the survey. There was an overwhelming 98% majority supporting the committee moving forward with Fibre Optics on Thetis Island.

These results were compiled and form part of the eligibility criteria for funding for both Provincial and Federal governments. With this step completed, we were able to successfully meet with the Provincial government, to determine if this committee, with the support of Thetis Island residents, was prepared to proceed further in the funding process as set out in the application handbooks from both governments. Completion of each step, secures a higher probability for funding towards Fibre Optic connection on our island.

As mentioned in our last email on January 21, 2021, we are currently working to complete the accurate mapping of connectivity speeds on the island. This will allow us to further engage with representatives from both governments.

In creating this path forward, we will continue to provide details and information of the progress of this project as they become available.

This committee remains committed to our main objective: improved internet connectivity for ALL residents and businesses on Thetis Island. We will continue to devote our best efforts with no personal gain, working on your behalf, and in the best interests of our community, to bring this project to fruition, at no cost to Thetis Island residents, and in the shortest timeline possible.

As always, should any resident or business in our community have any questions or concerns in regards to the Fibre Optics Initiative currently underway, please do not hesitate to contact this committee at either letskeepintouchthetisland@gmail.com, or in the comments section of the “Discussions” page under the “Fibre Optic Network Options” topic on the private consultation platform PlaceSpeak.

This committee is in the process of compiling ALL emails and survey results sent to all Thetis Island residents from our letskeepintouchthetisland@gmail.com email address, in to one PDF file to be posted on PlaceSpeak for your reference and review as quickly as possible. This information will be posted on the “Resources” page.





Thank you for the outpouring of support received as a result of the recent emails sent out by this committee. Any questions that were put forward to this committee will be answered as quickly as possible. Should any resident not signed up for PlaceSpeak have trouble with the invitation to sign up, please do not hesitate to contact the committee at the letskeepintouchthetisland@gmail.com. We will be pleased to assist you.

Thank you to all the Thetis Island residents for taking the time to read this letter.

Keep Healthy! Keep Safe!

Kindly,

Thetis Island Community Economic Enhancement Corporation
Committee Members
Rebecca Andison
Lesley Buhr
Denis Gagnon

Please let us know if you do not wish to be contacted with further updates regarding Fibre Optics or PlaceSpeak.

