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Community Internet Society

Edgewood Community Internet Society  
Special Community Newsletter

**December 2024**



**Notice of Internet and CBC Radio Service Amalgamation  
with Columbia Wireless**

As current chair of the Edgewood Community Internet Society (ECIS) aka The Edge dba: Inonoaklin Edgewood Broadband (IEB) this is to inform all IEB Internet subscribers that as of December 31, 2024, the society will no longer be providing Internet feed. The society's Internet feed will permanently shut down.

There is no need for panic! Columbia Wireless will be taking over IEB's infrastructure and subscribers. The Internet service will continue for all existing, returning and new clients, under the Columbia Wireless banner.

With the electricity at Goat Mountain down and the society using alternative power throughout to date, the cost of operating has become a financial strain on the society. The society has been talking with Columbia Wireless Internet company to take over the Internet and have CBC radio back on air. The board aim has been not to leave communities without Internet and CBC radio and Columbia Wireless as assure that the services will be there for all the communities.

ECIS has been operating for 24 years and the society has completed a lot of projects and upgraded its infrastructure with the support from the federal and provincial governments and other funding partners and the community's members. The arm of the IEB was started under the ECIS umbrella in 2005, you can find the information on the society's website at [www.edgegateway.ca](http://www.edgegateway.ca) or [www.edgeconnection.ca](http://www.edgeconnection.ca) on the community tab.

ECIS - IEB is the last of the original societies that received broadband funding through the federal government for bridging the digital divide in rural remote areas.

The society has had no affirmative reply to all its written proposals on fixing/cabling the electricity system on Goat Mountain. Financially the society is unable to continue operating its Internet feed and without permanent power supply this includes the CBC radio.

Columbia Wireless is a locally owned/operated ISP in the Kootenays, we are very fortunate to have them take control and the Internet will continue seamlessly and CBC radio will be revived.

As a not-for-profit charitable society ECIS will continue existing as a society.

Thank you to all the subscribers for your years of supporting Inonoaklin Edgewood Broadband.

See the next article on Columbia Wireless takeover.

**Subject: Exciting Updates for Your Internet Service!**

As current chair of the Edgewood Community Internet Society (ECIS) aka The Edge dba: Inonoaklin Edgewood Broadband (IEB) this is to inform all IEB Internet subscribers that as of December 31, 2024, the society's infrastructure and client base will be acquired by Columbia Wireless.

With the power line to Goat Mountain going down earlier this year, and the society using alternative power throughout to date, the cost of operating has become a financial strain on the society. The society has been talking with Columbia Wireless Inc to take over the network and to not leave communities without Internet and CBC radio.

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The society has had no affirmative reply to all its written proposals on repairing the power line to Goat Mountain. Financially the society is unable to continue operations.

Columbia Wireless is a locally owned/operated ISP in the Kootenays, we are very fortunate to have them take control and continue operation smoothly.

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A message from the CEO of Columbia Wireless Inc:

Dear Valued Customer,

Welcome to the Columbia Wireless family! We are a locally owned and operated ISP based in Nelson, BC, dedicated to providing reliable, fast, and eco-friendly Internet services.

We're thrilled to share that as part of our acquisition of ECIS, we will continue supporting the same Internet service packages at the current prices you're accustomed to. Looking ahead, we plan to introduce refreshed package options for your area, offering even faster speeds at competitive rates.

**Seamless Network Transition**

On **December 31**, we'll seamlessly transition the ECIS network to Columbia Wireless. While the process is designed to be smooth, if you experience more than **10 minutes of downtime**, please call us at **250-505-4041** for updates. This number will also serve as your new **24/7 Internet support line**.

Our regular office hours for on-site visits and inquiries are **Monday to Friday, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM**. You can always reach us at [accounts@columbiawireless.ca](mailto:accounts@columbiawireless.ca) for any questions about the transition or future support.

**Billing Transition Details**

Since **ECIS has already billed for January's service on December 28**, there's no need to worry about duplicate charges. We're working closely with ECIS to ensure a smooth transition for your billing.

- Your January service fee will remain managed through ECIS.
- Starting **February 1st**, you'll receive your first bill directly from Columbia Wireless for your service going forward.
- Our billing system follows a monthly cycle, with invoices sent on the **1st of the month** and payment due by the **30th of the same month**.

If you have any questions about the billing process, feel free to contact us at [accounts@columbiawireless.ca](mailto:accounts@columbiawireless.ca).



### Exciting News and Upgrades

- **Columbia Wireless TV:** Starting **January 1st**, enjoy our brand-new TV service! We'll soon add a dedicated section to our website showcasing the channel lineup and pricing.
- **Future Internet Speeds:** We're working on delivering **hundreds of Mbps** to the Edgewood and Fauquier communities. Stay tuned for timeline updates!
- **CBC Radio Revival:** We're installing new transmission gear at the Goat Mountain tower to restore CBC Radio for your community. CBC radio will be back ON AIR sometime this weekend! **December 28 and 29.**

Did you know? Columbia Wireless powers most of our tower network with **solar and wind energy**, making us one of the most environmentally friendly ISPs in the region.

We invite you to visit our website at [columbiawireless.ca](http://columbiawireless.ca) and check out the "About Us" section to learn more about who we are and what we stand for.

Thank you for trusting Columbia Wireless. We're excited to bring you even better service and new opportunities as part of this transition. Warm regards,

**Ben Leslie**

CEO, Columbia Wireless Inc.

Office: 250-505-4041 [accounts@columbiawireless.ca](mailto:accounts@columbiawireless.ca)



Registered charities in Canada perform valuable work in our communities, and Canadians support this work in many ways.

*The Edge's* Registered Charity #86745 45 RR0001. We welcome regular givers.

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