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September 29, 2014

Mayor Ron Eddy
ROMA Chair
200 University Avenue, Suite 801
Toronto, Ontario
M5H 3C6

Dear Mayor Eddy:

We are writing to you to follow up on our conversation regarding changes to rural spectrum that have been proposed by Industry Canada and which are currently the subject of a consultation that ends on October 8, 2014. In light of the importance of this issue to rural communities, our hope is that the ROMA executive and its zone representatives will make submissions to the consultation. To this end, we have attached a draft submission for your consideration. We are writing in the context of your role as Chair of ROMA.

To date, the Minister of Industry has been supportive of expanding rural broadband in Canada. However, we were very surprised when a consultation document was released by Industry Canada on August 19, 2014 that proposes taking away spectrum already being used to supply high-speed Internet to a number of towns and cities in rural areas of Ontario, and turning off Internet access for over 200,000 rural Canadians overall. It sounds unbelievable but this is what Industry Canada has proposed in the *Consultation on Policy Changes in the 3500 MHz Band (3475-3650 MHz) and a New Licensing Process in Rural Areas*, DGSO-003-14 (the "3500 MHz Policy").

The 3500 Policy deals with changes to the way 3500 MHz spectrum (the type of spectrum that is being used for rural broadband) is licensed. While the press release that accompanied the document said that Industry Canada wanted to support rural broadband, the effect of the proposals would be exactly the opposite. The proposal designates certain areas in which the 3500 MHz spectrum that is in use today is to be taken away from Internet service providers and given it to the telcos for future use with future mobile phones. Half of all rural Canadians live in these designated areas. If this proposal is adopted, over 200,000 Canadians, including some Canadians in rural parts of Ontario will literally have their high-speed Internet turned off.



Attached is a backgrounder with additional information. The full consultation document is available at: <http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/smt-gst.nsf/eng/sf10841.html#s4>. We have also included maps showing the impacted areas in Ontario (licenses 4-055, 4-067, 4-070, 4-072, 4-077, 4-078, 4-079, 4-084, 4-086, 4-087, 4-088, 4-089, 4-090, 4-092, 4-094, 4-095, 4-097, 4-100, 4-102, 4-106, 4-108). We need to tell Industry Canada that the proposal will turn off rural high-speed Internet and that is wrong.

We ask that each member of ROMA please review the attached draft submission and consider sending it to Industry Canada consultation. Please feel free to put it on individual letterhead, modify as you would like, and submit it by email to spectrum.operations@ic.gc.ca on or before October 8, 2014. Please feel free to call us at 905.944-7952 with any questions you may have.

Time is of the essence. The consultation submissions must be received on or before October 8, 2014 to ensure your views are considered. Thank you very much for your help saving Canada's rural high-speed Internet.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "CJP", written over a horizontal line.

Christine J. Prudham

CJP/
Enclosure