



THE CANADIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
LA CHAMBRE DE COMMERCE DU CANADA

January 5, 2007

Mr. Len St-Aubin, Director General
Telecommunications Policy
Industry Canada
300 Slater Street, 16th Floor
Ottawa, ON K1A 0C8

RE: Canada Gazette, Part 1, December 16, 2006, Order Varying Telecom Decision CRTC 2006-15

Dear Mr. St-Aubin,

Canada's Representative to:

The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)

The Business and Industry Advisory Committee (BIAC) to the OECD

ATA Carnet

Représentant au Canada :

La Chambre de commerce internationale (CCI)

Le Comité consultatif économique et industriel auprès de l'OCDE

ATA Carnet

501-350, rue Sparks St.

Ottawa, Ontario

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I am writing to you in response to the request for consultation on the Order Varying Telecom Decision CRTC 2006-15 that Industry Minister Maxime Bernier announced on December 16, 2006 (the Local Forbearance Decision).

From the perspective of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, the announcement by the government to overturn the local forbearance framework that had been previously established by the CRTC is good for the industry, business and consumers. The new proposed rules will allow for unrestricted competition and by taking this action, the government is continuing to show its commitment to an increasing reliance on market forces in Canada's telecommunications sector, which is consistent with the Canadian Chamber's views.

This proposed order to vary the CRTC's previous decision is a positive step for an already over-regulated industry that will lead to increased competition and efficiencies in the sector. It is encouraging that the government continues to implement key recommendations that were established in the 2006 Telecommunications Policy Review Panel report. The Canadian Chamber of Commerce supports this decision that is in the best interest of business and consumers.

would be pleased to discuss this issue with you further at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Michael Murphy,
Executive VP Policy

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cc. The Hon. Maxime Bernier, PC, MP