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Subject: Opening Canada's Doors to Foreign Investment in Telecommunications:
Options for
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Subject: Opening Canada's Doors to Foreign Investment in Telecommunications: Options for Reform [222]

I live in rural Nova Scotia where we have had full cell signal only for the last few years, and in some places don't have it now; and where many people do not yet have high speed internet access (though it is supposed to be coming).

We don't need foreign companies in our telecom sector. we need improved servicing and regulation for the Canadian companies that we have now. Please take into account:

* Prices of cell phone services won't be lower as they are already very competitive worldwide. And indeed when new "competitors" enter the market I spend a moment being hopeful that prices will drop - but they are only different in how they bundle, for the most part. although a supposed truism, I have not seen any indication that increased "competition" (that is increased numbers of players) brings prices down.

* Canadians in rural and remote communities may suffer from poor service and no access to high-speed Internet as there is no profit to be made there by foreign companies.

* Our culture is at risk because most telecom companies also provide broadcasting services. If such a company falls into foreign hands, it will definitely influence the content of its broadcasting service. Foreign ownership of telecom is a direct threat to our cultural identity.

In my personal experience large companies in the utilities sector never end up competing and just need to be well regulated - easier if they are Canadian Companies who cannot threaten to "leave" if they do not like the regulation.

Do the right thing. Keep foreign firms out of our telecom sector.

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