



BRIGADE D'INCENDIE de DRUMMOND

1412, chemin Tobique
Drummond, NB E3Y 1H7
Téléphone: (506) 475-4013



May 21, 2006

Mr. Larry Shaw
Director General
Telecommunications Policy Branch
Industry Canada
300 Slater Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0C8

Dear Mr. Shaw:

The members of the Drummond Fire Department fully support the contents of CAFC's position paper on Industry Canada's document entitled **Proposals and changes to the Spectrum in Certain Bands Below 1.7 GHz.**

Fire Departments run the risk of having their communications channels jammed by non-public safety users. This jamming would normally be unintentional but could easily be intentional as well. People capable of arson are likely equally capable of jamming the communications of emergency first responders. Fire Departments, and especially smaller Departments, in adjacent communities usually have mutual assistance plans that have been well established. The purpose of such plans is to permit two or more Departments to join forces to combat a fire or other emergency that is beyond the capacity of any one Department to control. With some Fire Departments migrating from the 150 MHz bandwidth (or remaining and running the risk of jamming) these mutual assistance plans could easily be jeopardized. Time is a serious enemy of the Fire Services. Fires left unattended double in size every minute. This issue is particularly acute for Volunteer Fire Departments that often have to travel considerable distances to reach fires. Typically, one or two firefighters are responsible for getting the equipment to a fire. The balance of the firefighting team travels in private vehicles to the site of the fire once they are paged. To jeopardize the paging system could easily result in insufficient numbers of firefighters present at incidents.

We the members of the Drummond Fire Department recommends strongly that Industry Canada abandon its moves to attempt to force Canadian Fire Departments to abandon their 150 MHz bandwidths. This submission has described the negative impacts that this



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attempt will have. The **only** benefit that the proposal to change the spectrum in certain bands below 1.7 GHz is to provide Canadian consumers with radio products similar to those available in the U.S. market. We do not regard this as an important benefit. Finally, the transition measures that have been proposed by Industry Canada are not adequate.

Thank you for your attention to our concerns.

Yours sincerely,

Louis Pelletier
Fire Chief, Drummond Fire Department

cc: Mike Allen, MP for Tobique-Mactaquac