

February 27, 2006

To: The Director General, Telecommunications Policy Branch

From: Chris R. Kennedy, Hebbville Fire Chief.

Regarding Multi-Use Radios.

Dear Sir: I am the Fire Chief of the Hebbville Fire Department and I am writing this letter I regards to the letter I received dated Feb 13, 2006 from industry Canada along with our radio license fees. The letter states of the intended introduction of Multi-Use radios to the Canadian airwaves and that they are very close to the band widths we presently use. It goes on to further say that it may at times interfere with our radio frequencies and this is totally unacceptable if this is the case. Our Departments radios use from 150MHz to 154MHz ranges.

I talked to a Henry Klain form the Dartmouth NS office on Feb 27/06 in regards to said MURS and he said it is early and you are looking for feedback only at this point in time. He further stated that if necessary fire dept's could be moved to another frequency but it would be at a cost to us. This would also be unacceptable considering all of the ham operators out there who use the spectrums free of charge and now another group will be also allowed to operate free of charge. It seems to me that it is time Government at the federal, provincial and municipal levels needs to start helping volunteer Fire Dept's instead of finding ways to hinder and remove much needed and hard to come by operating funds.

Radio License fees have been a thorn in the Volunteer Fire dept's side for many, many years but yet we are still charged this fee. While other groups that are nonessential services go without paying any fees? I am not sure but something is wrong with this picture.

I am against the introduction of MURS especially if they have a remote chance of interfering with us in any way, shape or form. I will be emailing a copy of this letter to my Municipality and to the Fire Marshal for the Province of Nova Scotia. I tried to access your web site as per instructions on the letter and was unable to open the web address.

<http://strategis.gc.ca/spectrum>.

I have mailed a hard copy to you as well as an email. If you have any question please don't hesitate to contact me.

Thank You

Chris R. Kennedy
Hebville Fire Chief.



Hebville Fire Department

215 Century Drive, Hebville

RR#4 Bridgewater, N.S. Canada B4V 2W3

April 12, 2006

Re: Canada Gazette, Part I, December 2005, Notice Reference # DGTP-004-05

Proposals and Changes to the Spectrum in Certain Bands Below 1.7 Ghz
Part 6. Multi-use Radio Service (MURS) in the 150 MHz Band

To Whom it may Concern:

The Hebville Fire Department wishes to go on record as being unconditionally opposed to the Industry Canada proposal regarding MURS in the 150 MHz band. It is totally unreasonable for Industry Canada to expect licensed public safety users of assigned frequencies (many of them volunteer fire services) to replace or re-program their radio equipment to accommodate a new spectrum application for unlicensed users with no compensation for their costs. These are the first responders to emergencies across vast tracts of this largely rural nation, and many operate on very small budgets with very limited opportunity to increase their level of tax revenue.

It is our position that if Industry Canada wishes to accommodate the MURS on the stated 150 MHz frequencies then Industry Canada must provide sufficient funding to the affected parties to undertake the necessary radio reprogramming or replacement as required. This must include not only the licensed two-way radio equipment directly impacted, but also the numerous voice pocket pagers that are tuned to the receive the same frequencies which are used for volunteer firefighter notification.

It is not appropriate to impose such costs on affected parties which pay a license fee to operate on those assigned frequencies because commercial and recreational users wish to use them. The approach of Industry Canada to reconfigure the spectrum to accommodate new users because of decisions of the United States FCC at the expense of existing licensed users is a dereliction of duty.

Thank You

Chris R. Kennedy
Hebville Fire Chief