



Ontario Association of Emergency Managers

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Tuesday, April 11, 2006

Director General
Telecommunications Policy Branch,
Industry Canada,
300 Slate Street,
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0C8

Dear Sir:

RE: Canada Gazette Notice DGTP-004-05
Proposals and Changes to the Spectrum in Certain Bands Below 1.7 GHZ
November 29, 2005.

On behalf of the membership of the Ontario Association of Emergency Managers, I commend the Department on their proposed spectrum changes. In particular, we extend our support to the overall goals of the proposal to enhance public safety communications and offer the following recommendations for your consideration:

- Continue the exclusive allocation of the interoperability range of frequencies in the 150 MHz, 450MHz and 800 MHz range as currently assigned to emergency services use.
- During the response and recovery phases of a major emergency, inter-agency operability is a key issue. This applies, not to the three main emergency services, but to command and control of all other responding agencies.
- Interoperability frequencies within the 220 – 222 MHz range should be specifically licensed to municipal/provincial responder agencies such as public works, transit, roads, solid waste management crews and non-government organizations such as, Amateur radio and volunteer search and rescue groups.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on this discussion paper.

Alain Normand
President
Ontario Association of Emergency Managers