



TOWN OF  
**AYLMER**

46 Talbot Street, West, Aylmer, Ontario N5H 1J7  
Office: (519) 773-3164 Fax: (519) 765-1446

*Sam Taylor*  
Fire Chief

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April 20, 2006

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

Dear Sir,

Please be advised that the Aylmer Fire Department fully supports the contents of the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs position paper on Industry Canada's document entitled "Proposals and changes to the Spectrum in certain Bands Below 1.7GHz."

The affect of replacing our communications equipment to function on frequencies outside of the 150 MHz bandwidth could cost our Department in excess of \$25,000.

The current paging frequency for Elgin County is 151.970 MHz and was awarded to us by Industry Canada within the last three years. It is very likely that this frequency that is used to page all firefighters in the County (approximately 275) will be subjected to interference from the changes that you propose. Forcing us to change to a new frequency, particularly after recently providing a new one to us would cause significant hardship. This recent change had a considerable financial impact on the Country Fire Departments as every single pager had to be reprogrammed, and in some cases replaced.

The more dramatic the changes imposed on the Fire Service the more the costs will increase. Issues such as being forced to move to narrow band width for our paging channel would cause us to replace all the pagers in the County at approximately \$ 500.00 each. Other variables also will affect the costs such as moving to the 800 MHz band were none of the current radio equipment including the repeaters would be compatible.

We trust that you will weigh the affects that these changes would inflict on the Fire Service and do the right thing by not interfering with these frequencies that have been until now reserved and protected for Canadian Public Safety Agencies.

Yours in Safety,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sam Taylor".

Sam Taylor  
Fire Chief/Community Emergency Management Coordinator

Cc: Joe Preston, MP  
Hon. Steve Peters, MPP

Attachment: Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs submission to Mr. Larry Shaw dated April 12, 2006.