

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

Proposals and Changes 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 Ingomar-Roseway 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 the 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 receive the same frequencies, which are used for the volunteer firefighter notification.

It is not appropriate to impose such costs on affected parties with 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 the decisions of the United States FCC at the expense of licensed users is a dereliction of duty.