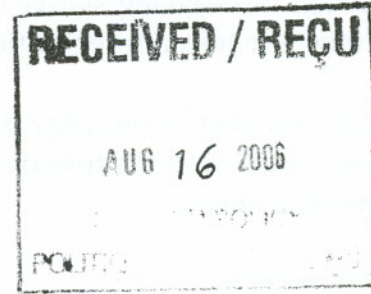




15/08/2006



Leonard St. Aubin
Acting Director General
Telecommunications Policy Branch
300 Slater Street, 16th floor
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0C8

Dear Mr. St. Aubin,

Re: *Canada Gazette*, Part I - June 17, 2006

Order under Section 8 of the Telecommunications Act - Policy Direction to the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission

I am writing on behalf of the Canadian Telecommunications Employees' Association (CTEA) to comment on the proposed policy direction to the CRTC. The CTEA represents some 14,000 employees of telecom and telecom related organisations. We are one of the oldest unions in the telecom industry and the only organization that represents only workers in telecom and telecom-related companies.

We believe that the proposed policy direction should be implemented as written. It represents an interim move toward loosening the restrictive regulations that have prevented our employers from competing on a level playing field.

A current example of those restrictions is the Local Forbearance decision by the CRTC – a decision which is the subject of Petitions to Cabinet requesting it be changed. This decision imposes over-onerous terms and conditions on incumbent providers when they seek forbearance from regulation of their local services. It is these sorts of regulatory restrictions which must be removed if our employers are to compete with the flexibility enjoyed by their competitors.

We sincerely hope, as the notice states, that "the policy direction will contribute to more effective and efficient regulation in this vital industry."

**Canadian Telephone
Employees' Association**

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In addition to supporting the policy direction, the CTEA favours government action through legislative changes to bring about long-lasting and broad-based reform to telecom regulation.

The Minister of Industry is to be saluted for his timely approach to addressing the concerns in the telecom industry. We look forward to more action in the months ahead.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brenda Knight". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Brenda Knight
CTEA President