

**BRIAN PAYNE**

President / president

August 22, 2006

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

Dear Sir,

I am writing on behalf of the 150,000 members of the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union of Canada and especially the 40,000 men and women in our union who are directly employed in the telecommunications industry.

We have taken some time to examine the Policy Direction to the Canadian Radio/Television and Telecommunications Commission (Canada Gazette, Part I – June 17, 2006) and would like to stress the following points:

- We support equal regulation of all entrants into the marketplace. The current asymmetrical regulatory regime in the name of fostering so-called “competition” is a throw back to an age which no longer exists. As well, it is our view that regulating one portion of the sector over another actually jeopardizes economic expansion and employment opportunities as well as denying consumers optimum choice of service.
- We also want to stress that we do not favour relying solely on “market forces” as the driving force for regulation in the telecommunications sector. This industry is essential to maintaining an economic and social balance in all parts of the country; so much so, in our view, that the argument of universal, affordable access to all services in all regions must still be the important, primary guidepost for any future regulatory regime.
- We believe it is essential that Canada maintain sovereignty and control over Canadian telecommunications policy through existing regulations and, most particularly, those limiting foreign ownership of our domestic industry.

Page 2
August 22, 2006
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Clearly, the government is heading in the direction of a major reform of the existing regulatory framework and I want to assure you that CEP and our members employed in this sector intend to be full participants in that process.

Yours truly,

Brian Payne
President
BP/nb

c.c. CEP Officers