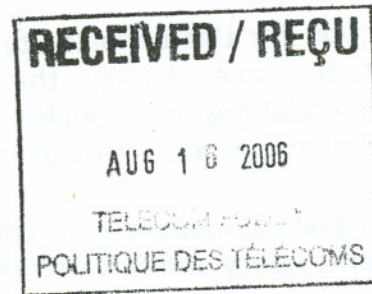


August 11, 2006

The Honourable Maxime Bernier
Minister of Industry
C.D. Howe Building
235 Queen Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0H5



Dear Minister Bernier:

The Ontario Chamber of Commerce represents some 57,000 businesses through a federation of 160 Boards of Trade and Chambers of Commerce throughout Ontario. We would like to congratulate you on your prompt action and the leadership you have demonstrated relating to your proposed policy direction on the regulatory governance of the Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) industry.

Having reviewed your proposed Policy Direction to the CRTC, the OCC is very pleased that you have recommended that the Commission “rely on market forces” in its policy and regulatory framework governing the telecommunications industry and enthusiastically endorses your proposal.

In both of our submissions to the Telecommunications Policy Review Panel, we had expressed hope that the Review would result in the establishment of an updated regulatory and policy regime based upon market forces rather than “controlled competition”. The OCC is of the opinion that such a framework will enable the ICT sector to offer more innovative applications at lower prices more quickly to consumers and businesses.

We agree with the Telecommunications Policy Review Panel’s views that allowing greater competition while at the same time reducing regulatory burdens will indeed make ICT providers (and the industry as a whole) more competitive and innovative. As we stated in our first submission, “Industries with less restrictive regulation have proven to encourage innovation and competition, making it more efficient for businesses on the demand and supply side to operate competitively.”

Ontario’s businesses need a telecommunications industry that is unencumbered by complicated and intrusive regulation. Therefore, we respectfully encourage your government to enact enabling legislation as soon as possible, in order to provide the legal framework for the Telecommunications Policy Panel’s proposed regulatory reforms.

180 Dundas Street W.,
Suite 505
Toronto, ON M5G 1Z8
Tel. 416 482-5222
Fax. 416 482-5879
www.occ.on.ca
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Thank you for this opportunity to express our members' views about such an important issue facing the telecommunications industry. The Panel's recommendations are thoughtful, innovative and most welcome by the OCC and our members, as are your Government's initial steps to implement them.

If you have any questions or comments you may contact Stuart Johnston, Vice President, Policy and Government Relations, at (416) 482-5222, extension 232.

Yours sincerely,



Len Crispino
President & CEO

✓Cc: Leonard St. Aubin, Acting Director General, Industry Canada
OCC Members

As the most diverse and most influential business group in the province, the Ontario Chamber of Commerce works closely with governments, labour, academia and various other groups to create a stronger and more vibrant economy in Ontario and the surrounding regions.

The OCC represents 57,000 members through 160 independent chambers of commerce and boards of trade throughout the province. The OCC has worked on behalf of business since 1911.
