



1910 Saskatchewan Avenue W.  
Portage la Prairie, MB R1N 0P1  
Ph: 204-857-8666  
Fax: 204-856-2370  
Email: [amm@amm.mb.ca](mailto:amm@amm.mb.ca)  
[www.amm.mb.ca](http://www.amm.mb.ca)

July 26, 2019

Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada  
Senior Director, Spectrum Licensing and Auction Operations  
235 Queen Street (6th Floor, East Tower)  
Ottawa ON K1A 0H5  
Via email: [ic.spectrumauctions-encheresduspectre.ic@canada.ca](mailto:ic.spectrumauctions-encheresduspectre.ic@canada.ca)

To Whom It May Concern,

**RE: Canada Gazette, Part I, June 2019, Consultation on a Policy and Licensing Framework for Spectrum in the 3500 MHz Band, SLPB-002-19**

On behalf of the Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM), which represents all of Manitoba's 137 municipalities, I am writing to provide some comments regarding the structure of the upcoming 3500 MHz Band Spectrum Auction.

Greater wireless and broadband Internet access has the power to transform rural Canada, as connectivity is now as important as building and maintaining roads and bridges in rural, remote, and northern communities. Moreover, Manitoba currently experiences the second-slowest Internet speeds in Canada, while cellular network coverage remains sparse in many areas throughout the province, which hinders economic development and may harm public safety in times of emergency. Therefore, the upcoming auction for the establishment of Canada's 5G market is very important to Manitoba municipalities as it will have major implications for competition and pricing of services available through the next generation of network development.

Overall, the full benefit of 5G will only be realized if the wireless market is competitive. It is essential that citizens, businesses, non-profits and governments are all able to access a competitive market for 5G services. Competition and choice will lead to more affordable pricing and will foster more innovation and support local economies. Thus, the AMM encourages the federal government to take steps to support sustainable competition in the market.

In addition, the AMM also encourages the Government of Canada to continue its consultations and partnerships with the Province of Manitoba, municipalities, and the private sector to improve both wireless and broadband Internet access in rural and northern Manitoba.





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Partnerships with the private sector and increased federal investment in Canada's digital economy that support network infrastructure are key to any future productivity growth and economic development. Sustained digital network infrastructure upgrades will improve the competitiveness of Canadian businesses and maximize job opportunities in rural and remote areas of the country.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these brief comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joe Masi". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Executive Director  
Joe Masi

