

July 30, 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

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

As the City of Vancouver's agency for economic development, the Vancouver Economic Commission (VEC) works to position Vancouver as a globally recognized city for innovative, creative and sustainable business. We do this by strengthening Vancouver's Tech, Digital Entertainment and Green Economy sectors through strategic programs and initiatives that address each stage of the business growth continuum.

I am writing today regarding the structure of the upcoming 3500 MHz Band Spectrum Auction. Cities across Canada depend on broadband services to deliver essential services to its citizens and businesses. The upcoming auction is important for the establishment of Canada's 5G market and how the Ministry of Innovation, Science and Economic Development (ISED) structures the auction will have major implications for competition and pricing of services available through the next generation of network development.

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. Therefore, we encourage the Canadian government to take steps to support sustainable competition in the market.

To encourage competition, we support an auction framework that sets aside a percentage of spectrum for regional providers. In addition, we support a combination of both a set-aside and a cap to ensure regional providers have access to spectrum in all major markets and every region in the country.

Only by pursuing pro-competitive measures can ISED ensure that customers, governments, and businesses have access to affordable prices and improved network performance.

Sincerely,



Catherine Warren

CEO, Vancouver Economic Commission