

File: 400-40

July 9, 2018

VIA EMAIL: ic.spectrumauctions-encheresduspectre.ic@canada.ca

Senior Director
Spectrum Licensing and Auction Operations
Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada

Re: Gazette Notice SLPB-004-18: Consultation on Revisions to the
3500 MHz Band to Accommodate Flexible use and Preliminary
Consultation on Changes to the 3800 MHz Band

Access to broadband connectivity is critical to rural households in Canada. The vitality of rural and remote communities depends on our ability to participate in the digital economy and engage with friends, family, educational opportunities, and government services over the internet. Fixed wireless spectrum is crucial to rural connectivity.

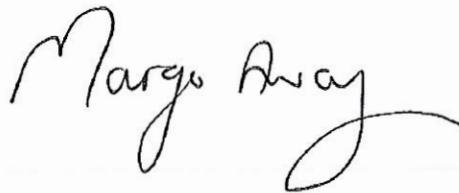
On behalf of the Cariboo Regional District Board, I would like to express deep concern about the proposed reduction of spectrum described in Option 1 (paragraph 46). Reducing the spectrum available for rural broadband networks will adversely affect broadband services in rural communities across Canada.

We urge ISED to choose Option 2 (paragraph 48), which does not reduce the spectrum holdings of small rural service providers. Better yet, we urge ISED to not reduce any spectrum holdings that are currently used for providing service in rural communities, and to make more spectrum available for providing fixed wireless services in rural communities.

We appreciate ISED's ongoing efforts to support rural broadband connectivity in Canada through funding programs. We encourage ISED to leverage these investments by ensuring that adequate spectrum will be available for last-mile broadband services.

Thank you for considering our submission.

Yours truly,



Margo Wagner
Chair

building communities together