

October 22, 2017

Submission to Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada

Consultation on a Technical, Policy and Licensing Framework for Spectrum in the 600 MHz Band

(Canada Gazette, Part 1, Notice No. SLPB-005-17, August 19, 2017)

Attention:

Senior Director, Spectrum Licensing and Auction Operations Innovation,
Science and Economic Development Canada
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0H5

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Craig Stauffer, and I am a Production Sound Mixer in the British Columbia Film Industry, and work mainly in episodic TV Series'. I am writing to you as an individual, not a company, so that this may serve as an impact statement regarding the auctioning off of the 600 MHz wireless spectrum. This has a similar impact, to varying degrees, on thousands of Canadians in similar industries and jobs across Canada.

As you may be aware, wireless microphone transmitters/receivers are used quite a lot in Film, Theatre, Broadcast Television, and the Entertainment Industry in general, although not limited to just these industries. I use them extensively, every day, in my job. My particular frequency blocks, that I have invested in over my 18 years in Film, are blocks 25 and 26 (Lectrosonics brand of wireless) that encompass 640 MHz to 691 MHz across those two frequency blocks working with transmission powers of 100 or 250 milliwatts. I have a couple others in the 500MHz spectrum, but the majority of my workhorse tools are in the 600 MHz range described above.

After seeing that there may be changes coming to the Canadian Telecom market, with the auctioning off of the 600MHz Spectrum in the coming years, I decided to add it all up, and see what it would come to if I had to reallocate my wireless gear down to a different set of frequency blocks. I was quite shocked when I discovered it would cost me approximately \$55,000.00 CAD to replace all my existing 600MHz wireless gear. Not an amount one can easily come up with. At this point, my wireless gear still does the job it needs to do quite well, and is not obsolete by any measure. Though, as per Lectrosonics, it cannot be sent in to be re-blocked. Therefore, they become unusable, and essentially, expensive paper weights, should the Canadian Government auction off the 600MHz Spectrum.

In conclusion, it is my hope that this letter is read, and affords some sort of understanding on the reader's part, of how profoundly this affects my ability, and thousands of individuals like me across Canada, to continue in their chosen fields. It is also my hope that considerations for individuals, and companies that find themselves in this situation can be found through the consultation process that will happen for, what seems like, the inevitable coming auction of the 600MHz Spectrum.

Sincerely

Craig Stauffer
Production Sound Mixer
IATSE 891 Sound Department Member