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File 0400-40



Gazette Notice No. SMSE-018-10

Manager, Mobile Technology and Service
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RE: Consultation on a Policy and Technical Framework for the 700 MHz Band and Aspects Related to Commercial Spectrum – support for an open and transparent auction.

The City of Fort St. John wishes to express our support for an open and transparent mobile spectrum auction without special treatment for any wireless provider.

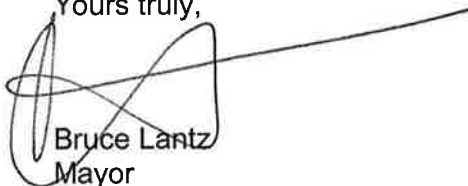
We understand that the 700 MHz spectrum to be auctioned at the end of next year will power 4G, the next generation of mobile technology – technology that promises to deliver speeds of up to 100+ Mbps. All communities across the country – including growing communities like ours – deserve access to this technology and the leading-edge devices it supports.

Wireless connectivity is a powerful economic enabler and critical component of any healthy, growing community. It creates new jobs and opportunities, increases business productivity and competitiveness, empowers small business, facilitates the role of local government, and connects family and friends. Please ensure that Canadians everywhere can benefit equally by setting spectrum auction rules that do not provide special treatment to any wireless provider, let alone to those that choose to offer services only to Canadians located in the biggest cities.

We also urge the adoption of stringent roll-out requirements for this spectrum: if it is not utilized within three years, the license should be forfeited. This will ensure that companies which acquire spectrum are incented to use it quickly. Ongoing wireless expansion across the country absolutely depends on a fair and open market auction. Communities like ours do not want to be left behind when the next generation of wireless technology rolls out.

We trust that the government will consider the interests of communities like ours in establishing the rules that govern the upcoming auction for scarce 700 MHz spectrum.

Yours truly,



Bruce Lantz
Mayor