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District of Vanderhoof

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Geographical Centre of BC

Office of the Mayor

30 March 2011

Gazette Notice No. SMSE-018-10

Manager, Mobile Technology and Service
Industry Canada
300 Slater Street
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0C8

Subject: **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.**

On behalf of the District of Vanderhoof, I wish to express our strong support for an open and transparent mobile spectrum auction, with **no** 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 rural 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. Many providers choose to offer services only to Canadians located in the biggest cities; leaving rural communities like ours behind.

We 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 have an incentive to use it quickly.

I 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,
District of Vanderhoof

Gerry Thiessen
Mayor