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Gazette Notice No. SMSE-018-10

April 6, 2011

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 Initiatives Prince George Development Corporation, I wish 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 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. Don't let communities like ours be left behind when the next generation of wireless technology rolls out.

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.

Initiatives Prince George Economic Development Corporation delivers a targeted and aggressive marketing program to position Prince George as a sustainable knowledge-based resource economy connected to the world. Competitive access to leading telecommunications technology is critical enabling infrastructure for the economic growth of Prince George and communities in the area and we look forward to further investments by telecommunications companies in our city and northern B.C. to support this objective.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim McEwan". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light grey horizontal line.

per

Tim McEwan

President and CEO

Initiatives Prince George Development Corporation