



# Georgia Strait Alliance

Caring for our Coastal Waters

www.GeorgiaStrait.org

August 1, 2008

Privy Council and Secretary to the Cabinet  
Langevin Block, 80 Wellington Street,  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A3

The Honourable Jim Prentice P.C., M.P.,  
Minister of Industry,  
C.D. Howe Building,  
235 Queen Street,  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0H5

The Honourable Gordon O'Connor P.C., M.P.,  
Minister of National Revenue,  
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Re: *Canada Gazette, Part I, June 14, 2008, Telecommunications Act, Notice No. DGTP-002-2008 — Petition to the Governor in Council concerning Telecom Decision CRTC 2008-6, Vol. 142, No. 24.*

I am writing on behalf of Georgia Strait Alliance (GSA) regarding the above-referenced *Petition to Cabinet regarding the impact of the above-noted CRTC decision on Canada's charities.*

GSA is a registered charity that works to protect and restore the marine environment and promote the sustainability of the Strait of Georgia, its adjoining waters and communities. We are the only citizen's group focused on the whole Strait – the place where most British Columbians live, work and play.

GSA appreciates the opportunity to appeal to Cabinet, and we wish to sincerely thank Cabinet for its consideration of our serious concerns about this decision. We appreciate that our elected officials have ultimate authority over public-policy making in Canada, and GSA strongly believes that this ruling by the CRTC erodes important long-standing public policy principles that have underscored the relationship between governments and charities since Confederation. We urge you to rescind the CRTC's ruling insofar as it applies to charities.

We establish charities to deliver important services to Canadians. Ensuring the sustainability of the strait through our various programs: Green Boating, ToxicSmart, Salmon Aquaculture, Marine Wildlife & Habitat, Clean Air & Water, we are committed to a future for our region that includes clean air & water, rich marine life and protected natural areas. Many charities function with few or no paid staff. Chronically underfunded, we rely on support of private donations and volunteers. As 84,000 small enterprises, charities benefit most from red tape reduction—not more bureaucracy. Filling out forms under the *Telecommunications Act* is not something that we are well equipped to execute. I am sure that the Minister of Revenue will acknowledge that compliance with the T3010 regime at CRA is already quite challenging for many charities.

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Nous croyons que c'est une excellente opportunité pour les deux ordres de gouvernement de s'associer afin de bonifier l'enveloppe québécoise de 20°millions de dollars pour les cinq prochaines années. Nous savons que les entreprises de services locaux de télécommunication travaillent également à l'expansion de la large bande auprès de plusieurs collectivités québécoises, mais cela demeure toutefois insuffisant pour accélérer leur développement.

La participation du gouvernement du Canada à l'offre de services du gouvernement du Québec contribuerait à atteindre l'objectif du gouvernement canadien de permettre à tous les Québécois un accès à des services de télécommunications et de renforcer la structure sociale et économique du Canada et de ses régions.

La Fédération Québécoise des Municipalités croit que les retombées de la vente aux enchères du spectre à 15 entreprises qui représentent quelque 282 licences sont en mesure d'offrir à votre gouvernement une occasion de contribuer de façon significative à l'occupation du territoire et à la dynamisation de toutes les régions du Canada, en particulier celles du Québec.

Nous vous prions d'agréer, Monsieur le Ministre, l'assurance de nos meilleurs sentiments.



BERNARD GÉNÉREUX  
Président

c. c. Mme Nathalie Normandeau, ministre des Affaires municipales et des  
Régions  
Mme Monique Jérôme-Forget, ministre des Finances