

Telephone (604) 883-9011
Fax (604) 883-9025
Email phfire@dccnet.com



PENDER HARBOUR FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
Box 304
Madeira Park, BC V0N 2H0

November 2, 2004

Director of Spectrum and Radio Services
Industry Canada
300 Slater Street
Room 1611A
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0C8

Comments to: [Canada Gazette Notice DGTP-008-04](#)
Revisions to Spectrum Utilization Policies in the 3-30 GHz Frequency Range and Further
Consideration
Released October 1, 2004

The Pender Harbour Fire Protection District completely supports the proposal by Industry Canada to designate the band 4940-4990 MHz (the 4.9 GHz band) for fixed and mobile service use in support of public safety.

The Pender Harbour Fire Protection District represents 2 fire halls in the Pender Harbour area, one in Madeira Park and the other in Garden Bay, BC. We have approximately 50 volunteer firefighters with one paid part-time Fire Chief.

Our members need additional spectrum to implement newly emerging mission critical broadband applications. We agree that this 4.9 GHz spectrum is urgently needed by Canada's public safety agencies to support advanced broadband technologies enabling high-speed wireless transfers of large files, images and video, as well as intranet access, at specified locations or at ad hoc on-scene command centers. Our agencies require dedicated spectrum for mission critical broadband applications for the same reasons that we depend on narrow band voice systems today.

Because the United States has allocated this same band to public safety, vendors are starting to develop product which leverages consumer broadband technologies from their adjacent 5 GHz unlicensed band, yet meets the specific requirements of public safety. Similar access to 4.9 GHz in Canada means compatible equipment with U.S. agencies, and greater availability of product at lower cost due to vendor economies of scale.

We urge Industry Canada to initiate a follow-up consultation to define service rules and technical specifications and to make a final decision no later than year end 2005. Our country's public safety community needs speedy access to 4.9 GHz advanced broadband applications to fulfill our increasingly difficult task of protecting our citizens and officers who serve them.

Yours truly

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Don Murray', written over a horizontal line.

Don Murray
Fire Chief