

November 1, 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

On behalf of the Quesnel Volunteer Fire Department, we completely support 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.

Although we are but one Fire Department in British Columbia, last year's interface fires drove home the need for a common radio frequency for inter-agency response, especially when resources respond from outside the Province as they did last year.

Fire Departments 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 narrowband 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 yearend 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.

Sincerely,

Ric Raynor

Ric Raynor
Fire Chief
Director of Emergency Services
City of Quesnel
British Columbia.