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February 15, 2011

Manager, Mobile Technology and Services
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 Mobile Spectrum – support for an open and transparent auction

On behalf of the residents and businesses of the City of Timmins, 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 communities like ours – deserve access to this technology and the leading-edge devices it supports.

Access to the latest in wireless technology is crucial to helping people stay connected, providing access to education and information, and assisting local businesses and governments with productivity improvements, economic efficiency, and job creation.

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.



OFFICE OF MAYOR TOM LAUGHREN
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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 such as ours in establishing the rules that govern the upcoming auction for scarce 700 MHz spectrum.

Sincerely,



TOM LAUGHREN
Mayor