



February 9, 2011 / VIA EMAIL

The Honourable Robert Douglas Nicholson  
Minister of Justice  
284 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0H8

Dear Minister,

On behalf of the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police's (OACP) Board of Directors, I want to express our appreciation to you for taking the time to meet with us in Thunder Bay, Ontario, on January 20. We greatly appreciated your kind comments about the importance of policing to building a better Canada and your desire to partner with police leaders on important public safety issues impacting our community.

I wanted to reiterate the OACP's support for an issue that we discussed with you in Thunder Bay – current efforts by police and other emergency service organizations in securing the 700 MHz spectrum for use by emergency services. We are strongly opposed to any potential Industry Canada commercial auction of this spectrum.

The utilization of broadband technology represents an important component in our efforts to promote public safety in Ontario and across Canada. Allocating the 700 MHz spectrum to public safety organizations is required to ensure reliable public safety grade interoperability networks are available on demand to emergency responders as needed across all disciplines and between all levels of public safety organizations. A dedicated band of spectrum is needed to ensure that the requirements of police officers and other emergency personnel in this area is achieved.

The OACP supports the position of public safety partners across Canada with regard to Industry Canada's current consultations on the 700 MHz band. We encourage you to also support the efforts of emergency providers to secure this vital spectrum so as to better serve the needs of Canadians who depend on our organizations for emergency services.

Sincerely,

Chief Robert Herman, Thunder Bay Police Service  
President  
Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police

- c. The Right Hon. Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada  
The Hon. Tony Clement, Minister of Industry Canada  
The Hon. Jim Bradley, Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services (Ontario)  
Chief William Blair, President, Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police  
OACP Board of Directors  
Mr. Joe Couto, OACP Director of Government Relations and Communications