



TOWN OF
WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE

37 Sandiford Drive, 4th Floor, Stouffville, ON L4A 7X5

Automated Line: 905-640-1910
905-895-5299
Operator: 905-640-1900
905-895-2423
Fax: 905-640-7957
www.townofws.com

February 28, 2011

By Email

Manager, Mobile Technology and Services
Industry Canada
300 Slater Street
Ottawa, ON, K1A 0C8

The Mayor of the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville is in receipt of a letter from Bell Mobility alerting the Town to the future auction of 700 MHz spectrum. Bell has expressed concern that the auction needs to be open, transparent and without preferential treatment for particular companies. We understand municipalities have been encouraged to provide comments to Industry Canada.

Town Staff are not in a position to comment on the technical elements of communication technology, such as spectrum, or related bidding processes. The current lack of broadband internet connectivity in the rural and remote areas of our municipality is a major concern to Town Council and residents. In 2009 the Town conducted a gap analysis of broadband availability in the rural areas of the municipality to better understand limitations in broadband coverage. Survey results identified significant geographic areas without access to broadband indicating that internet service providers (ISPs) have failed to adequately provide affordable and accessible broadband service to a significant number of our rural residents. Regardless of the spectrum and/or the auction process, we anticipate Industry Canada will proceed in a manner that will successfully address this concern.

We urge the federal government to take whatever steps are necessary to serve the rural areas of our municipality, and others in a similar situation, as soon as possible.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Mustard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "M".

Rebecca Mustard

Economic Development Officer

cc. Mayor & Council
David J. Cash, Chief Administrative Officer
Wade Oosterman, President, Bell Mobility