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A Great Place to Call Home

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July 23, 2019

Innovation Science and Economic Development Canada
Senior Director, Spectrum Licensing and Auction Operations
235 Queen Street (6th Floor, East Tower)
Ottawa ON K1A 0HS

To the Spectrum Licensing and Auction Operations Branch,

RE: Canada Gazette, Part I, June 2019, Consultation on a Policy and Licensing Framework for
        Spectrum in the 3500 MHz Band, SLPB-002-19

I am writing today regarding the structure of the upcoming 3500 MHz Band Spectrum Auction. Cities across Canada depend on broadband services to deliver essential services to its citizens and businesses. The upcoming auction is important for the establishment of Canada's 5G market and how the Ministry of Innovation, Science and Economic Development (ISED) structures the auction will have major implications for competition and pricing of services available through the next generation of network development.

The full benefit of 5G will only be realized if the wireless market is competitive. It is essential that citizens, businesses, non-profits and governments, are all able to access a competitive market for 5G services.   Competition and choice will lead to more affordable pricing and will foster more innovation and support local economies. Therefore, we encourage the Canadian government to take steps to support sustainable competition in the market.

To encourage competition, we support an auction framework that sets aside a percentage of spectrum for regional providers. In addition, to encourage competition, we support a combination of both a set-aside and a cap to ensure regional providers have access to spectrum in all major markets and every region in the country.

Only by pursuing pro-competitive measures can ISED ensure that customers, governments, and businesses have access to affordable prices and improved network performance.

Sincerely,

TOWN OF STONEWALL

CLIVE HINDS
Mayor

CH/wrm