



November 25, 2020

Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada

Sent via email to: ic.spectrmauctions-encheresduspectre.ic@canada.ca

Re: Consultation on the Technical and Policy Framework for the 3650-4200 MHz Band and Changes to the Frequency Allocation of the 3500-3650 MHz Band

To Whom It May Concern,

The Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) represents the interests of all municipal districts and counties across Alberta, which cover roughly 80 percent of the province's land mass. As the voice for rural Alberta, RMA advocates for the need for broadband and cell phone service to rural Alberta as key for attracting investment, supporting economic activity, and allowing all Albertans to participate in the digital economy.

RMA made an initial submission to Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada regarding Consultation on the Technical and Policy Framework for the 3650-4200 MHz Band and Changes to the Frequency Allocation of the 3500-3650 MHz Band (SLPB-002-20), as announced in the *Canada Gazette* Part I, Volume 154, Number 37 on September 12, 2020. This letter is in addition to RMA's initial submission, and is intended to provide additional comments.

The RMA firmly believes broadband connectivity is essential to our communities and emphasizes the importance of accessibility and affordability of broadband services deployed in all rural areas of Alberta. Rural Albertans rely on broadband for essential services to support business and economic activities, access to health and government resources, enable remote work, and online education. The importance of this service has been even more evident since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The affordability of these services is key, and we encourage the Government of Canada to work with industry partners who can ensure that service is accessible to all corners of Alberta.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'P. McLauchlin', written over a light blue background.

Paul McLauchlin, President

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