

July 28/09

Mr. Kevin Lynch
Clerk of the Privy Council and Secretary to the Cabinet
Langevin Block, 80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A3

Subject: Subject: DGTP-004-09 – Petitions to the Governor in Council concerning Telecom Decisions CRTC 2008-117 and CRTC 2008-118, Telecom Regulatory Policy CRTC 2009-34, and Telecom Order CRTC 2009-111

Dear Mr. Lynch,

I am writing to inform you that The Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce does not support the Bell and TELUS petitions and therefore does not share the views expressed by the National Chamber of Commerce in its letter to the Clerk of the Privy council dated May 8, 2009.

In effect these petitions ask the government to allow Bell and TELUS to reduce or eliminate fairly priced wholesale broadband services to competing service providers. The broadband services that are in dispute in the Bell and TELUS petitions are fundamental to competing telecommunications and Internet Service Providers, enabling them to offer competing broadband services like Internet and Ethernet-based solutions to business customers. The absence of these inputs would have a profound negative impact on telecommunications in Canada.

In its letter, the National Chamber claims to be speaking for 175,000 businesses and 350 local Chambers of Commerce, yet to our knowledge, the decision to support the Bell and TELUS petitions was not canvassed throughout the 350 local Chambers whose interests the National Chambers claims to represent. Current national policy speaks to the need for investment in broadband within a competitive environment. We strongly believe that support of the Bell and TELUS petition by the Canadian Chamber is not consistent with that policy and any specific support for the petition should have been part of a national policy discussion.

The interests of Bell and TELUS in this regard do not align with the interests and views of the membership of The Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce. The purpose of the local Chambers is to positively shape the business environment for its general membership.

The promotion of competition generally and particularly in the telecommunications market is in the interest of all businesses. Therefore The Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce strongly encourages the government to do all it can to ensure that both large and small Canadian businesses are provided with a broad choice of telecommunications and Internet service providers.

Yours truly,



David Angus
President and CEO

c.c.: Pamela Miller, A/Director General, Industry Canada
c.c.: John MacLise, MTS Allstream Inc.