

May 4, 2009

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

Re: Canada Gazette, Part I, Vol. 143, No. 14 — April 4, 2009

Notice No. 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 2009-111*

The Greater Halifax Partnership is the catalyst for economic growth and confidence in Greater Halifax, the economic hub of Nova Scotia.

Bell and Bell Aliant have invested heavily to ensure that Canadians and Canadian business have access to the best available next-generation communications networks (NGNs) to provide high-speed broadband services.

The CRTC's decisions to force telcos to provide competitors with access to next generation fibre infrastructure on a non-commercial bases seems inconsistent with Federal and Provincial broadband strategies and could perpetuate regulatory imbalance in a highly competitive market.

In addition, future telco investment decisions could be comprimized if their return on investment is formally undermined. Carrying out this decision could generate a major roadblock to private sector capital investment.

As an economic development organization, the Greater Halifax Partnership supports Bell's opposition to the aforementioned CRTC's position.

Sincerely,

Fred Morley
Executive Vice President and Chief Economist