



**Municipality of the  
County of Colchester**  
www.colchester.ca

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
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January 15, 2018

Director  
Spectrum Regulatory Best Practices  
Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada  
235 Queen Street,  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H5  
Via Email: [ic.spectrumauctions-encheresdsuspectre.ic@canada.ca](mailto:ic.spectrumauctions-encheresdsuspectre.ic@canada.ca)

Dear Director:

**RE: Submission in Response to Notice No. SLPB-006-17—Consultation on the  
Spectrum Outlook 2018 to 2022**

On behalf of the Council of the Municipality of the County of Colchester, Nova Scotia, I write to comment on the current decision-making process for allocation of spectrum.

While our municipal unit does not have technical expertise in this field, we offer community-rooted understanding of the importance of adequate and affordable internet service to our citizens and businesses. As a mixed rural and small-town region, we see both the positive consequences of appropriate high-speed internet for business and community viability, as well as witness the negative consequences of absent or inadequate service.

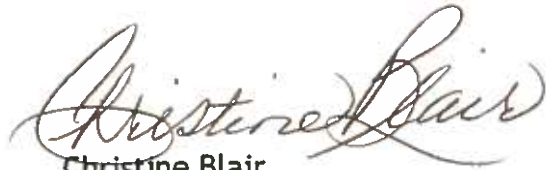
Improvements to internet services throughout our rural municipality are a high priority for us despite the municipal resource and policy role being secondary to other jurisdictions and private enterprise.

Along with some large service provider companies concentrated in our most densely populated routes and communities, we are fortunate to have several regional companies working toward improved service to our citizens elsewhere. These companies have invested in last and middle-mile technologies, primarily fixed-wireless, to reach many of the rural areas of our municipality. Gradually, fewer dead zones are present in Colchester County. Speeds and reliability have also been improving over recent years.

Our understanding is that current levels of spectrum allocation for regional wireless ISPs must be maintained to ensure adequate levels of service. The envisioned universal access (basic right) at 50 Mbps goal that has been asserted by the CRTC will require far greater spectrum allotments to providers willing and able to reach our underserved areas.

We urge the ISED to ensure equitable access for rural ISPs to licensed spectrum between 3400-3700 MHz.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Christine Blair". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Christine" and last name "Blair" clearly distinguishable.

Christine Blair  
Mayor