



THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE  
**REGINA SCHOOL DIVISION**

NO. 4 OF SASKATCHEWAN

J.A. Burnett Education Centre  
1800 4th Ave., Regina, Sask., S4R 8C8

Ph: (306) 791-82  
Fax: (306) 352-21

January 13, 2000

Mr. Mel Cappe  
Clerk of the Privy Council and Secretary to Cabinet  
Langevin Block  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0N2

Dear Mr. Cappe:

Re: Telephone Service to High-Cost Serving Areas  
Telecom Decision CRTC 99-16 97-42  
File No. 8665-C12-04197

The Board of Education of the Regina School Division No. 4 of Saskatchewan ("the Board") is responsible for providing educational services for approximately 23,500 Kindergarten - Grade 12 students in the City of Regina. As such, the Board is the largest school division in the province of Saskatchewan.

At a meeting held January 11, 2000, the Board expressed grave concerns regarding the impact of the above-noted CRTC decision and requested that same be registered with the appropriate authorities. In particular, the Governor in Council is urged to vary the CRTC decision to provide for the establishment of a "Universal Service Fund" designed to ensure that all school children in rural, remote or northern portions of Canada enjoy equal access to advanced telecommunications and information services. The assumption that only the northern territories are deserving of the cross-subsidization benefit provided by a "Universal Service Fund" fails to recognize the demographic realities in other parts of the country.

It is the Board's understanding that a petition and supporting documentation has been submitted by the Saskatchewan School Trustees Association requesting variance of the CRTC decision. The Board supports the SSTA in this endeavour and urges the Governor in Council to revise the CRTC decision as requested.

Your attention in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Yours truly,

*D. G. Burnett*

Debra G. Burnett  
Secretary-Treasurer

cc: *Mme. Françoise Bertrand, Chairperson, CRTC*  
*Regina Members of Parliament*  
*Minister of Education*  
*CSBA, SSTA, SaskTel*