

September 27, 2024

Matawa First Nation's Management & Rapid Lynx Telecommunications ISED Spectrum Policy Input

Theme 1: Policy Objectives

- Access to low end spectrum band for long range use in Remote First Nation's traditional territories.
- Sovereignty and governance over spectrum being used around First Nations traditional territories. Spectrum is a Natural resource.
- The ability for First Nations (remote and rural) to be decision-makers and economic participants in the access to technology and communication resources is essential to community safety, governance and well-being.
- Government policy on spectrum should not be limited to industry interests and investors, but instead recognize spectrum as the information, communication and technology resource relied upon in First Nation communities.

Theme 2: Eligibility criteria

- We are in support of Option 2 (Community Support Based) and Option 3 (Project Based) as a hybrid.
- Option 2 & 3 together would be ideal a hybrid of both. In the interest of both Community Support and indigenous lead Project-based support.

Option 2 (Community support-based IE: Matawa First Nations): Written support from the community, band council, settlement or a relevant governing body
e.g. band council resolution or similar documentation based on government structure of the Indigenous Nation or community.
<https://www.matawa.on.ca/>

Option 3 (Project-based IE: Rapid Lynx Telecommunications): Leverage the I4DM definitional matrix definition
e.g. provides broad definitions of what is considered Indigenous benefitting, Indigenous- informed, or Indigenous-led.
<https://www.rapidlynx.ca/>



Theme 3: Time-limited Window.

- A 12-month timeline is too short. We would like to see this timeline extended to a minimum of 24 months ideally longer (5 Years).

Theme 4: Conditions of license

- Fees and cost to obtain licenses need to be at little to no cost and/ or awarded at no cost to First Nation communities an/d or First Nation Telecom Providers. This needs to be as barrier free as possible. Cut down on any paperwork or reporting. Licence Areas are not realistic for example Matawa First Nations would need to get 4 different area licences to serve our First Nation communities.

Theme 5: Engagement

- ISED needs more exposure to First Nation communities. Host info events (In big city`s as well as remote First Nation communities). More online info sessions. Be at more conferences to be present in the industry.