

Q1 ISED is seeking comments on the proposed considerations to identify frequency bands where the proposed SMCS framework will be applied.

Ans: *As part of our Mission, Vision and goals for the Indigenous and Metis Communities in St. Laurent, Manitoba, we are very hopeful that a Supplemental Mobile Coverage by Satellite (SMCS) will be made available to the residents of St. Laurent who are majority Metis people and over 50% are above 50 years old and needing access to broadband connectivity.*

In early Spring, I wrote a letter to the Hon. Lisa Naylor, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure with the Provincial Government of Premier Wab Kinew. The Letter, dated April 15, 2024, is attached here and asking for support to provide enhanced cellular services after Bell MTS, pulled out their plan to build a cellular tower in the area, after laying off thousands of workers across the country.

As part of our healthcare service delivery, is to ensure that we are delivering those services are aligned with the Reconciliation Initiative and "94 Calls to Action" of which Action 18- 24 are healthcare delivery.

Much of the contents of the Consultation are very technical in nature which we are not inclined to dwell more but here's what we can advocate for, is to have at minimum, 800MHZ Cellular frequency.

We are developing digital e-health software application for our programming and this software will only be functional if there is a seamless broadband connectivity capability. If a robust SMCS infrastructure is existing, the Indigenous people will have a very positive health outcome. As the software will greatly reduced wait times and there will be a suitable transmission of data and information among health units/nursing stations, healthcare providers and clients and families.

Access to a good broadband cellular connectivity is very significant for the Interlake Region, as this is where Highway 6 is located that goes all the way to Thompson, Manitoba, the nickel mining capital of Manitoba. We envision that Highway 6, will have access to a good SMCS to ensure our healthcare service delivery for the Indigenous Peoples will be seamless.

Q2 ISED is seeking comments on whether it should consider the service area size and/or the presence of mobile service providers holding the same frequency block as part of the general considerations for identifying frequency bands where the proposed SMCS framework will be applied.

Ans: ISED should consider the accessibility of a low-density Indigenous Communities to a vast cellular SMCS framework, particularly within the remote and rural communities, particularly on Highway 6, Manitoba all the way to Thompson Manitoba.

Q3 ISED is seeking comments on the potential for the SMCS satellites to have smaller beam sizes such that they could serve smaller service areas and potentially reduce protection areas around existing mobile networks.

Ans: For safety, security and accessibility, ISED should consider the benefits for using smaller SMCS Satellites and at the same time should consider not disrupting the services to existing mobile networks. It should be a win-win scenario and not a win-lose scenario.

Q9 ISED is seeking comments on the roles that SMCS and terrestrial mobile service expansion may play, as well as any potential limitations, in providing greater mobile service coverage to Canadians, including along roads and highways.

Ans. This will enhance the driving experience, as well, families travelling with kids, will ensure that there is access for connectivity for TV connectivity and other social media platforms while on the highway, rest stops or camping near highways, etc.

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