

JUL 28 2006

Ms. Diane Rhéaume
Secretary General
Canadian Radio-Television and
Telecommunications Commission
Ottawa ON K1A 0N2

Dear Ms. Rhéaume:

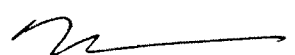
Telecom Public Notice CRTC 2006-1
Review of Regulatory Framework for Northwestel Inc.

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) is in receipt of a letter dated July 25, 2006 from Telus to the CRTC concerning the subject proceeding. The letter provides Telus comments concerning material furnished by Northwestel as undertakings on July 20/21 and 24. Telus comments came some four days after final argument was made by the GNWT, Telus and other parties. If Telus comments are to be considered, the GNWT believes all parties should have an opportunity to comment on the new material furnished by Northwestel and would submit as follows.

The GNWT would object strongly to the scenario outlined in one of its undertakings by Northwestel of charging different toll connect rates for the communities of Yellowknife, Whitehorse and Fort Nelson as compared to other communities. Deaveraging of toll connect rates would provide a further disincentive to competitive service provision to smaller communities and in the longer term could lead to broad deaveraging of toll rates contrary to CRTC policy and the position of the GNWT.

While the GNWT's position is that toll-connect costs are appropriately recovered through a NCF subsidy, if such an approach is not adopted the GNWT would strongly oppose any deaveraging of toll connect rates levied upon competitors.

Sincerely,

 (MIKEAUMOND)

FOV / Mike Aumond
Deputy Minister

c. Northwestel, Interested parties.

