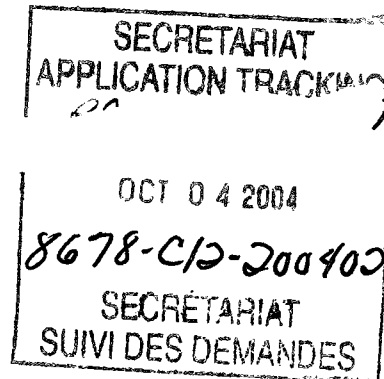


September 27, 2004

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



Dear Ms. Rhéaume:

**Re: Bell Canada's Proposed Broadband Expansion Program
Public Notice 2004-1
Review and disposition of deferral accounts for the second price cap period**

The Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC) is a federation of 160 local chambers of commerce and boards of trade in the Province of Ontario, representing some 57,000 businesses of all sizes, in all economic sectors and from every area of the province. The OCC's mandate is to advocate strong policies on issues that affect its membership throughout Ontario's business community.

The OCC believes that the delivery of broadband service to those in rural and remote communities across Ontario that currently do not and cannot have access, while vital to the economic viability of those regions, is not commercially feasible due to the prohibitive costs inherent in such an undertaking.

It is the OCC's understanding that Bell Canada has filed a proposal with the CRTC in the deferral account proceeding initiated by Public Notice 2004-1, *Review and disposition of deferral accounts for the second price cap period*.

The OCC is impressed by Bell's initiative, as the ability to access broadband services is a fundamental component of economic development in the Province of Ontario. Having access to such technologies is vital to creating a competitive and level playing field for small businesses and entrepreneurs.

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In its submission with the CRTC, Bell has proposed to implement a three-year program that would make broadband service available to an additional 200,000 homes and business lines in over 1,100 rural and remote communities in Ontario and Quebec where broadband is not currently available and will not be commercially feasible.

By the end of this plan, Bell expects approximately 30,000 additional customers to subscribe to broadband service.

The program is designed to complement existing government programs that provide funding for the widespread deployment of broadband service, and is consistent with the government's goal of making broadband service widely available.

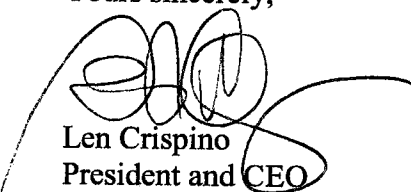
The program would provide significant benefits to both residential and business customers who live and work in rural areas where broadband services are not presently available. It is the OCC's strong opinion that significant economic and other benefits would also result from this laudable program.

This \$120 million program would be substantially funded from Bell Canada's deferral account, as well as Bell Canada. In addition, the broadband infrastructure deployed under the program would be made available to other broadband service providers on a wholesale basis, thereby potentially providing residents and businesses with the flexibility to choose between broadband services.

In conclusion, it is the Ontario Chamber of Commerce's respectful position that the CRTC endorse the proposal by Bell Canada.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Yours sincerely,



Len Crispino
President and CEO