

Canadian
Red Cross

Croix-Rouge
canadienne

Ottawa, October 15, 2004

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

Ms. Rhéaume:

Subject: Telecom Public Notice CRTC 2004-1, Review and disposition of deferral accounts for the second price cap period.

The Canadian Red Cross Society (CRCS) is a non-profit, humanitarian organization dedicated to improving the situation of the most vulnerable by mobilizing the power of humanity in Canada and around the world.

The CRCS assists millions of Canadians each year through disaster relief and preparedness programs, abuse and injury prevention services and outreach programs tailored to meet the needs of individual communities across the country.

The CRCS is familiar with the application by Bell Canada to use funds from the Deferral Account to support the roll-out of the High Probability of Completion (HPC) feature in the telecommunications network to ensure that, during times of crises, timely, reliable communications are available to emergency planners and emergency operations personnel which can greatly support relief operations. Telecommunications networks play a vital role in the event of regional and national emergencies. Communications technology is a fundamental enabler of emergency organizations like the CRCS which has personnel involved in the management of these situations, allowing them to remain informed, coordinate activities and to inform those directly affected by emergency situations.

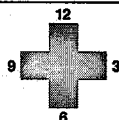
As emergency management expert and first responder, the CRCS believes that HPC would make a substantial contribution toward improving emergency preparedness in Canada that would save lives and protect property. We strongly support Bell's application, and hope the CRTC will approve this expenditure of Deferral Account funds.

Yours truly,

John C. Mulvihill
Deputy Secretary General, Operations

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