

# BONNYVILLE REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY

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## **Re: Canada Gazette, Part I, December 2005, Notice Reference # DGTP-004-05**

Proposals and Changes to the Spectrum in Certain Bands Below 1.7 Ghz  
Part 6. Multi-use Radio Service (MURS) in the 150 MHz Band

To Whom it may Concern:

The Bonnyville Regional Fire Authority wishes to go on record as being unconditionally opposed to the Industry Canada proposal regarding MURS in the 150 MHz band. It is totally unreasonable for Industry Canada to expect licensed public safety users of assigned frequencies (many of whom are volunteer fire services) to replace or re-program their radio equipment to accommodate a new spectrum application for unlicensed users with no compensation for their costs. These are the first responders to emergencies across vast tracts of this largely rural nation, and the majority operate on very small budgets with virtually no opportunity to increase their level of tax revenue.

It is our position that if Industry Canada wishes to accommodate the MURS on the stated 150 MHz frequencies then Industry Canada must provide sufficient funding to the affected parties to undertake the necessary radio reprogramming or replacement as required. This must include not only the licensed two-way radio equipment directly impacted, but also the numerous voice pagers that are tuned to the receive the same frequencies . These voice pagers are used to notify volunteer firefighter of the need to respond to an emergency. As the majority of Fire Services in Canada are volunteer this impact will be monumental.

It is not appropriate to impose such costs on affected parties which pay a license fee to operate on those assigned frequencies because commercial and recreational users wish to use them. The approach of Industry Canada to reconfigure the spectrum to accommodate new users because of decisions of the United States FCC at the expense of existing licensed users is a dereliction of duty.

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