

**T. BECKETT
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF**

April 18, 2006

**Kitchener Fire
Development & Technical Services Department
Corporation of the City of Kitchener
270 Strasburg Road
Kitchener, ON N2E 3M6
Telephone: (519) 741-2926
Facsimile: (519) 741-2697**

Mr. Larry Shaw
Director General
Telecommunications Policy Branch
Industry Canada
300 Slater Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0C8

Dear Mr. Shaw:

On behalf of the City of Kitchener Fire Department, I am writing to object to the proposals outlined in Section 6 of the paper titled "Proposals and changes to the Spectrum in Certain Bands below 1.7 GHz".

These changes will negatively affect the integrity and capability of fire service communications systems and will degrade fire fighter safety.

The fire service uses the 150 MHz bandwidth for many reasons, including primary two way radio communication, paging out of firefighters to scenes and as a backup to their 800 MHz system.

The introduction of MURS into this bandwidth causes many concerns including the unwanted interruption of radio traffic on an emergency scene. The narrowing of bandwidths will require many departments to upgrade radio systems to facilitate the narrowing. This is a costly venture that could lead to costs greater than a fire departments entire budget.

If the trend of Industry Canada is to immitate the United States, then focus must be put on a secured public safety spectrum and costs associated to this must be assisted by Federal Government.

In light of the recent proposals, and impact on public safety, We would urge you to consider postponing any changes, until a task force of involved stakeholders is set up to review and provide acceptable alternatives to the fire service.

Sincerely,



T. Beckett
Deputy Fire Chief

TB:rs

Cc MP A. Telegdi, MP K. Redman, MPP J. Milloy, MPP E. Witmer