



June 14, 2006

Sent to [wireless@ic.gc.ca](mailto:wireless@ic.gc.ca)

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

Dear Mr. Shaw:

**Re: Proposed Changes to Radio Spectrum Below 1.7 GHz**

When the Board of Directors of the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) met on June 8, 2006, it considered a report from the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs requesting ROMA join them in opposing the proposed changes to the 150 MHz radio frequency.

ROMA is very concerned about the proposals outlined in Section Six of the *Proposals and Changes to the Spectrum in Certain Bands Below 1.7 GHz* discussion paper. We feel opening up this frequency to the private sector will negatively impact the ability of fire and emergency services to maintain mandatory service levels. Overloading this radio frequency will force municipalities to require expensive changes to municipal fire department communication systems. If this proposal is approved, the Multi-Use Radio Systems will generate radio interference for many fire departments and will require some departments to move their communications to other frequencies. There are at least 15 municipal fire departments that will be directly impacted plus additional fire departments with mutual aid systems will also be affected.

Merely making another frequency available will not help municipalities, as this will result in a huge financial impact in terms of the costs of the new radio equipment (old equipment may not work on the new frequency) or to reprogram existing equipment.

The ROMA Board urges you to reconsider the proposed change in order to preserve the integrity of Ontario's municipal emergency services.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Doug Thompson'.

Doug Thompson  
ROMA Chair

cc: ROMA Board  
Barry Malmsten, Executive Director, Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs