

16 August 2006
(sent via email)

Director General
Telecommunications Policy Branch
Industry Canada
16th Floor, 300 Slater Street
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0C8

To whom it may concern:

I have just recently become aware of the Canada Gazette Notice (Vol. 124, No. 24 - June 17, 2006) which issued an Order under Section 8 of the Telecommunications Act - Policy Direction to the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC).

In a nutshell, the Order directs the CRTC to "rely on market forces to the maximum extent feasible and regulate, where there is still a need to do so, in a manner that interferes with market forces to the minimum extent necessary." In addition, the Gazette Notice acknowledges that a fundamental finding of the Telecommunications Review Panel (the Panel) was that "competition in telecommunications markets has evolved to the point where market forces can be relied upon to achieve many telecommunications policy objectives and the need for regulation should no longer be presumed."

I find it unfortunate that the Panel's fundamental finding is out-of-step with reality. We have essentially non-existent competition in both the residential local and payphone market places. In addition, the Panel was denied valuable input into its finding development process when the then Minister of Industry chose not to undertake certain audits as I had suggested to him via my submission of 25 September 2005.

Given that the Government of Canada is proceeding to revamp the CRTC's policy direction without undertaking a formal review process, I hereby resubmit my original letter issued to the then Minister of Industry for immediate action. Without the proposed audits, I feel that Canadians are being denied their fundamental right for accountability in Government and the CRTC.

Therefore, labeled as Attachment 1 and forming part of this submission, please accept my original letter of 25 September 2005 to the then Minister of Industry as an action request for the Government of Canada to undertake the audits as outlined.

Only once the requested audits have been undertaken and the results made public, do I believe the Government of Canada can truly move forward to create appropriate policy directions for the CRTC which will benefit all parties (rate-payers, tax-payers and industry participants).

All of the above and associated attachment is respectfully submitted for your attention and action this 16th August 2006.

Yours very truly,

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