

Minister of Public Safety



Ministre de la Sécurité publique

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0P8

OTTAWA POLICE SERVICES BOARD

DEC 08 2011

DEC 14 2011

Mr. Eli El-Chantiry
Chair
Ottawa Police Services Board
110 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 1J1

File #: _____
MLog #: _____
Action: _____

Dear Mr. El-Chantiry:

Thank you for your correspondence of March 30, 2011, informing me of the resolution of the Ottawa Police Services Board concerning the allocation of 20 megahertz (MHz) of the 700 MHz spectrum for public safety use. I apologize for the delay in replying to you.

Part of Public Safety Canada's (PS) role is to develop and coordinate national policies, response systems and standards to reduce the impact of emergencies that could affect Canada's population and infrastructure. As an extension of this role, we work closely with the emergency management community. Engagement with key stakeholders is vital to achieving this goal, and I welcome your letter in this regard.

On January 26, 2011, Federal, Provincial, and Territorial Ministers Responsible for Emergency Management announced the Communications Interoperability Strategy and Action Plan for Canada. Together, these documents identify key priorities and next steps for improving voice and data communications for emergency responders. The Action Plan clearly defines the need to recommend public safety employment of the 700 MHz spectrum. This initiative, through cooperation with the public safety and security communities, helps ensure the safety and security of Canadians.

With the transition from analog to digital television broadcasting, and the reallocation of spectrum in the 700 MHz range, there is a unique opportunity to upgrade the communication capabilities for emergency responders. Industry Canada (IC) is responsible for spectrum management in Canada and has sought input on general policy considerations prior to the auction of the 700 MHz spectrum in 2012. PS submitted a response to IC signalling our support for the allocation of 20 MHz consistent with the needs of emergency responders. The PS response is available on IC's website at: <http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/smt-gst.nsf/eng/sf09997.html>.

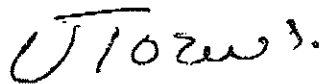
- 2 -

The consultation process provided PS with a unique opportunity to lay the foundation for a national mobile broadband communications network that will allow the public safety and security communities to better plan, coordinate, and execute day-to-day operations and crisis response measures. PS believes that an optimum portion of the 700 MHz spectrum is required to safeguard Canadians. Pursuant to this goal, PS has recently created a Project Office with a mandate to develop a 700 MHz spectrum allocation plan. I should also note that the Government committed to setting aside spectrum for emergency responders in its election platform.

It is through close cooperation between PS and the public safety and security communities that we will continue to safeguard Canadians against the threats and dangers of the 21st Century. The participation of emergency responders will be particularly important in developing the way forward, and I look forward to your participation in this endeavour.

Again, thank you for writing.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vic Toews". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Vic Toews, P.C., Q.C., M.P.