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Representing Northern Business Since 1973

January 21, 2019

Mr. John Macri
Director, Policy Framework
Telecommunications Sector

Re: Telecom Notice of Consultation CRTC 2018-214, *Review of the price cap and local forbearance regimes* - Request to made a party to the proceedings

We have recently become aware of the above noted proceedings and the consideration of removing the cap that Northwestel currently has which will affect the charges for businesses. As we currently represent 500+ business in the Northwest Territories in all sectors from sole proprietors to large corporations, our membership has indicated that the cost of business is their number one concern as a business owner. Currently under the cap businesses are paying close to double for a basic internet package then they would in the southern provinces, with slower speeds. Only in May of 2018 were all 33 communities provided 4G networks. Based on information provide by some of the communities the speeds are still not adequate showing as low as: download speeds of only 2.3 Mbps and upload speeds of 0.4 Mbps. The high rates and slow speeds make Internet use ineffective and thus impede the ability of our membership to fully use the Internet and derive the benefits from such use that other businesses' experience in the rest of Canada. We believe this is an issue of extreme importance for our membership and other norther businesses.

We realize that the deadline for initial interventions and for interested person's to be made parties to this proceeding has passed. In order to provide our members and other northern businesses with the ability to voice their support or concern with certain parties' proposals, we respectfully request that the Commission amend the TNC 2018-214-1 to allow us and other interested parties to register as a party to the proceedings by January 31, 2019 so that we and others can file comments on February 22, 2019. In the alternative, and a minimum, we request that we be made party to the proceeding and be allowed to file a final submission on February 22, 2019 as presently contemplated in the Commission's Notice of Consultation. This would allow us and other impacted Northern businesses to comment with no change to the Commission's current procedures. Given parties are afforded a subsequent right of final reply in the process, currently scheduled for March 8, 2019, we anticipate no untoward consequences to any party.

Regards,

A blue ink signature of Renée Comeau.

Renée Comeau
General Manager, NWT Chamber of Commerce

A black ink signature of Trevor Wever.

Trevor Wever
President, NWT Chamber of Commerce

Cc'd: Ms. Christine Brock CRTC; Ms. Krista Prochazka, Director, Government Relations, Northwestel Inc; Mr. Stan Thompson, Chief Financial Officer and Vice-President, Northwestel Inc