December 15, 2015

Ms. Janice Charette  
Clerk of the Privy Council and Secretary to the Cabinet  
Langevin Block  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A3


Dear Ms. Charette:

CRTC’s decision to require telecommunications companies, such as Bell Canada, to provide access to their expensive “fibre to the home” network infrastructure potentially threatens the expansion of these high-end services to smaller cities. The City of Peterborough, a community with a population of approximately 80,000 people, is currently benefiting from Bell Canada’s $35-million installation of a fibre optic cable network that allows the company to offer its Bell Fibe TV and Internet service in Peterborough. By eroding its competitive advantage, the incentive to make these investments in smaller markets such as Peterborough is diminished.

Internet and communications infrastructure is vital for economic development opportunities for smaller urban centres. Providing high-speed Internet access gives Peterborough the opportunity to attract and retain businesses and jobs that depend on this technology. While the CRTC appropriately regulates the industry to ensure competition and open access, I respectfully submit that the Commission needs to balance this with the desire of smaller communities to attract these expensive investments that only the larger companies can undertake. I request that the Governor in Council vary the CRTC’s decision to this end.

Regards,

Daryl Bennett  
Mayor

cc: Director General, Telecommunications Policy Branch, Industry Canada  
cc: Peterborough-Kawartha MP Maryam Monsef