Hello my name is Sean Reyno and I am a partner and the COO with VC Communications, a communications contracting company which employs over 180 Canadians whose jobs have been put at risk by a decision by the CRTC in July 2015. VC communications is a contracting company who are involved in the building of communication networks, specializing in FTTH networks. This industry employs thousands of Canadians nationally, with good secure jobs in a historically healthy and robust market.

Our company started in NS thirteen years ago out of the back of a garage and now works in almost every province in Canada as well as international work. VC’s model is to hire locals as well as bring in employees from other provinces. We set up temporary shops as we move throughout the country renting houses, staying in hotels, eating in local restaurants, buying supplies at local businesses, etc. and injecting an untold amount of money into the local market we are in. As we work in these markets we typically set up a permanent office in the new geography as opportunities allow. This is enabled by the operators investment in the local networks as they strive to compete in today's market.

Some of our employees come from very seasonal labour markets such as farming, home construction or the fisheries. Many did not have the opportunity, education or experience to garner good gainful employment thereby limiting their ability to reach a standard of living that every Canadian should have access to for themselves and their families.

This Industry has allowed thousands of individuals to reach that standard of living and become productive, contributing and proud members of this country.

This CRTC ruling allows internet resellers, forced access to Bell’s new Fibre-to-the-home networks (FTTH). This decision is completely contradictory in an organization whose mission statement is that they are “Committed to ensuring that Canadians – as citizens, creators and consumers – have access to a world-class communication system.”.

VC, and other Canadian contractors are dependent on the large investments in new technology made by companies such as Bell to keep healthy, continue to grow and employ more Canadians. This decision by the CRTC jeopardizes not only our employees’ futures, but the futures of many companies who rely on this work. This ruling changes whether or not there is a business case to build in a lot of communities, thereby delaying the build or taking it off the table all together. Not only are the companies who build these networks affected but so will the communities who will not have the benefit of the monetary influx nor the latest in communication technology.
I am not sure how many thousands of Canadians will be employed by these internet resellers. I am sure it is a very lucrative endeavour to have someone else build your network for you while you reap the rewards by undercutting price with all the savings you enjoy.

This of course cascades into layoffs and stops the spending of tens if not hundreds of thousands of dollars we would have injected into these local communities. In addition to this is the fact that these communities will also lose out on the benefits that a world class network provides and the opportunities missed are unmeasurable.

I am not a formally educated business owner, and I do not pretend to understand all the intricacies and the nuances that played out leading to this decision, but I do know what makes sense, and what is fair, and this decision is by no means either. The disparity between the benefits granted to the winners of this ruling and the economic losses to a far greater segment of the Canadian people is utterly ridiculous and borders on unethical.

I appeal strongly to you that you will re-consider the decision of the CRTC and fairly consider its impact on the ability and desire of the operators in this country to continue growing their networks out and into those communities who do not have the benefit of these leading edge networks. Also consider the Canadians who will be in these communities looking for work on these inferior networks, as companies like ours will not be able to continue growing and employing Canadians.

Respectfully yours,

[Signature]