September 1, 2006

Director General, Spectrum Engineering Branch,
300 Slater Street,
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0C8

Re: Canada Gazette, June 3, 2006
SMSE-005-06
Consultation Paper on Public Safety Radio Interoperability Guidelines

Director General,

Research In Motion (RIM) is pleased to respond to Canada Gazette Notice SMSE-005-06 on Public Safety Radio Interoperability Guidelines. RIM participated fully in preparing the Radio Advisory Board of Canada response and fully supports it. RIM would like to provide additional comments which we believe will help the Department in preparing the policy for Interoperability.

Given the increasingly diverse set of public safety requirements for communication it has become more of necessity to have interoperability not just for voice but also for data.

During recent public emergencies, data devices played a major role in the communication between various public safety and disaster relief agencies. The communication between devices continued in spite of many adversities that were affecting the various public networks. The RABC response also recommends the use of public networks. The public networks provide diversity which in times of disaster is important in case parts of the network are destroyed.

Many major emergency services in Canada as well as other parts of the world are relying on information systems to perform their task. These databases in many instances can be shared and hence interoperability is essential for data. Many of the data devices are very sophisticated and are equivalent to a computer.

It is hoped that the comments provided herein will aid the Department in the development of public safety radio interoperability guidelines that are both effective and sufficiently flexible to accommodate the different needs of public safety.

We look forward to further discussions with the Department on the some unique solutions that RIM and our partners have provided to public safety agencies.

Sincerely,

Dave Jaworsky
Director, Government & University Relations
Research In Motion