August 30, 2006

Industry Canada
Spectrum Management & Telecommunications
Southern Saskatchewan District
600 – 1945 Hamilton Street
Regina, SK S4P 2C7

Attention: Director General, Spectrum Engineering Branch

Re: City of Regina, Response to Consultation Paper on Public Safety Radio Interoperability Guidelines

The City of Regina Emergency Planning Division, in conjunction with the City of Regina Radio Management Committee, have met and reviewed the Consultation Paper, as requested. I note the Emergency Planning Division does coordinate the Major Emergency Disaster Plan; for the City of Regina and representatives from the Radio Management Committee are active participants in our preparedness plans.

The City of Regina has an interagency Radio Management Committee and is responsible for the management of the radio program. The Committee communicates direction for radio system planning, provisioning, spectrum licensing, training, operating, to the Regina Police Service Communications Manager. The Committee is also responsible for the management of the radio system within their agency. The Committee is responsible for recommendations on issues outside their area of responsibility to the Joint Steering Committee. Members will include representatives from Regina Fire Department, Regina Police Service, Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region, Emergency Medical Services and all City of Regina Departments (Emergency Planning, Corporate Services, Community Services, Engineering and Works, and Regina Transit).

The Radio Management Committee provides the following comments to the questions you raise.

In regards to:

3. **Radio Interoperability Definitions**
   - We agree the definitions accurately reflect the concept of radio interoperability.
   - We agree the ways of classifying radio interoperability is correctly stated.
   - We are unaware of other operating environments for radio interoperability that are not correctly captured by the three identified on page 3.

4. **Levels of Radio Interoperability**

Presently the City of Regina utilizes:

Level 5 — for our Fire, Regina Police Services, City Departments and Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region and Emergency Medical Services communication.
Level 4 – for our Regina Police Services and capability/option to communicate with the City of Saskatoon Police

Level 3 – for our backup communication Simplex System

Level 2 – for our ability to communicate with the RCMP

Level 1 – for our Volunteer Amateur Radio Emergency Services teams, which are used for backup and Search & Rescue Regina requests from Regina Police Services and RCMP.

We agree the hierarchy described on page 4 (Levels of Radio Interoperability) adequately describes the various levels of radio interoperability that are achievable between public safety users.

We are not aware of other levels of radio interoperability which should be included.

5. Radio Interoperability Guidelines

We agree that option 3, as identified on page 6, does provide flexibility to users and achieves a high degree of radio interoperability.

We are unaware of other approaches to advance the issue of radio interoperability between public safety users that the Department should consider within its mandate.

Note: The City of Regina, Radio Management Committee, would want to be given the opportunity to comment if option 3 is expanded on other issues of radio interoperability such as governance and funding, standard operating procedures, training, exercises and usage.

We would be interested in seeing or reviewing the comments from other municipalities across Canada to ensure the issues identified are comparable.

I thank you for the opportunity to respond to your initiative.

Yours truly,

Warren Bobbee
Manager, Occupational Health, Safety & Prevention

cc: Shelley Kloecko, Regina Police Services
Laura Markewich, Regina Fire Department
Kim Gurwin, Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region, EMS