Nov. 19, 1999

Industry Canada
2500 MHZ@ic.gc.ca

Re: Deafnet Teleco
2500 MCS Proposal for Nova Scotia

All proposals to deliver 2500 multi point communications services and its associated learning plan to Nova Scotia were considered in the context of the following principles. These were established by the Department of Education as the designated Learning Authority in consultation with representatives of educational institutions, museums, libraries and CAP sites in Nova Scotia:

- equity of access, price and availability in urban and rural areas
- favourable rates for education
- control of content by educators in Nova Scotia
- (desirable) private sector management of networking
- affordable upgradability to match advances in technology

As a fundamental principle, higher bandwidth access must be made available to educational institutions in rural parts of the province which are most in need of distance education services. A successful bidder should have a realistic plan to extend networks and high bandwidth services outside the most urban areas of the province. Many schools, libraries and CAP sites in the Province now regularly consume 100% of their bandwidth and we are only half way through the installation of computers under the Information Economy Initiative. There is a serious need for affordable bandwidth across the province, particularly in rural areas. Merely offering high speed access within Halifax would not meet educational needs of the province.

The proposal submitted by Deafnet Teleco does not address the above principles. The Deafnet proposal to distribute the video based “sign-net” might have some value as an education service to the deaf community, but we are concerned that the necessary infrastructure to carry their service through 2500 MCS will be limited to a portion of the Halifax Regional Municipality.

I look forward to working with the designated licensee for Nova Scotia.

Yours truly,

Michael Jeffrey, Director