February 28, 2011

Manager, Mobile Technology and Services
Industry Canada
300 Slater Street
Ottawa, ON, K1A 0C8

The Mayor of the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville is in receipt of a letter from Bell Mobility alerting the Town to the future auction of 700 MHz spectrum. Bell has expressed concern that the auction needs to be open, transparent and without preferential treatment for particular companies. We understand municipalities have been encouraged to provide comments to Industry Canada.

Town Staff are not in a position to comment on the technical elements of communication technology, such as spectrum, or related bidding processes. The current lack of broadband internet connectivity in the rural and remote areas of our municipality is a major concern to Town Council and residents. In 2009 the Town conducted a gap analysis of broadband availability in the rural areas of the municipality to better understand limitations in broadband coverage. Survey results identified significant geographic areas without access to broadband indicating that internet service providers (ISPs) have failed to adequately provide affordable and accessible broadband service to a significant number of our rural residents. Regardless of the spectrum and/or the auction process, we anticipate Industry Canada will proceed in a manner that will successfully address this concern.
We urge the federal government to take whatever steps are necessary to serve the rural areas of our municipality, and others in a similar situation, as soon as possible.

Kind Regards,

[Signature]

Rebecca Mustard  
Economic Development Officer

cc. Mayor & Council  
David J. Cash, Chief Administrative Officer  
Wade Oosterman, President, Bell Mobility