



Canadian Network Operators Consortium Inc.
Consortium des Opérateurs de Réseaux Canadiens Inc.

***** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE *****

CNOCC ELATED AS FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DENIES BELL PETITION

May 11, 2016

Ottawa, ON – Canadian Network Operators Consortium Inc. (CNOCC) is thrilled with today's statement from Minister for Innovation, Science and Economic Development, Navdeep Bains, to uphold the CRTC decision to mandate access to fibre to the premise networks and deny the Bell petition to Cabinet.

The day after the new Federal Government was elected, Bell Canada launched an appeal to overturn a landmark CRTC decision that would ensure that CNOCC members have access to the incumbent networks. Overturning the CRTC's decision would have effectively ended the ability for non-incumbent providers to provide high-speed broadband into the future.

"We are grateful for the Federal Government's huge vote of confidence in our members to provide accessible, reliable and affordable services," said CNOCC president Bill Sandiford. "Most importantly, this is a huge win for Canadians consumers and their ability to choose a provider who best meets their needs," said Sandiford.

Today's decision, combined with the recent Budget announcement to provide \$500 million over five years, starting in 2016–17 for broadband service in rural and remote communities, sets the stage for continued investment and expansion of broadband across the country.

"CNOCC genuinely appreciates these efforts and is looking forward to hearing the details of the new program" concluded Sandiford.

About CNOCC

The Canadian Networks Operators Consortium Inc. (CNOCC) is composed of over 35 innovative competitive telecommunications services providers that own or operate wireline and/or wireless networks operating in many regions of Canada. The objectives of CNOCC are to promote innovation and increase the level of competitive communications services business in the Canadian economy.

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