



Canadian Network Operators Consortium Inc.

Consortium des Opérateurs de Réseaux Canadiens Inc.

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

CNOCC APPLAUDS CRTC DECISION TO SET NEW RATES FOR WHOLESALE INTERNET SERVICES THAT WILL BENEFIT CONSUMERS AND COMPETITION IN CANADA'S BROADBAND AND INTERNET SERVICE MARKET

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Ottawa, ON – Canadian Network Operators Consortium (CNOCC) applauds a decision released today by the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) that sets new rates for the services that competitive Internet service providers require to provide Canadians with choice of Internet services.

“The CRTC’s decision makes clear that it is very concerned that rates proposed by the large telephone and cable companies would diminish the competitive choice in Internet services that is available to Canadians. While today is one step in a complex process, it is clear that the CRTC is acting to ensure that Canadians continue to have access to a wide selection of competitive, innovative and differentiated Internet services.” said Matt Stein, CNOCC’s Spokesperson and Vice-Chair and CEO of Distributel.

Today’s decision follows a proceeding initiated by the CRTC to review how the rates are set for services that the large telephone and cable companies are required to provide to competitive Internet service providers. The CRTC also considered an application and submissions by CNOCC that raised concerns that the rates charged by the large telephone and cable companies for these services are not correct.

“The decision released today removes a significant amount of uncertainty faced by competitive Internet service providers. We are very pleased that the CRTC clearly recognizes that the rates proposed by the large telephone and cable companies are not reasonable and has taken strong measures to address this issue. The CRTC’s actions will immediately benefit Canadian consumers and businesses and we are hopeful that the final outcome of this matter will have the same result” stated Michael Garbe, CNOCC’s Chair and President and CEO of Accelerated Connections Inc.

About CNOCC

CNOCC is comprised of more than 30 competitive telecommunications services providers that own or operate wireline and/or wireless networks in many regions of Canada. CNOCC’s mission is to increase the level of competitive choice and innovation in the delivery of communications services to Canadians.