
COMPETITIVE NETWORK OPERATORS OF CANADA
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Competitive Network Operators of Canada (CNOC) Welcomes CRTC Decision to Mandate Interim FTTP Access in Ontario and Quebec, but Concerned about Narrow Regional Approach and Rates

Toronto, ON, November 6, 2023 — Competitive Network Operators of Canada (CNOC), the representative body for competitive internet service providers, today applauds the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC)'s decision to mandate aggregated Fiber-to-the-Premises (FTTP) access to certain regions of Canada. While this decision marks an important and essential step towards a fairer competitive landscape, CNOC has concerns about the application of the decision to only one class of wholesale service provider, lack of continued relief for rest of Canada along with rates above those in market today.

While today's decision is a positive first step, Paul Andersen, CNOC's President and Chair, notes the journey towards vigorous competition is not complete as today's decision only implements an interim regional regime for two major telephone companies and rates are still interim. "A national permanent framework applicable to all dominant carriers with just and reasonable rates is required to allow for true competition which is yet to be established. This is essential, as the right structure is the cornerstone for innovation and investment in the services that our members provide," Andersen cautioned. "We've seen how restrictive rates can impede our ability to innovate; therefore, we are optimistic that the CRTC will continue on the path they have started and quickly establish a national framework with final rates that supports vigorous national competition."

CNOC has long advocated for the necessity of fair access to FTTP infrastructure to drive innovation and consumer choice in Canada. "We are at a critical juncture," Andersen explains. "While the mandate is in place, which we view as a victory for competitive access, our optimism is tempered by concerns of the regional nature which will not allow all CNOC members from coast to coast to compete."

"We are thankful the Commission has set interim rates; however, these wholesale rates which are just one of the cost inputs to our services, are well above retail rates seen in the market today. Until final rates that are just and reasonable are set, significant competition is unlikely to be stimulated."

While CNOC is steadfast in its commitment to the future of Canada's digital landscape, it continues to note the urgency for a timely conclusion to the current regulatory process culminating in a final decision that will foster equitable and healthy competition. "We will continue to engage with the CRTC and all relevant parties to advocate for rate setting that allows our members to thrive and compete effectively," Andersen concludes.

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About CNOC: The Competitive Network Operators of Canada (CNOC) is a not-for-profit association that champions the cause of independent telecommunications service providers in Canada. CNOC advocates for competitive and fair market access, representing the voice of innovative and cost-conscious internet service providers.
