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For Immediate Release

Federal Government must defend internet affordability by overturning CRTC
Canada's independent internet service providers file appeal to Cabinet

OTTAWA – The Liberal government's promises on internet affordability are at risk unless the federal Cabinet grants an appeal filed today by Canada's independent internet service providers.

In a formal appeal to Cabinet, known as a "[petition to the Governor in Council](#)," the Competitive Network Operators of Canada (CNOOC), the voice of competitive internet and telecommunications service providers across Canada, has asked Cabinet to overturn Canada's telecom regulator, the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC).

In May, the CRTC, facing pressure from the large telecom and cable companies' lobbyists and lawyers, and receiving mixed messages from the government, reversed its own 2019 decision to drastically lower the rates that smaller, independent internet service providers pay for network access. For years now, smaller competitors have been paying inflated rates, which is hampering their ability to respond to desperate consumer demand for more affordable options and better customer service. In its appeal to Cabinet, CNOOC argues that the CRTC's flip-flop is going to suffocate smaller competitors, and entrench the big telecom monopoly, and is part of a growing pattern of anti-consumer decisions from the CRTC. CNOOC requests the Cabinet uses its authority to overturn the CRTC and restore the 2019 decision, thereby ensuring consumer choice, affordability, and innovation.

"The CRTC's flip-flop will, without a doubt, harm competition, reduce consumer choice, and increase the prices all Canadians pay for home internet," said Matt Stein, Chair of CNOOC. "If the Government doesn't step in, the promise of affordable choice for telecom services will be broken."

"The Liberal government is breaking its promise to Canadians that competition and affordability are paramount," said Geoff White, CNOOC's Executive Director. "If the government does not put the CRTC back in line with its own policy of promoting consumer interests, competition and affordability, Canadians can expect to pay even more for less."

CNOOC's appeal to Cabinet is part of a broader campaign to respond to growing consumer backlash against the CRTC. A letter-writing [campaign](#) CNOOC recently launched has already inspired approximately 40,000 Canadians to write to their MPs, and meanwhile, more competitors are requesting to join CNOOC's fight.

"It's not too late to reverse course and protect the interests of Canadian consumers," says White. "Our appeal to Cabinet, our letter-writing campaign, and increasing

pressure on politicians of all stripes, should be a wake-up call for Cabinet to do the right thing for Canadian consumers who are already paying too much for their internet bills.”

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