

Call to Action

(Part II)



700 MHz Broadband Spectrum Allocations — It's Important to you, Chief Why Getting the Full 20 MHz is Our #1 Priority

On March 14th, 2012, the Government of Canada announced that it was setting aside 10 MHz of broadband spectrum in the 700 MHz band “for public safety use.” This announcement came after an unprecedented “Call to Action” by a wide range of responders, governments and industry representatives – led by the Canadian Associations of Chiefs of Fire, Emergency Medical Services, Police and the Canadian Interoperability Technology Interest Group that they created in 2007. While the allocation of 10 MHz was a great start, it is our position, supported by independent scientific research, that Canadian public safety practitioners need the same 20 MHz of spectrum that US responders have been assigned by their President and Congress. We have a stated, proven and widely supported requirement for this additional spectrum. We strongly believe that Canadian police, fire, medical and other emergency professionals must have access to modern and reliable communications capabilities, including high speed data and video, to communicate with each other across agencies and jurisdictions during emergencies and during day-to-day operations. We need the right tools to protect and save lives.

WHY?

- A nationwide, public safety interoperable wireless broadband network for data and video transmissions is vitally needed. This is the required 21st Century communications system for Canada's responders.
- Spectrum allocations are a key enabler to the Canadian tri-services vision of improved interoperability and integrated emergency management. While 10 MHz is a good start, we have a scientifically proven case for the full 20 MHz.
- The needs of Canadian responder agencies (and broader public safety community) must continue to be foremost in governments mind in deciding about our call for the “D” Block of 10 MHz of broadband spectrum (same allocation made by the US President and Congress).
- This allocation supports our vision to build a robust national “system of systems” that meets public safety's mission critical requirements from coast to coast to coast.

Fire, EMS, Police & Emergency Management agencies' ability to fulfill their most important mission over the coming decades will be threatened if the tri-services' wireless requirements are not met with the full 20 MHz of 700 MHz broadband spectrum!

TRI-SERVICE BENEFITS:

- A nationwide public safety broadband system to benefit urban, suburban and rural responder agencies.
- Ensures future capacity for day-to-day operations, incident management and catastrophic incidents.
- Nationwide interoperability for the public safety community that is not possible today.
- Streaming video to support incident command situational awareness.
- Ability to download building diagrams and other incident-specific resources.
- Future migration of mission critical voice communication.
- Facilitates access to the right tools to protect and save lives.

CURRENT ACTIVITY:

- The leaders of police, fire and emergency medical service agencies across the country joined forces in December of 2010 with the support of the Canadian Interoperability Technology Interest Group's (CITIG) “Action 700” Campaign.
 - We worked collectively with trusted partners to complete an independent study to help gain a better understanding of the issue, inform stakeholders and clearly identify that we need the full 20 MHz of spectrum for public safety requirements.
 - Jointly, the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police (CACP), the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs (CAFC) and Emergency Medical Services Chiefs of Canada (EMSCC), through CITIG are continuing to raise awareness about the issue.

ACT NOW!

This is a once in a lifetime opportunity that ties directly to community and responder safety, innovation and the health of Canada's digital

economy. Do your part:

- Get informed and put this issue on your organization's radar.
- Inform your boards, municipalities, provincial/territorial governments and other governing bodies that spectrum allocations will have a significant impact on public safety in Canada and that we need the full 20 MHz of spectrum.
- Work with tri-services colleagues and others to advocate a strong voice for public safety in on the Governance Body that will manage this spectrum on behalf of public safety in Canada.
- Look for and act on mobilization information as it sent by CACP, CAFC, EMSCC, CITIG and others.

Working together to improve responder interoperability...