

Call to Action



Working together to improve responder interoperability...

700 MHz Broadband for Mission Critical Public Safety Data — It's Important to you, Chief

August 30, 2011 marks the transition from analog television to digital, freeing up spectrum for potential use by public safety. Many private and public agencies are vying for the additional (and very valuable) spectrum, and Industry Canada (our nation's spectrum regulator) opened consultations on the 700 MHz broadband allocations on December 1, 2010.

Canadian police, fire, EMS 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. **Public safety's voice must be heard — we need the right tools to protect and save lives.**

WHY?

- Improves the tri-services ability to protect and save lives.
- The ability to create nationwide, public safety interoperable wireless broadband network for mission critical data 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.
- The needs of Canadian responder agencies (and broader public safety community) must be considered during the spectrum allocation process with a vision to build a robust system that meets Public Safety's mission critical requirements.

Police, Fire, and EMS agencies' ability to fulfill their most important mission over the coming decades will be threatened if the tri-services' needs are not considered in the allocation of 700 MHz broadband radio spectrum.

CURRENT ACTIVITY:

- The leaders of police, fire and emergency medical service (EMS) agencies across the country are joining together to develop a common position on the issue.
- A Tri-Services Special Purpose Committee on 700 MHz Broadband for Mission Critical Public Safety Data is being created to monitor and advise on the issue.
- We are working with trusted partners to complete an independent study to help gain a better understanding of the issue, inform stakeholders and identify needs and potential opportunities.
- Jointly, the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police (CACP), the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs (CAFC) and Emergency Medical Services Chiefs of Canada (EMSCC) are working to raise awareness about the issue.

BENEFITS:

- Facilitates access to the right tools.
- Spectrum dedicated for a nationwide broadband system will 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.

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.
- Work with tri-services colleagues and others to advocate a strong voice for public safety in advance of spectrum allocations.
- Look for and act on mobilization information as it sent by CACP, CAFC, EMSCC and others.

Visit www.action700.ca for more information