



Réseau de communications
Eeyou
Communications Network

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March 25, 2013.

Mr. John Macri
Director
Telecommunications Policy
Canadian Radio-television &
Telecommunications Commission
Ottawa, ON

**Letter of Support on behalf of the Presentation to the CRTC by
Lyle Fabian, K'atl'odeeche First Nation; and
Rob McMahon, First Mile Connectivity Consortium**

1. Eeyou Communications Networks (ECN) is a fibre-optic telecommunications utility that provides a range of services for health, education and IP telecommunications services. It serves the James Bay region of northern Quebec and interconnects to the Lac St-Jean region. ECN has the capacity to meet the needs for the development of northern Quebec.
2. ECN is a non-profit regional broadband network that serves 14 communities of Northern Quebec including the nine Aboriginal Cree Communities (Eeyou Istchee)
3. ECN fully supports the presentation by Lyle Fabian, K'atl'odeeche First Nation; and Rob McMahon, First Mile Connectivity Consortium to the Commission and specifically draws attention to items 11 and 12:
13.... The Commission might consider establishing an independent funding organization, or Office inside the Commission, to assess applications to a subsidy mechanism for FNCNs. To reduce any undue administrative burden placed on the Commission, we suggest the Commission consider putting out a call for public comments regarding the establishment of such an organization and associated application criteria.
19. Our research and professional experience offers many empirical examples of how FNCNs support local jobs, economic development opportunities, and service delivery, as well as health and education services and innovative IP technology....
4. ECN appreciates the efforts made by the K'atl'odeeche First Nation and the First Mile Connectivity Consortium in drawing the attention of the Commission to this substantial issue.



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5. Should the Commission proceed with a call for comments, be assured that ECN will be prepared to offer a specific program that will benefit both the telecommunications industry and the peoples of the North.

Alfred Loon
President
Eeyou Communications Network