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October 4, 2022

Re:CRTC Intervention

To Whom It May Concern,

The Smart Communities Society (SCS) of the Northwest Territories (NWT) is in full support of the submissions provided by the the First Mile group (First Nations non-profit Internet Service Providers) along with the other Northern and Indigenous community partners supporting their intervention.

The 29 smallest of our 33 NWT communities are primarily Indigenous and are also effectively cut off from any real access to technology or connectivity as enjoyed by the southern regions of Canada. Even with the limited physical Internet access in place in these communities, the families in these communities do not have access to the economy or disposable income required to afford even the lowest-speed Internet options available, effectively cutting them off completely, in the most isolated and already-challenged parts of our country.

We sincerely hope that these comprehensive submissions will be taken seriously and real changes implemented by the CRTC as soon as possible. The status quo, meaning completely inequitable levels of access to digital connectivity and access in the North, cannot continue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Ch", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Christopher Hunt

Executive Director, Smart Communities Society