

Radio  
Advisory  
Board

# RABC Newsletter February 2000 Special Edition

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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Meet VP Kirk Nesbitt	2
More on PCS Auctions	2
President's Corner	2
Suzanne Lambert	3
Savings for Sponsors	3
APCO Canada	4
Coming Events	4

## PCS Sub-committee Responds to DGRB-018-99—PCS Auctions

It went right down to the wire but, just as the newsletter went to press, the Board's response to *Canada Gazette* notice DGRB-018-99 (Consultation on the Proposed Policy and Licensing Procedures for the Auction of Additional PCS Spectrum in the 2 GHz Frequency Range (PCS - 2 GHz)) was sent to the Department.

Sub-committee Co-Chair **Vino Vinodrai** of **Mobility Canada/Bell Mobility** led the group which prepared the response to this fairly contentious issue.

The work was done in two distinctly different fora: fairly large teleconferences—15+ people using eight to ten subscriber lines for about two hours each time and one-on-one discussions of a DRAFT prepared, ini-

tially, by **Panna Burman**, also of **Mobility Canada** with inputs from various sponsor members.

Some of the key points in the Board's response include:

- The RABC feels the existing (five) service providers are sufficient, and sufficiently competitive, to guarantee a competitive market for PCS in Canada
- The smallest spectrum block size should be 5+5 MHz
- No special provisions are needed for TDD
- In the event the Department decides to allow them, any new entrant should be required to serve all regions



*Vino Vinodrai—Mobility Canada/Bell Mobility. Co-Chair of the PCS SC*

*Continued on Page 2*

### Special points of interest:

- Check out the key points in the Board's advice regarding the PCS auctions issue
- Methods of work are changing—to save time and money for sponsors
- Meet ourselves: Executive, Department and Sponsors

## Getting to Know You, and Us

Readers will find three 'getting to know you' articles in this edition—and in future issues. Although the radiocommunication community in Canada is fairly small it is also a bit fragmented. Some of us work, exclusively, in the fixed microwave area while other spend a full career in broadcasting. We will try to introduce read-

ers to:

- Sponsor member associations and groups—beginning with **APCO Canada**
- Officials in the Department—beginning with some of the younger staff members who might not

be too well known outside of one committee

- Executive Committee members—we featured **Michele Beck** of **CCTA** last issue, this time it is **Kirk Nesbitt** of the **CAB/Rogers Cable**.

# Meet the Executive Broadcasting Committee Chair Kirk Nesbitt



*Kirk Nesbitt, Chair of the Broadcasting Committee*

Kirk Nesbitt of the Canadian Association of Broadcasters/Rogers Media – Broadcasting has been an elected Vice President of the RABC

since 1995. he does double duty – since 1994 he has also been Chair of the Board's Broadcasting Committee and has presided over the Board's share of the planning for Digital Radio and Digital TV.

He graduated from the University of Toronto in 1980 with a Bachelor of Applied Science degree in Electrical Engineering and was licensed as a Professional Engineer in Ontario in 1981.

He went to work for CFRB Ltd after graduation. Having attained the position of Director of Engineering with CFRB Ltd, responsible for engineering operations of CFRB and CKFM-FM in Toronto in 1985

he went to Rogers in search bigger challenges. He is, now, Director of Engineering Operations, Radio for Rogers Media - Broadcasting. In this capacity he is responsible for engineering management of 30 radio stations in Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta and B.C.

From 1989 to 1999 Kirk was also President and Director, Master FM Limited. In this capacity he was responsible for management of multi-user antenna system at CN Tower in Toronto comprised of 10 FM stations and 20 DAB radio stations.

Kirk Nesbitt has represented the Canadian Association of Broadcasters in the RABC since 1991.

## PCS Auctions Response—continued from Page 1

Key points (continued)

- notification of microwave displacement could be reduced to one year in high market areas OR near major highways
- use SRSP-510 and RSS-133

The issue concerned more than just the mobile service providers. There will be some displacement

of fixed systems and Bill Taylor, BTG, Chair of the FWC Committee worked hard to ensure that the needs of the fixed system operators are reflected in the Board's response.

It is noteworthy that the PCS SC conducted all of its meetings by teleconference—allowing discussions, at short, notice, up to the last possible moment.



*Andy McGregor—Co-Chair of the PCS Sub-committee Electro-federation of Canada/Nortel Networks*

## A Note From the President

We are not planning monthly Newsletters but we felt that the PCS Auctions issue was important enough to merit a special edition.

I know we all join in congratulating **Vino Vinodrai** of **Mobility Canada** and **Andy McGregor** of the **Electro-Federation** and the PCS Sub-committee they co-chair for an excellent effort. It is important for the



*RABC President  
Ron Coles  
Electro-Federation of Canada*

Board to address **all** the issues of concern to Industry Canada, not just the easy ones. Auctions have been something of a sore point for several years. Some members have very,

very strong views while others, while not exactly indifferent, are able to restrain their enthusiasm for either side of the issue.

Like them or not, auctions are here to stay and we need to help the Department to design them so that they provide maximum benefits for all Canadians. This month's work was part of that process.

## Inside the Department Meet Suzanne Lambert

Suzanne Lambert has been with the Department since 1988, first in FM Broadcasting and then in EMC analysis before going to VHF/UHF until 1993. In June 1998 she went into the Mobile Satellite Service branch as manager. Early this year she was appointed manager new wireless services and technologies but, before she could get her feet under that desk she was seconded to the policy branch, headed by Fern Leger where she will shadow Murray Hunt for a while.

She is an avid cross-country skier.

For Suzanne Lambert the most fun in Industry Canada is the scope and variety of the work. She enjoys the idea that she has to deal with all aspects of an issue: technical, policy and regulatory. Suzanne is proud to be a public servant. She enjoys public service and is proud when she can represent Canada in international fora.



Suzanne Lambert of Industry Canada

Suzanne graduated from Laval University in 1988 with a degree in Engineering Physics specializing in both electronics and optics systems.

Each edition will introduce you to a member of the Department's staff

Suzanne has been a very active member of the Mobile and Personal Communications and Refarming Committees and members of both groups are pleased that she will stay on, for some time at least, representing

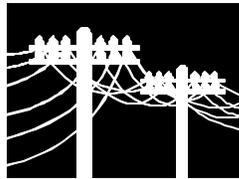
the Spectrum and Orbit Policy branch.

Her hobbies, when motherhood leaves a few brief moments, include walking — long and fast, music and painting in water-colours.

## Savings for Sponsors

The big story for February 2000 was the Board's advice to the Department re: PCS at 2 GHz auctions. One aspect of this story which might be of interest to members is that the document was prepared without any face to face meetings.

PCS Sub-committee Co-Chairs **Andy McGregor (EFC/Nortel Networks)** and **Vino Vinodrai (Mobility Canada/Bell Mobility)** conducted four teleconferences and did the remainder of the work by E-mail.



*We can make better use of telecom to save time and money*

The Board's GM and PCS SC Secretary reported that the teleconferences cost the Board something like \$800.00 but, he noted, there were 15+ people on each. Many would never have been able to make the time to travel to face-to-face sessions and those who had would have spent, at the very least, \$1,500.00, each, on air fare. "Eight hundred dollars seems like a bargain

compared to something like \$10,000.00 which sponsors and companies would have paid," the GM noted.

"There is no doubt that we can make better and better use of telecom and information technology—including, for example, Internet video conferences and products like 'Net Meeting' - to help sponsor members save time and money and to allow more committee members to play an active role in our work," said Board President Ron Coles.

## Meet The Members: APCO Canada

The Association of Public Safety Communications Officials - International (APCO) is a not-for-profit association started in 1935 to foster the art of public safety communications. Today, APCO is the world's largest public safety communications group with over 11,000 members. APCO offers membership opportunities in administrative, engineer/technician, telecommunicator, information systems specialist, and commercial categories.



APCO members are professionals from the fields of law enforcement, fire, emergency medical services, civil defence, 91-1 centres, public safety departments, emergency management centres, transportation agencies and centres, forestry services, colleges and universities, military services, technical and repair services, engineers and consultants, and dozens of similar organizations charged with responsi-

bility toward the protection of life and property.

APCO CANADA is the Canadian Regional Chapter of APCO International and was formed as a Chapter in November of 1988 to serve and represent Canada's APCO members.

Marc Thompson of the City of Toronto Fire Department is the APCO Canada representative on the RABC General Council.



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## Coming Events

**2000-03-06: EMC Committee Meeting in Ottawa**

**2000-03-21/24: FWC Committee and Subcommittee Meetings in Montreal**

**2000-03-29: Refarming Committee & M&PCC Channel Loading GL SC Meetings in Ottawa**

**2000-04-05: M&PC Committee Meeting in Ottawa**

## The Last Word

Most of us probably remember our first radio experience: maybe it was a crystal set, maybe it was the time when you related practical experience with a car radio at night to ionospheric propagation theory, or maybe the first time you made a complex network of radios and radars work together as a controlled system. Radio is fun and radio is real, you cannot press the backspace key to wipe out your problems if you have just poured the concrete for the antenna tower!

We in the RABC deal with all facets of radio and we bring a diverse range of background and experience to the business at hand. It is always enjoyable and encouraging to work in a small group of people including frighteningly smart young recent graduates and wily old vets, in their third career, and to see the practical solutions pour out of the technical committee 'mixer.' It's fun because radio is fun for most of us; it's encouraging because it shows the Radio Advisory Board at its best: working as a partnership between government and industry and between sec-

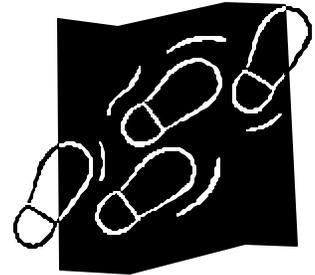
tors of the Canadian radiocommunications community.

I don't want to suggest that lions and lambs are lying down together but it is clear that we have established a system which allows competitors — companies in direct commercial competition, and sectors in competition for spectrum — to work together to develop advice which is useful to the Department and which, inevitably, helps us all.

Our collective self interests are served in the Radio Advisory Board of Canada. Members work in RABC technical committees in order to advance the industry and, hopefully, their own products and services. The government works in the Board's committees in order to secure the best possible advice in the most timely possible manner. In the process we all give a little and we all gain a lot.

Finally, our work in the Board is still fun. The sense of accomplishment, when a con-

tentious standard has, finally, been agreed, is not quite the same as hauling in that faint radio signal so many years ago but it is still a good feeling to know that our hard work and our ingenuity makes the 'magic' of radio possible.



## So There

Those who like to think that satellites solved all the problem associated with long haul communications on HF will be dismayed to hear that the regular Sunday broadcast of 'Live from the Metropolitan Opera, carried by CBC, was disrupted twice on March 4th by sunspot activity!