

Radio
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RABC Newsletter

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

1.4 GHz Fees	2
Web Site Changes	2
Members	2
Michele Beck	3
Spectrum 20/20	3
Refarming	3
Upcoming Events	4

Special points of interest:

- RABC Response to DGTP-006-99
- Refarming Committee at Work
- Spectrum 20/20 2000
- Meet your VP: Michele Beck of CCTA

President's Message

I hope we have all recovered from the holiday season and the final Y2K blitz which, I know, kept many members busy during the holidays.

Work is well underway again: **George Nedoborski** of **FCSA/Telesat Canada** chaired a special working group which prepared the Board's response to *Canada Gazette* notice DGRB-017-99 dealing with the licensing of satellite earth station and the use of foreign owned FSS satellites by Canadian users. It is out to ballot as I write this. Another group—the PCS Sub-committee of the M&PC Committee—chaired by **Vino Vinodrai** of **Mobility Canada/Bell Mobility** is working on the Board's response to DGRB-018-99 which deals with the auction for additional PCS spectrum. This is an important and contentious issue and we all wish that group every success.

This is a useful point to remind readers that our business is to provide the Government of Canada with the best possible advice, representing the considered opinion of the broadest possible spectrum of the Canadian radiocommunication community. We cannot and will not shy away from offering

advice just because we cannot achieve a high level of consensus. When necessary we will—as we have in the past—submit both an RABC comment and dissenting views. The aim is to help the government by providing as much useful information as possible.



Ron Coles—President of the RABC EFC/Digital Microwave Corporation

We have a busy schedule for 2000, culminating in

Spectrum 20/20 2000

which will be held in Ottawa on 29 and 30 November 2000. The theme, this year, is **Great Expectations** which, I believe, accurately reflects what our customers, subscribers, clients and members have for the services we provide. Spectrum 20/20 is, without doubt, the premier symposium of its type in Canada and I look forward to seeing you all in Ottawa on 29 November 2000.

RABC Response to Industry Canada DGTP-006-99—Microwave Utilization Policy

Not all of the advice provided to Industry Canada is submitted to sponsor members for ballot. The Constitution and By-Laws provide that matters which are of a routine nature and which fall within the purview of one committee then the chair of that committee may elect to send a letter—unballoted—to the Department

reflecting the Board's position. This was how **Bill Taylor**—**Bell Telecom Group/Bell Canada**—elected to deal with *Canada Gazette* notice DGTP-006-99. The Fixed Wireless Communications Committee deemed this issue non-controversial and it approved a letter response which was sent, by E-mail, on 1999-12-21.

A copy of that response was on the RABC web site at www.rabc.ottawa.on.ca in the **reports** section which is available to the general public and it is reprinted, here, on page 2.

RABC Comments on Spectrum Licence Fees in the 1.4 GHz Band

Comments from the RABC Fixed Wireless Communications Committee on Industry Canada Gazette Notice DGTP-006-99:

“Amendments to the Microwave Spectrum Utilization Policies in the 1-3 GHz Frequency Range”

Proposed Licence Fees For Spectrum Licences in the bands 1427-1430 MHz and 1493.5-1496.5 MHz (Section 2.3.2 of SP 1-3 GHz)

In its document SP 1-3 GHz, Industry Canada has issued a spectrum policy for narrowband multipoint communication

systems (N-MCS) in the 1.4 GHz band. The policy contemplates the issuance of spectrum or block area licences. The Department has proposed a licence fee of \$10/MHz/1000 households (or 1¢/MHz/household) in connection with such licences.

The Fixed Wireless Communications Committee appreciates the difficulty of setting a fee that

reflects the economic value of the spectrum in the absence of a market-based mechanism with which to estimate that economic value. In the circumstances, we consider that the Department has proposed a fee that is reasonable, having regard to the business realities currently facing prospective users of the spectrum. To encourage further equity among different sized urban areas, the FWCC suggests that a multi-tiered fee structure also be considered by the Department, with the tiers defined by population density and the highest fee not exceeding \$10/MHz/1000 households.



Bill Taylor - Chair of the FWCC
Bell Telecom Group/Bell Canada

W.J. Taylor
Chair – RABC FWCC

Web Site Changes Coming

It hardly seems like two years, but that is how long it has been since the RABC web site was put up. In fact it is slightly longer—we inaugurated the site just before the 1997 Annual General Meeting.

“we want to make it easier to access and use”

It is not surprising, therefore, that a few changes are in order.

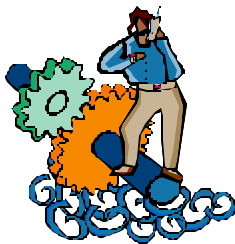
Some have already been made—the idea of individual passwords, for example, was discarded in favour of a common User ID and password which will change three or four times a year.

The big change will be in the

way the INTRANet works—we want to make it easier to access and use. We will also add an update notice to home page so that you will be able to see what changes have been made—to which committee areas—in the recent past. This will save you time and effort.

These changes will occur on an incremental basis beginning in February 2000.

MEMBERS and Members and members



Committee members do the substantive work of the RABC

A few years ago the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference debated the status of ‘big M’ Members versus ‘small m’ members; the RABC has a similar

problem. We use the word ‘member’ in two different ways—sometimes confusing those very members.

The two types of RABC members are:

- Sponsor Members—associations, consortia, and other organizations which pay the freight. Each sponsor member is entitled to one vote at meetings of the General Council and, more importantly, on

ballots to approve (or not) RABC advice to Industry Canada

- Committee members—individuals, usually representing Sponsor Members or one of the companies which is a member of a Sponsor members association. The committee members do the substantive work of the Board. There are, also, a few guest members

Meet Your Executive Vice President Michèle Beck

Michèle Beck is Vice-President, Regulatory Engineering for the Canadian Cable Television Association. Michèle is responsible for all technical matters relating to cable's broadcasting and certain telecommunications services. This includes digital advanced television, V-chip, satellite and wireless services, RF, network architectures and head-end equipment, and subscriber-based technologies.

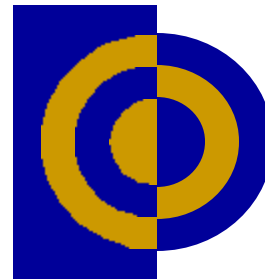


Michèle Beck—CCTA

Prior to joining the CCTA in 1994, Michèle spent eight years at Telesat Canada in the Broadband Development Group where she specialized in DTH satellite services, digital video compression and high-definition television.

She holds a B.A.Sc. in Electrical Engineering, specializing in communications, from the University of Ottawa.

Michèle was first elected as a Vice President of the Radio Advisory Board of Canada (RABC) Executive in 1997. She also sits on the Community Access Program (CAP) National Advisory Committee. She is a past Canadian Women in Communications (CWC) and Canadian Digital Television Inc. Board member.



Heads Up! Spectrum 20/20 2000 is On The way

The Spectrum 20/20 2000 Programme Committee, chaired by [Dr. Sabah Towaj](#) of **Industry Canada** has been beavering away. Here is the inside dope on their plans:

29 November:

A Keynote address by a leader of one of Canada's most important high tech companies

A CEO's session dealing with mobile, new media and broadcasting

A look at the future by the Defence Department

30 November:

Regulatory sessions with speakers

from Canada, the USA and Europe—regulators and senior executives from the regulated.



You really don't want to miss Spectrum 20/20 2000. Details

Members (cont from page 2)

not affiliated with a Sponsor but invited by a committee chair to participate with the work. Most often guests are invited on an issue by issue basis but a few individuals have long standing associations with the Board.



Reforming Committee Resumes Work in 2000

The Reforming Committee—[Paul Frew](#) of **EFC/Motorola** in the chair—has started work on the technical details needed to make SRSPs 500 and 501 useful. The Committee is working in very, very close cooperation with the M&PC's Channel Loading Subcommittee chaired by [Serge Bertuzzo](#) of **Clearnet Inc.**

in 1999 to lay the groundwork—mostly involved with getting SRSPs 500 and 501 ready.

The work of the Reforming Committee is focused on these bands:

- 138-144 & 148-174 MHz
- 406-430 & 450-470 MHz

The Committee had four meetings



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Upcoming Events:

3 February— PCS Teleconference re: PCS Auctions

9 February—Refarming Committee Meeting, Ottawa

6 March—EMC Committee Meeting, Ottawa

7 March—M&PC Committee Meeting, Ottawa

8 March—Executive Committee Meeting, Ottawa

21-24 March—FWC Committee Meetings, Montreal

2-4 April—CCTA Convention & CABLEXPO, Toronto

13 June—EMC Committee Meeting, Toronto

14 June— M&PC Committee Meeting, Toronto

The Last Word

Members who attended the 1999 AGM in Ottawa on 7 December will have heard of the untimely death of Mrs. Mary Short. Mary was our office admin assistant for many, many years—serving with at least four different GMs. Mary retired in 1998 after another hip operation went wrong. Her heart and mind were still big and active but her legs could no longer allow her to work as she had for so many years. Some members will recall how grateful she was for our small show of thanks at the 1998 AGM when we gave her some tokens of our esteem. Mary was killed in a car accident in the fall—the car in which she was a passenger was broad-sided.

Members who attended the recent AGM will also have noted that our new admin assistant, Mei Hong Wu was very, very pregnant. She gave birth to a baby girl on 11 January—mother and daughter (known as Bunny because she was born in the Year of the Rabbit) are doing well and we expect to see them both in the office in the spring.

The old order passes, giving way to new ...

We will be trying some new 'tricks' this year—maybe we can make better use of technology and use internet videoconferencing, for example, to help save time and money for Sponsors and committee members.

Please don't forget **Spectrum 20/20 2000** —it really is worth your while to be there.

