

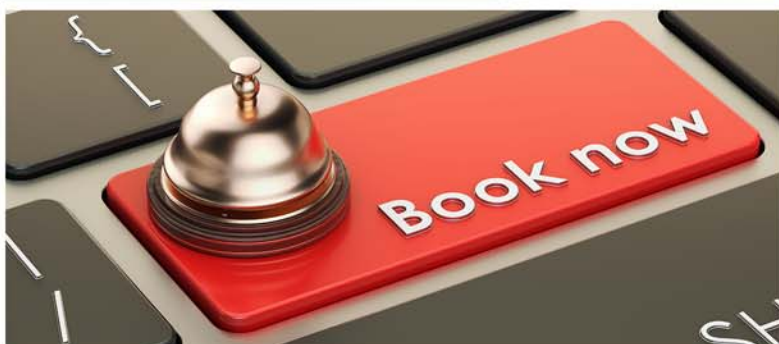
CANWISPER

Canadian Association of Wireless Internet Service Providers  Association des fournisseurs de service internet sans fil (CANWISP)



 **Canwisp**
agm50
2018 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
BREAKING the 50Mb/s BARRIER

BE PART OF THE SOLUTION



Canwisp
Canadian Association of Wireless Internet Service Providers
Association des fournisseurs de service internet sans fil (CANWISP)



WORD FROM THE CHAIR

Dan Barnes



Dan Barnes

We have made some big changes since my last column

Executive Director:

For the past several months, Eric Lay has been assisting the Board with their activities and participating in the CRTC submission. Eric is an Ottawa lawyer with almost 20 years of experience advocating for clients in boardrooms and courtrooms in this province and throughout Canada. He has been heavily involved in the not-for-profit sector, and was the lawyer who incorporated CANWISP in 2013. As of October 1, we have brought on an Executive Director as part of our effort to move the WISP agenda forward in Canada. Jonathan Black, formerly with Storm Internet, has accepted the role of Executive Director of CanWISP. Jonathan was a co-founder of CanWISP and has been instrumental in the growth of our organization. Many of you know Jonathan. He can be reached at jblack@canwisp.ca. Eric, thank you for your assistance during this transition process.

Better Member Access:

We have upgraded our telephone system, and in the process obtained a new phone number. Our new system gives you direct access to our Board Members and our new Executive Director. You can reach us at 844-370-0404.

2017 has already been busy, with CANWISP participating in the ISED 5150 and 600MHz consultations, and its ongoing participation in the CRTC Broadband Funding Regime consultations. We also continue our work on the RABC. We are already planning for our 2018 AGM in Ottawa, and as a warmup met in Banff in September with members, and prospective members. As always, please get in touch with your thoughts and ideas on how CANWISP can continue improving its service to members.



2018 AGM Update: Save the date, March 26-29, 2018

Serious planning has already begun for our 2018 AGM and tradeshow, to be held again at Hilton Lac Leamy Hotel in Gatineau, across the river from our nation's capital. It is shaping up to be another fantastic event. We will open the show with a reception on Monday, March 26 at 5:00PM. This year we are looking to expand the show by offering some training on the Sunday/Monday prior to the opening of the show. Watch your inbox for more details. Our sponsor spots, which are starting to fill in and registration for attendees are open now at: <http://canwisp.ca/event-2586120>.

If you have inquiries or suggestions for programming, please contact Jonathan Black (jblack@canwisp.ca). For sponsorship inquiries, please contact me, Dan Barnes at dan@canwisp.ca.

JONATHAN BLACK
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
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Canwisp | Connecting Our Communities
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CRTC BROADBAND FUNDING

Eric Lay - Advisor



Jonathan Black - - Executive Director

In our last newsletter, we described CANWISP's participation in CRTC hearings on the direction of broadband in Canada. One outcome of those hearings was the declaration of a \$750 million fund to improve internet access for Canadians currently without access to broadband internet.

Funding has come one step closer this year

That funding has come one step closer this year with CRTC's initiation of round of consultations on various topics relating to the fund – everything from who should administer it, to what the criteria for funding should be.

After some consultations among our members, CANWISP intervened in the CRTC consultation with the assistance of Kuro Partners' Jonathan Black. A number of our members also made separate interventions. We commented on most of the issues raised by the CRTC, but laid most emphasis on the issues identified by our members as priorities.

These include:

- Guarding against using CRTC funds to overbuild existing WISPs. In its submission, CANWISP proposed a means of cataloguing existing networks in areas that are the subject of applications for funding. One of the risks of these funds being made available is that larger operators may apply to deploy them in areas served by existing networks (some of whom will be WISPs). We submitted that it would be important for the CRTC to have an understanding of the existing broadband landscape in an area before approving a funding;
- Ensuring that proximity to an existing fibre node does not disqualify an application for funding. The CRTC had initially proposed that areas within 2km of an existing fibre node be ineligible for funding. CANWISP, along with a number of other intervenors, pointed out that nearby fibre does not always equate to nearby accessible fibre, and urged the CRTC to abandon this criterion.
- Rejecting the use of ISED hexes as the measurement unit for determination of underserved areas. CANWISP argued in its submission that the ISED 25km² hexes are too large to accurately capture underserved areas. Drawing on our members' experiences serving areas close to population centres, we noted that within each hex there may be very well-served areas and seriously unserved areas, and that averaging service levels over the entire hex would risk obscuring the underserved areas.
- Ensuring accountability from applicants. Our members told us that in past funding initiatives, they had lost out to applicants making what turned out to be wildly exaggerated service claims in their applications. CANWISP proposed strong measure to ensure accountability of applicants for any claims made in their applications.

There is no firm schedule for the CRTC to release its final decision on the Broadband Funding Regime, but the CRTC may issue calls for applications as early as the first months of 2018.



MEMBER PROFILE



Glenn Moore had an internet problem in 2006. None of the big players were willing to bring broadband to the homes in the subdivision he was developing, and without internet he was going to have trouble finding buyers. So Glenn rolled up his sleeves, built a fixed wireless solution, and founded iwantwireless in the process.



I Want Wireless

Glenn operated his WISP as a sideline at first. Despite pressure from a long line of potential subscribers in Alberta's Peace River country, iwantwireless hovered around 100 subscribers for the first year of its existence.

In 2012, Glenn and his team sat down and formulated a business plan to expand iwantwireless. They set two objectives: to provide the most reliable internet service in the area, and to be a workplace where the owner and employees could leave the office at the end of the day (most days, anyway). They reconciled these two potentially contradictory objectives by moving heavily into automation, such as remote monitoring, and outsourcing services such as after-hours service calls.



With support from all levels of government, and with the gates opened to new customers, iwantwireless grew dramatically and now numbers almost 2,000 subscribers, and 11 employees.

The company offers VOIP to its subscribers, and is in the process of evaluating IPTV solutions to potentially package with its internet services.

Iwantwireless faces the typical challenges of rural WISPs – sparse population, crowded spectrum – but with an Alberta flavour, in the form of a high volume of transmission in the 900 MHz frequency range generated by the oil and gas industry. He is also dealing with competitors targeting his most accessible subscribers.

Despite these challenges, Glenn and iwantwireless continue to grow, and to work to bring broadband to underserved areas in the Peace River country.



GOVERNMENT RELATIONS UPDATE

Terry Duchcherer



Terry Duchcherer

RABC: On the RABC Executive front, summer is mostly quiet. Our last meeting was held in Ottawa on May 10th, with the AGM on May 11th. The RABC held a Canada 150 open house on May 11th after the AGM. Three CanWISP board members were able to attend, Dan Barnes, Steve Cole, and myself. Next RABC meetings are in Regina September 26.

Peter Menzies announced his retirement from the CRTC

Peter Menzies announced his retirement from the CRTC in June, with his final day being July 15th. Mr. Menzies term was scheduled to end in June 2018. He first joined the CRTC as part-time in 2007, and was promoted to vice-chairman in 2013. Mr. Menzies was an advocate of CanWISP, he searched us out before we had any interaction with the CRTC. He will certainly be missed from our perspective. Jean-Pierre Blais also announced his retirement as CRTC chair, ahead of schedule. Judith A. LaRocque took over as interim chair, with a four-month mandate ending in September. She will be succeeded by Ian Scott, who has public sector experience to go along with experience working in the private sector with Telus and Telesat. The new Vice-Chair will be Carole Simard, who comes from a legal position at ISED. We are looking forward to establishing a good working relationship with her.

A CRTC fund would be established to assist with the rollout of broadband internet where needed

CRTC: In Telecom Regulatory Policy 2016-496, the CRTC determined that broadband internet access services are 'basic telecommunications services' and that a CRTC fund would be established to assist with the rollout of broadband internet where needed. Following on this December 2016 announcement, the CRTC initiated Telecom Consultation 2017-112 to solicit input on how to distribute the funds. CanWISP was one of many (over 50) entities and individuals to submit an intervention responding to Consultation 2017-112. CanWISP's submission is available here. Our important intervention in the ongoing CRTC consultation into the proposed Broadband Funding Regime is described elsewhere in this newsletter.

Devices operating in the 5150-5250MHz band

ISED launched a consultation in January 2017 to seek comments on whether there was demand for and benefit, of allowing High Power Outdoor Devices (HPODs) in the 5150-5250 MHz frequency band before WRC-19.

Through input via the RABC, CanWISP was able to voice the current use of the 5GHz band by WISP's, as well as the need for additional spectrum for both point to multipoint, and point to point links. Following the consultation which saw comments from Microsoft, Ruckus Wireless, Ericsson, etc., the decision made by ISED was to authorize the use of HPOD's, both indoor and outdoor in the 5150-5250MHz frequency band under a licensed regime. Some facts regarding the decision:

- License term is up to one year, expiring on March 31st of each year. The Licensee must apply for a license each year.
- Service area licenses in this band will be issued on a Tier 1 basis (a single national service area).
- Spectrum license applications can be submitted to the nearest ISED office.
- Licenses are issued on a shared, all-come all-served basis and all licensees have equal access to the spectrum.

The official ISED decision, as well as in-depth details regarding technical requirements for HPOD's can be found on the following website:

<https://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/smt-gst.nsf/eng/sf11294.html>



ISED: Like the CRTC, ISED is going through staff changes, most notable to CanWISP is the retirement of Peter Hill. I have enjoyed the last two years learning a lot about the inner workings of ISED from Peter. I had the pleasure of meeting Lynn Fancy who has taken on a lot of his portfolio until a permanent replacement is found.



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**BREAKING
the 50Mb/s
BARRIER**

2018 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

March 26-29, 2018

CanWISP will be holding our Annual General Meeting in conjunction with a two day event including speakers and informational sessions. We are also inviting current and prospective Industry Partners to participate.

Canwisp (Association des fournisseurs de service internet sans fil) tiendra une assemblée générale annuelle. Conjointement il y aura deux jours de sessions d'informations inclant conférenciers. Nous invitons tous nos partenaires ainsi que toutes autres industries intéressées.

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Non Member Early Bird – \$300
Rate available up to Dec. 31st



SAVE \$50

WISP Members Early Bird – \$200
Rate available up to Dec. 31st

**Canwisp 2018 at Hilton
Lac-Leamy. March 26-29**

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