



CanWISP predicts rural internet will be improved with the upcoming 3500MHz spectrum auction

OTTAWA (MARCH 6, 2020) – The Honourable Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry, announced rules for the 3500 MHz spectrum auction yesterday that will assist rural internet service providers in providing higher-speed internet services.

As Mr. Bains noted, “The 3500 MHz bands are recognized around the world as one of the key spectrum bands for 5G technologies. This spectrum will support higher speeds, increased data usage and new applications.”

By setting aside spectrum for small and regional companies, internet service providers, such as CanWISP members, will have increased access to these key spectrum bands providing the foundation for better service to their customers. The auctioned price for this spectrum should be more affordable for these smaller companies that typically serve rural Canadians.

During the *Consultation on a Policy and Licensing Framework for Spectrum in the 3500MHz Band*, CanWISP requested that spectrum be set aside for smaller, regional telecommunications service providers and that spectrum be auctioned in smaller geographic blocks than had been done previously.

CanWISP is eager to see how the recently announced rules for the 3500MHz spectrum auction will result in greater competition and better internet services for rural Canadians. The set-aside spectrum is significant progress in making spectrum more available to smaller service providers that are already investing in servicing rural Canadians.

About CanWISP

CanWISP represents Canadian Wireless Internet Service Providers in Canada. We participate in legislative, regulatory and policy-informing processes on behalf of our member ISPs. Our members provide fixed-wireless Internet access to households and business across Canada on networks that they have built, operate and maintain. Our members live in, invest in and employ people in the predominantly rural communities they serve.

For more information, contact:

Scott Holmes | President

1.877.370.4439

scott@canwisp.ca