

June 22, 2020

VIA Intervention Comment Form

Mr. Claude Doucet
Secretary General
Canadian Radio-television and
Telecommunications Commission
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0N2

Dear Mr. Doucet,

Subject: Telecom and Broadcasting Notice of Consultation CRTC 2020-124: Call for comments – Regulations to be made under the *Accessible Canada Act* – CCSA Reply Comment

1. The Canadian Communication Systems Alliance (“CCSA”) speaks for independent communications distributors – smaller broadcasting distribution companies, telephone companies and ISPs – across Canada. CCSA represents more than 110 companies operating from sea to sea to sea, including across the North.
2. CCSA has reviewed the initial comments of intervenors in this proceeding and has seen nothing in those interventions that changes its position in this matter.
3. CCSA does note the comment of the CWTA that “accessibility plans and progress reports would be appropriate to the size and circumstance of each regulated entity so would not cause more hardship for one organization than any other.”¹
4. CCSA respectfully disagrees with that assessment. Rather, CCSA refers, again, to the Commission’s finding, in relation to application of the *Internet Code*, that: “smaller ISPs represent a diverse range of ISPs, including not-for-profits and cooperatives run by members

¹ CWTA, “Re: Telecom and Broadcasting Notice of Consultation CRTC 2020-124, Call for comments – Regulations to be made under the Accessible Canada Act (ACA)”, June 12, 2020 at para. 54.

of the community. They may not have the resources to fully understand and implement the Code at this time... ”.²

5. The baseline requirement to understand the regulation and to design and implement the required planning, reporting and process obligations to which they would be exposed as “regulated entities” would be a very substantial regulatory burden even if the plans and processes, themselves, may be less complex than those of larger service providers.
6. We remain concerned that, consistent with the Commission’s prior finding with respect to application of the *Internet Code*, many smaller BDUs, TSPs and ISPs “may not have the resources to fully understand and implement” the complex requirements of the ACA.
7. CCSA re-emphasizes that the imposition of such requirements on smaller BDUs, TSPs and ISPs such as CCSA represents would have a disproportionate negative impact on those smaller communications service distributors, first with respect to the cost and administrative burdens of the new obligations and, second, with respect to the legal and financial risks imposed on smaller distributors.
8. For that reason, exemption of such smaller service providers from application of a regulation to implement the ACA is an entirely practical and appropriate approach.
9. CCSA thanks the Commission for the opportunity to provide these comments.

Sincerely,



Christopher J. Edwards
Vice-President, Regulatory Affairs

² Telecom Regulatory Policy CRTC 2019-269, “The Internet Code”, 31 July 2019 at para. 125.