

## CONNECTIVITY PRICING

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**Question:** How is the government supporting competition and innovation among Internet service providers?

### KEY MESSAGES

- **Affordable high quality Internet access is a necessity for all Canadians. These unprecedented times have reinforced this fact, especially for Canadians living in rural and remote communities.**
- **We know this is a very difficult time for all Canadians. Canada's networks have been delivering well to keep us connected, but we recognize that there continue to be challenges.**
- **Setting the wholesale rates correctly is critical to ensuring competitive options for Canadians, while maintaining continued investment in high-quality networks and expanded access for Canadians, no matter where they live.**

### SUPPLEMENTARY MESSAGES

#### On wholesale access:

- On August 15, 2020, I announced the Governor in Council's response to the petitions we received on wholesale access rates. We consider that the CRTC's rates do not, in all cases, appropriately balance the objectives of the wholesale services framework and that they would, in some cases, undermine investment.
- At issue was a decision issued in 2019 that never went into effect. The wholesale rates available today are the same available since 2016.
- The CRTC already had a process underway to review the rates. We will continue to monitor the CRTC's public proceeding.

## On mobile wireless overage charges:

- Mobile wireless services have inherent capacity constraints that prevent unlimited usage at home.
- To prevent bill shock, the Wireless Code sets a \$50 limit on overage charges, unless the account holder consents to greater data usage and associated overage fees.
- The Commission for Complaints for Telecom-television Services (CCTS) is empowered to address complaints if Canadians are concerned about overage charges to which they did not consent.

## BACKGROUND

### *CRTC wholesale rates and Cabinet decision*

On August 15, 2020, Minister Bains announced the Governor in Council (GIC)'s response to petitions by the large incumbent carriers requesting the GIC to refer back a CRTC decision on wholesale rates to the CRTC for reconsideration. The CRTC decision in question significantly lowers the rates the incumbents are permitted to charge smaller competitors for wholesale services. It also applies retroactively to 2016, which would result in a \$325 million collective refund from incumbents to competitors.

The GIC's response notes that it considers that the CRTC's rates do not, in all cases, appropriately balance the objectives of the wholesale services framework and that they would, in some cases, undermine investment. However, the GIC declined to formally refer the decision back to the CRTC given that the CRTC already has an ongoing review. The government has signalled that it will continue to monitor the CRTC's public proceeding.

The GIC decision has been well received by those incumbents who have reacted publicly. Bell has characterized Cabinet's decision by saying it "vindicates" their concerns. Consumer advocates and the smaller competitors have reacted highly negatively, saying that Cabinet caved to incumbent lobbying. A number of them have raised prices in expectation that the 2019 rates will be revised upwards. However, the 2019 decision in question has never gone into effect. The wholesale rates available today are the same rates in place dating to 2016. The result of the CRTC's review may be rates that are in between the 2016 and 2019 decisions (i.e. lower than what is currently available).

The decision is also subject to an appeal at the Federal Court of Appeal which is expected to be decided in this fall.

### *Pandemic matters*

ISED and the CRTC have been engaging with ISPs since the beginning of the pandemic on network resiliency and availability issues. Overall, Canadian networks are holding up well. With respect to costs of home internet access, most service providers proactively waived data overage fees and took other actions to accommodate the situation. Most of these billing policy changes have ended in recent months.

The Government of Canada is continuing to work with industry, and has been adjusting regulatory requirements and timing so that industry can focus on near-term needs. Broad-based economic support for small businesses is available to, and assists, smaller ISPs. Direct financial support to Canadians is also helping them continue to pay their internet bills.

Additionally, ISED has extended the payment date for annual licence renewal fees to September 1, 2020 to provide immediate cash flow relief. Further, ISED has allowed unused spectrum to be shared between telecommunications service providers to increase coverage and capacity. ISED has also accelerated the process to get licences.

The CRTC has introduced the Wireless Code to empower consumers in their dealings with wireless service providers. This includes issues such as “bill shock” and unanticipated overage fees. If Canadians are concerned that their service provider is not respecting the Wireless Code, they can file a complaint with the Commission for Complaints for Telecom-Television Services (CCTS) who is empowered to resolve such issues.

#### **PREPARATION AND APPROVALS**

**SCMS contact:** Kathleen Guillot, Manager, 343-548-8571

**SCMS approval:** Vicky Eatrides, ADM, 613-292-4016

**Sector approval:** Patricia Brady, Director General, SIPS, 613-790-7126

**From:** [Dawson, Robert \(IC\)](#)  
**Sent:** August 20, 2020 1:25 PM  
**To:** [Arbour, Andre \(IC\)](#); [Wrightman, Leith \(IC\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: TekSavvy Raising Prices

[REDACTED] because of their "interpretation" of an announcement. Really?

"TekSavvy is left with no choice but to interpret this announcement as an expectation from the government that retail prices should be raised"

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**From:** Dawson, Robert (IC)  
**Sent:** August 19, 2020 4:13 PM  
**To:** Brady, Patricia (IC) <[patricia.brady@canada.ca](mailto:patricia.brady@canada.ca)>; Arbour, Andre (IC) <[andre.arbour@canada.ca](mailto:andre.arbour@canada.ca)>; Wrightman, Leith (IC) <[leith.wrightman@canada.ca](mailto:leith.wrightman@canada.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: TekSavvy Raising Prices

Some more from Andy in this article where he discusses the price increases are for new customers too. Leith can you add to tracker.

"The immediate result of the decision though, is it's going to drive up our prices," said Andy Kaplan-Myrth, vice-president of regulatory and carrier affairs at [TekSavvy](#) in an interview with *IT World Canada*. "We raised our prices on Sunday for new customers...we raised the lower speed plans by CA\$5 a month and higher speed plans by CA\$10 a month."

"They seem to believe the incumbent's threats about wholesale rates affecting their investments," Kaplan-Myrth added. "The fact is, it doesn't look like the government wants them to be finalized that way. They want them to be higher, and we can't keep just waiting indefinitely for them to be resolved."

<https://www.itworldcanada.com/article/suspended-crtc-wholesale-internet-price-hikes-gets-the-nod-from-bell-but-reseller-isp-warns-of-higher-subscription-costs/434742>

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**From:** Dawson, Robert (IC)  
**Sent:** August 19, 2020 4:02 PM  
**To:** Brady, Patricia (IC) <[patricia.brady@canada.ca](mailto:patricia.brady@canada.ca)>; Arbour, Andre (IC) <[andre.arbour@canada.ca](mailto:andre.arbour@canada.ca)>; Wrightman, Leith (IC) <[leith.wrightman@canada.ca](mailto:leith.wrightman@canada.ca)>  
**Subject:** TekSavvy Raising Prices

TekSavvy plans to raise prices for existing customers at least. [REDACTED]

They say: "Cabinet caved to pressure from the large carriers"

"The decision is a reversal from Cabinet's previous direction that the CRTC place affordability, competition and consumer interests at the forefront.

After 5 years of cost uncertainty, inflated interim rates, and anti-competitive behaviour by the large carriers, TekSavvy is left with no choice but to interpret this announcement as an expectation from the government that retail prices should be raised, specifically to protect Incumbent investments.

We are therefore making a difficult decision in order to continue providing you with the service you have come to expect.”

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** [REDACTED]

**To:** Dawson, Robert (IC) <[robert.dawson@canada.ca](mailto:robert.dawson@canada.ca)>

**Subject:** [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

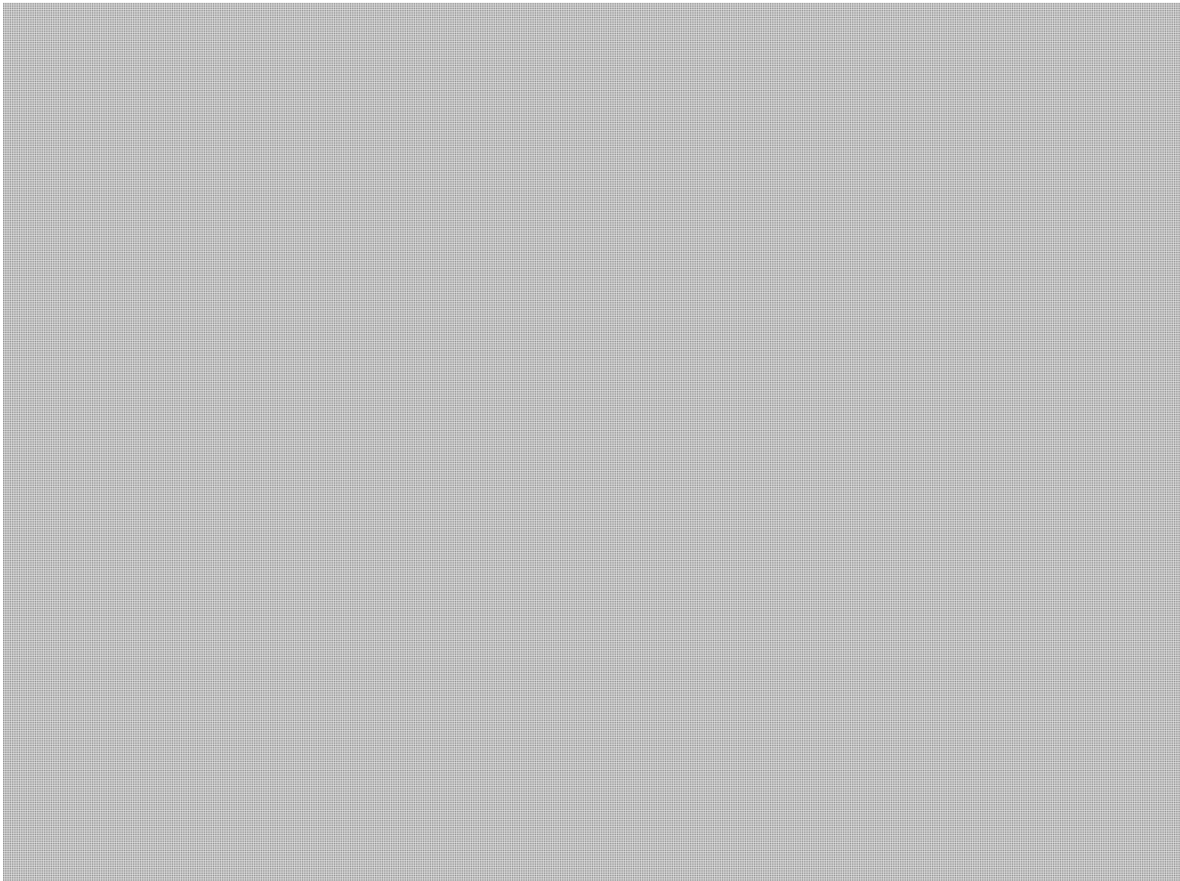
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est retenue en vertu de l'article**

**19(1)**

**of the Access to Information Act  
de la Loi sur l'accès à l'information**



have with TekSavvy. Starting with your first billing cycle with an effective date of service on or after **October 1, 2020** there will be a change to your current package with us for **OID-----**. Your current package **25 Mbps** with **Unlimited GB** of usage at a monthly cost of **\$47.95** will be invoiced at **\$57.95**. Your package speed and monthly usage will not change.

You can always visit [mysavvy.teksavvy.com](https://mysavvy.teksavvy.com) or call us at 1.877.779.1575 to review your options should you wish to make changes to your service.

This is obviously not the news we wish to be delivering to you at a time of increased uncertainty and concern. TekSavvy has long been a strong supporter of transparency and fairness in internet pricing and we will continue to fight for these principles while working hard to provide you, and all our customers, with the quality service you deserve.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

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Name	Group	Medium	Statement/Summary/Highlights	Notes	Date	Link	Secondary Link
Bell	Incumbent	Quoted in Cartt.ca article	<p>"It's welcome recognition by the government that the CRTC's original decision threatened the leading network investments that have made Canada a global communications leader," reads the Bell official emailed response. "As Minister Bains noted, Covid-19 has further demonstrated the critical importance of broadband connectivity for urban, rural and remote regions alike. Ensuring Canadians everywhere have access to reliable broadband requires a regulatory framework that supports significant and ongoing investment in network infrastructure and innovation.</p> <p>"We trust the CRTC's review will reflect the government's objective to drive network investment, especially in rural and remote regions, with wholesale rates that are fair and reasonable. The original CRTC decision actually set wholesale rates below cost, which would certainly have impacted future investment by facilities-based carriers like Bell," the company concluded.</p>	<p>BCE spokesperson Marc Choma</p> <p>Excerpts from this Bell Statement are also found in Globe and Mail, and Global News articles.</p>	August 15 202, updated August 17th 2020	<a href="https://cartt.ca/tpia-cabinet-wont-force-commissions-hand-but-signals-government-is-unhappy-with-the-rates/">https://cartt.ca/tpia-cabinet-wont-force-commissions-hand-but-signals-government-is-unhappy-with-the-rates/</a>	
Bell	Incumbent	Quoted in Wire Report	<p>Lawyers representing BCE Inc. have asked a Federal Court of Appeal judge to allow them to make fresh submissions in the already-heard appeal of the CRTC's wholesale rates, following a statement issued by Innovation Minister Navdeep Bains saying that the federal government thinks those rates are too low and would harm investment...</p> <p>In a letter filed with the court Monday, lawyers for Bell wrote that the company, "would appreciate the opportunity to make brief submissions on the relevance and applicability of the Order in Council, if the Court would find such submissions useful." The court has given Bell three days to file its submissions, after which respondents TekSavvy Solutions Inc. and Competitive Network Operators of Canada (CNOOC), representing the smaller ISPs who buy wholesale service from incumbents, can file replies.</p>		August 17th 2020	<a href="https://www.thewirereport.ca/2020/08/17/bell-bringing-cabinets-wholesale-appeal-response-to-federal-court/">https://www.thewirereport.ca/2020/08/17/bell-bringing-cabinets-wholesale-appeal-response-to-federal-court/</a>	
Cogeco	Incumbent	Quoted in Cartt.ca article	<p>"In its decision, the Government recognizes the critical importance of investments in high-quality networks in its public policy, which we believe is key to ensuring connectivity for all Canadians and prosperity for our communities. Cogeco looks forward to collaborating with the CRTC as they review their decision on wholesale rates and to continue playing an important role in providing Canadians with high-speed Internet connectivity."</p>	Cogeco spokesperson Gabriel Beauséjour.	August 15 202, updated August 17th 2020	<a href="https://cartt.ca/tpia-cabinet-wont-force-commissions-hand-but-signals-government-is-unhappy-with-the-rates/">https://cartt.ca/tpia-cabinet-wont-force-commissions-hand-but-signals-government-is-unhappy-with-the-rates/</a>	
Rogers	Incumbent	Quoted in Cartt.ca article	<p>"We're pleased the government has recognized the critical role facilities-based carriers have played in keeping Canadians and businesses connected during the Covid-19 pandemic and will play in driving growth during Canada's recovery,"</p> <p>"The CRTC rates do not reflect the true cost of building and expanding Canada's world-class broadband networks and will impact network investments, especially in rural and remote areas where costs are significantly higher. We look forward to continuing to partner with the government and regulator to expand connectivity and bridge the digital divide – investments that are critical to our country's ability to grow the economy and compete internationally."</p>	Statement made by Rogers spokesperson Andrew Garas quoted in Globe and Mail article (Same quote is used in a global news article)	August 15 202, updated August 17th 2020	<a href="https://cartt.ca/tpia-cabinet-wont-force-commissions-hand-but-signals-government-is-unhappy-with-the-rates/">https://cartt.ca/tpia-cabinet-wont-force-commissions-hand-but-signals-government-is-unhappy-with-the-rates/</a>	
Shaw	Incumbent	Quoted in Cartt.ca article	<p>"Shaw shares Minister Bains' view that Canada's future and the prosperity of every family and community depend on investment in telecommunications networks to deliver affordable, high-quality high-speed broadband access. We look forward to continuing to work constructively with the CRTC to achieve a wholesale framework that more appropriately balances the complementary objectives of facilities-based network investment, innovation, consumer choice and affordability."</p>	Chethan Lakshman, vice-president of external affairs at Shaw Communications	August 15 202, updated August 17th 2020	<a href="https://cartt.ca/tpia-cabinet-wont-force-commissions-hand-but-signals-government-is-unhappy-with-the-rates/">https://cartt.ca/tpia-cabinet-wont-force-commissions-hand-but-signals-government-is-unhappy-with-the-rates/</a>	
CNOOC	Competitive ISPs	News Release	<p>While the Competitive Network Operators of Canada (CNOOC) is disappointed that the Federal Cabinet did not fully endorse the 2019 Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications (CRTC) decision to lower wholesale high-speed aggregate internet rates, it acknowledges that it didn't rescind the decision either.</p> <p>"We recognize the Federal Cabinet did not strike down the 2019 CRTC ruling, however its reference to 'striking a balance' is both concerning and confusing" <i>[Matt Stein]</i></p>	Statements made by Matt Stein, Director of CNOOC		<a href="https://e3343138-57a2-4ce4-9962-4ccce44e150.filesusr.com/ugd/e28126_0f6d73524a134f6f9435692cd89e5dfb.pdf">https://e3343138-57a2-4ce4-9962-4ccce44e150.filesusr.com/ugd/e28126_0f6d73524a134f6f9435692cd89e5dfb.pdf</a>	
TekSavvy	Competitive ISPs	Quote in IT World Canada	<p>"The immediate result of the decision though, is it's going to drive up our prices," said Andy Kaplan-Myrth, vice-president of regulatory and carrier affairs at TekSavvy in an interview with IT World Canada. "We raised our prices on Sunday for new customers...we raised the lower speed plans by CA\$5 a month and higher speed plans by CA\$10 a month."</p> <p>"They seem to believe the incumbent's threats about wholesale rates affecting their investments," Kaplan-Myrth added. "The fact is, it doesn't look like the government wants them to be finalized that way. They want them to be higher, and we can't keep just waiting indefinitely for them to be resolved."</p>	Andy Kaplan-Myrth, VP of Regulatory and Carrier Affairs for TekSavvy	August 19, 2020	<a href="https://www.itworldcanada.com/article/suspended-crtc-wholesale-internet-price-hikes-gets-the-nod-from-bell-but-reseller-isp-warns-of-higher-subscription-costs/434742">https://www.itworldcanada.com/article/suspended-crtc-wholesale-internet-price-hikes-gets-the-nod-from-bell-but-reseller-isp-warns-of-higher-subscription-costs/434742</a>	
TekSavvy	Competitive ISPs	News Release	<p>"Cabinet's decision is bad news for consumers and for competition", says Andy Kaplan-Myrth, VP of Regulatory and Carrier Affairs for TekSavvy. "The government bowed to pressure from the large carriers who used their investment threat to keep prices high and competition low. This is about a government protecting huge profits of already extremely profitable companies at a time when fair pricing for internet is needed by consumers more than ever."</p> <p>Having gone five years without cost certainty, paying inflated interim rates and facing brazen anticompetitive conduct in a climate of extreme regulatory uncertainty, TekSavvy is left with no choice but to interpret this announcement as an expectation from the government that retail prices should be raised.</p>	Andy Kaplan-Myrth, VP of Regulatory and Carrier Affairs for TekSavvy	August 17 2020	<a href="https://www.teksavvy.com/in-the-news/2020-press-releases/cabinet-decision-means-higher-prices-less-competition-for-internet-services-teksavvy/">https://www.teksavvy.com/in-the-news/2020-press-releases/cabinet-decision-means-higher-prices-less-competition-for-internet-services-teksavvy/</a>	
Vmedia	Competitive ISPs	News Release	<p>In the midst of the COVID pandemic, when the internet is more necessary than ever in the daily lives of Canadians, Minister Bains intervenes in the CRTC processes, and rescinds the fair tariff policy that has been established for a decade for Canadians, to bail out telecoms companies.</p> <p>What is happening is that Cabinet is trying to use its own research, based on lengthy covert lobbying campaigns, to replace research by the CRTC, which, on the contrary, concluded that the prices were not fair and reasonable, and corrected them, after a transparent process that lasted 6 years, including hearings and analysis of world-renowned experts on internet tariffs, who reviewed the case and came to this conclusion.</p>	George Burger speaking on behalf of Vmedia	August 25 2020	<a href="https://www.vmedia.ca/blog/vmedia-le-cabinet-federal-condamne-les-familles-canadiennes-a-des-prix-internet-plus-dispendieux-pour-renflouer-les-grosses-compagnies-telecom/">https://www.vmedia.ca/blog/vmedia-le-cabinet-federal-condamne-les-familles-canadiennes-a-des-prix-internet-plus-dispendieux-pour-renflouer-les-grosses-compagnies-telecom/</a>	
Internet Society Canada	Consumer/Public Advocacy	Twitter	<p>This is not ok. .... Rhetoric employed by the order in council makes it seem like the cabinet has bought telco lobbying. The order does not reverse the CRTC decision, which is the correct outcome: lower rates for access, based on real costs. @CRTCeng : stick to your guns. You were right the 1st time.</p>		August 15 2020	<a href="https://twitter.com/ISCC_Canada/status/1294857867128213506?s=20">https://twitter.com/ISCC_Canada/status/1294857867128213506?s=20</a>	<a href="https://twitter.com/ISCC_Canada/status/129535285562539009">https://twitter.com/ISCC_Canada/status/129535285562539009</a>

<b>OpenMedia</b>	Consumer/Public Advocacy	News Release	But after years of talk and no action, this weekend Minister Bains finally showed where his true allegiances lie – with Big Telecom. On Saturday, the government announced that it thought the CRTC's wholesale revised Internet rates were too low, and might "undermine investment". <sup>3</sup> This is Big Telecom's talking point. It seems Minister Bains finally picked his side – and it's not affordability after all.  "For years you've promised us you care about Internet affordability. But when it matters most, you've completely backed down, protecting the interests of Canada's telecom giants over the well-being of millions of people in Canada. How can you possibly justify backtracking on affordability after all you've promised? We deserve an answer."	Quotes are from director of Open Media, Laura Tribe.	August 15 2020	<a href="https://openmedia.org/press/item/open-medias-comments-on-federal-cabinet-decision-in-wholesale-internet-rates-appeal">https://openmedia.org/press/item/open-medias-comments-on-federal-cabinet-decision-in-wholesale-internet-rates-appeal</a>
<b>OpenMedia</b>	Consumer/Public Advocacy	News Release	We're disappointed to see Innovation Minister Navdeep Bains side with Canada's telecom giants. In no way does this morning's decision help improve Internet affordability, despite Minister Bains long promising it to be a priority. Let's be perfectly clear on what's happening here: the government has effectively told the CRTC that they expect the rates to go up because they're worried about investment.  "Minister Bains talks a good game about affordability, but it seems that's all it is – talk. Two weeks ago we learned that cell phone prices have not come down, despite repeated promises from the government. Today we see a government decision that will inevitably lead to higher Internet prices for Canadians. This is not what's needed right now. Canadians and small, independent Internet service providers are already on the ropes due to COVID-19. Internet users across the country have lost their jobs, and small ISPs are fighting for their lives at the Federal Court and CRTC.  "Sometimes things are just obvious and other times it takes a pandemic to make things clearer,"... "In short, the pandemic made clear how important high-quality networks are to the functioning of economies and the CRTC over-stepped and needs to seriously rethink its [wholesale rates] decision."	Quotes are from director of Open Media, Laura Tribe.	August 15 2020	<a href="https://openmedia.org/press/item/open-medias-comments-on-federal-cabinet-decision-in-wholesale-internet-rates-appeal">https://openmedia.org/press/item/open-medias-comments-on-federal-cabinet-decision-in-wholesale-internet-rates-appeal</a>
<b>National Bank (Adam Shine)</b>	Financial Analyst	Quoted in A Wire Report Article	"Sometimes things are just obvious and other times it takes a pandemic to make things clearer,"... "In short, the pandemic made clear how important high-quality networks are to the functioning of economies and the CRTC over-stepped and needs to seriously rethink its [wholesale rates] decision."		August 17th 2020	<a href="https://www.thewirereport.ca/2020/08/17/bell-bringing-cabinets-wholesale-appeal-response-to-federal-court/?utm_source=The+Wire+Report+Paid+Subscribers&amp;utm_campaign=82">https://www.thewirereport.ca/2020/08/17/bell-bringing-cabinets-wholesale-appeal-response-to-federal-court/?utm_source=The+Wire+Report+Paid+Subscribers&amp;utm_campaign=82</a>
<b>Scotiabank (Jeff Fan)</b>	Financial Analyst	Research Note		Jeff Fan Financial Analyst	August 17 2020	
<b>TD Securities (Vince Valentini)</b>	Financial Analyst	Research Note		Vince Valentini	August 17 2020	
<b>CRTC</b>	Govt/Political	Quoted in Cartt.ca article	"We acknowledge the government's response to the petition regarding wholesale rates for aggregated high-speed access services. Given that the Commission is currently considering the applications to review and vary the final wholesale rates, we cannot provide further comments at this time."	The Commission issued the statement to Cartt.ca by email	August 15 202, updated August 17th 2020	<a href="https://cartt.ca/tpia-cabinet-wont-force-commissions-hand-but-signals-government-is-unhappy-with-the-rates/">https://cartt.ca/tpia-cabinet-wont-force-commissions-hand-but-signals-government-is-unhappy-with-the-rates/</a>
<b>Michelle Rempel Garner</b>	Govt/Political	Twitter	The CPC has actively opposed what Trudeau did today - overturned an independent CRTC ruling that helps Canadians (who pay some of the highest internet rates in the world). The highly paid lobbyists of the big telcos won this round, will Trudeau pay a political price for it?	Official Opposition Critic for Industry and Economic Development	August 15 2020	<a href="https://twitter.com/MichelleRempel/status/1294678098517737217?s=20">https://twitter.com/MichelleRempel/status/1294678098517737217?s=20</a>
<b>Ben Klass</b>	Commentator/Journalist/Academic	Twitter	I think the order is a probably a testament to carrier lobbying, although I couldn't say so for sure. The government certainly seems to have swallowed the "no investment in rural areas unless we get our monopoly rent in urban ones" argument, which is an unfortunate backslide. And that makes me sad, because I think a policy that fosters local involvement in providing internet connectivity would be the best solution. But this is all just about messaging anyway, because ultimately the OIC came to the correct conclusion by not reversing the #CRTC decision	Researcher with Canadian Media Concentration Project at Carleton	August 15 2020	<a href="https://twitter.com/BenKlass/status/1294682425671352320?s=20">https://twitter.com/BenKlass/status/1294682425671352320?s=20</a>
<b>Bram Abramson</b>	Commentator/Journalist/Academic	Twitter	Procedurally, this is far more, and far better ... If the section 12 process can at all be used to transpose government policy views to an ongoing #CRTC matter, then this is the more elegant way to do it -- while leaving the @CRTceng room to assign appropriate weight.	Legal counsel, formerly at Teksavvy, describing let stand with guidance approach instead of refer back	August 15 2020	<a href="https://twitter.com/bramabramson/status/1294640953421070336?s=20">https://twitter.com/bramabramson/status/1294640953421070336?s=20</a>
<b>Denis Carmel</b>	Commentator/Journalist/Academic	Cartt.ca	Saturday, the federal government released its ruling on the cabinet appeal of the CRTC's August 15, 2019 decision on new wholesale rates third party internet access ISPs must pay incumbent network operators. It required a few readings to understand.  It required a few readings to understand. So far, the cabinet announcement reads like a victory for the large ISPs. However, because the CRTC has already been asked by large ISP to Review and Vary the same decision, Cabinet decided to let the Regulator deal with it at this time and not strike down the decision nor order a review.  Make no mistake though. Today's Order-in-Council is a strong message to the CRTC by Cabinet, which, in effect, says: We are not exercising our powers under the Act but get your act together. We don't like these rates.	Main in-depth Cartt story	August 15 2020, updated August 17th 2020	<a href="https://cartt.ca/tpia-cabinet-wont-force-commissions-hand-but-signals-government-is-unhappy-with-the-rates/">https://cartt.ca/tpia-cabinet-wont-force-commissions-hand-but-signals-government-is-unhappy-with-the-rates/</a>
<b>Greg O'Brien</b>	Commentator/Journalist/Academic	Twitter	Costing is acknowledged to be one of the most difficult things the Commission does. And now, they've been told by the feds the rates are wrong. So, it's back to the drawing board. The same people, with the same data - trying to come to a different conclusion. #crtc #odnpoli	Editor and publisher at http://Cartt.ca	August 16 2020	<a href="https://twitter.com/gregobr/status/1295166919046246400?s=20">https://twitter.com/gregobr/status/1295166919046246400?s=20</a>
<b>Konrad von Finckenstein (Former CRTC Chair)</b>	Commentator	Cartt.ca	The August 15th release is not an order. It does not vary, rescind or refer the CRTC decision. It is a heavy-handed wink by the government saying it feels the rates are too low and that the provisions for retroactive application to 2016 are too severe.  It can and should change the retroactive application of the rate, however. Setting new rates after three years with retroactive effect gives the large carriers a direct hit to their bottom line they undoubtedly did not reserve for.	former chair of the CRTC (2007-2012)	August 24, 2020	<a href="https://cartt.ca/commentary-why-the-crtc-should-stand-firm-on-its-wholesale-rates-but-back-down-on-retroactivity/">https://cartt.ca/commentary-why-the-crtc-should-stand-firm-on-its-wholesale-rates-but-back-down-on-retroactivity/</a>
<b>Mark Goldberg</b>	Commentator/Journalist/Academic	Blog	With such strong views about the CRTC's Order, some may ask why Cabinet didn't exercise its power to formally "refer it back to the Commission."  The better question is "Why would it bother referring it back to the CRTC?" All that would do is cause a delay.  The CRTC already has its own review of the Decision underway. That process began last November and submissions have already been received. Had Cabinet chosen to exercise its option to "refer it back to the Commission", the resultant process might have to start over.	Blog post title: Canada's future depends on connectivity	August 15 2020	<a href="http://mhgoldberg.com/blog/?p=14022">http://mhgoldberg.com/blog/?p=14022</a>

<b>Matthew Gamble</b>	Commentator/ Industry Expert	Blog / Twitter	In this order, Minister Bains and the rest of the Federal Cabinet did Canadians a major disservice by buying into this tired argument about investment instead of trusting the experts at the CRTC with years of experience in telecom rate setting and costing. If any decision was warranted, which I believe none was, the right decision would have been to signal to the CRTC a desire that they properly balance the objectives of increasing both incentives to invest and increasing competition. Instead, they decided to state that the rates will, in some instances, undermine investment incentives while providing no explanation as to how they determined that to be the case.	Principal Technologist at EGATE Networks and member of the Board of Directors for both CIRA and the Internet Society, Canada Chapter.	August 18 2020	<a href="https://mgamble.ca/weve-been-here-before-and-no-the-sky-isnt-falling/">https://mgamble.ca/weve-been-here-before-and-no-the-sky-isnt-falling/</a>	<a href="https://twitter.com/mgamble/status/129590901985654786?rs=20">https://twitter.com/mgamble/status/129590901985654786?rs=20</a>
<b>Michael Geist</b>	Commentator/Journalist/Academic	Twitter	This article on the importance of services in Canadian trade, concludes that high telecom prices harm our competitiveness and "fixing that problem will require a tough fight with the telecom oligopoly." Today's telecom decision suggests that won't happen.	In addition to comment, actively retweeting a lot of critics of govt decision	August 15 2020	<a href="https://twitter.com/mgeist/status/1294642138781818881">https://twitter.com/mgeist/status/1294642138781818881</a>	
<b>Peter Menzies (Former CRTC Commissioner)</b>	Commentator/Journalist/Academic	Twitter	It must be very bewildering to be at the @CRTCeng these days . . . .Hard to figure out what will be pleasing to the government ... One would think it should be an accounting exercise: but that's increasingly questionable	Former CRTC Vice-Chair Telecom	August 15 2020	<a href="https://twitter.com/Pagmenzies/status/1294767286717358080">https://twitter.com/Pagmenzies/status/1294767286717358080</a>	
<b>Timothy Denton (Former CRTC Commissioner)</b>	Commentator	National Post Op-Ed	The government does not have the authority to interpose itself in ongoing CRTC proceedings, yet that is exactly what it sought to do in this instance. Through its heavy hints that the CRTC had set wholesale process too low, it effectively put its thumb on the scales of current CRTC proceedings - for which the records have closed and a decision is pending. Cabinet said, in effect: a) some wholesale rates were set too low (though it did not say which ones); and b) the potential disincentive to investment was not given sufficient weight.	national commissioner of the CRTC from 2009 to 2013, chairman of the Internet Society, Canada chapter.	August 25 2020	<a href="https://financialpost.com/opinion/timothy-denton-government-should-let-crtc-decide-on-wholesale-prices">https://financialpost.com/opinion/timothy-denton-government-should-let-crtc-decide-on-wholesale-prices</a>	