



5 June, 2014

Todd Case
Chair
Western Ontario Warden's Caucus
County of Lambton Administration Building
789 Broadway Street - Box 3000,
Wyoming ON
N0N 1T0

Dear Chair Case:

Please be advised that the Council of the Corporation of the County of Huron passed the following motion at the Seventh Session of Council on 4 June, 2014:

The Council of the County of Huron supports the recommendations and requests contained in the letter from local Huron telecom providers regarding the SWIFT project and directs the Warden and CAO to communicate Council's support to WOWC and Huron-Bruce M.P.

A copy of the original document from the local Huron telecom providers is attached to this letter.

Thank you for receiving our correspondence and I look forward to hearing from the caucus.

Sincerely,

Joe Steffler
Warden


cc Ben Lobb, M.P. Huron-Bruce

OFFICE OF THE WARDEN

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The Honourable Joe Steffler
57 West Street
Goderich, ON N7A 2K5

Dear Warden Joe Steffler,

On behalf of Hay Communications, HuronTel, Quadro Communications, Tuckersmith Communications and Wightman Telecom, we wish to address our serious concerns surrounding the SWIFT project as it is currently presented. Through the Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus Broadband Project the region has the potential to enhance its connectivity; however, our concerns are primarily that any funding generated through this initiative will be used to over-build existing networks and undermine current broadband projects, rather than to help leverage existing networks, and complete the final connections to new end users faster.

Here is a summary of our main concerns:

What the SWIFT Project will not provide:

As currently defined in the Regional Broadband Feasibility Study developed by Campbell Patterson Communications, the initiative will not connect one single new resident or business to fibre optic high speed Internet. In addition, underlying the entire business model in the SWIFT proposal is the incorrect assumption that existing infrastructure owned by private corporations will be contributed in one form or another to the project. This is not the case.

What the SWIFT Project will provide:

The implementation of the SWIFT initiative as it stands will create an unproven duplicate network which will be heavily subsidized by the rate payers of Huron County to offer cut rate unproven services to the anchor tenants, ie, schools, hospitals and businesses.

Impact on the Local Telcos:

The SWIFT network threatens to take these customers away from the telcos through a heavily taxpayer subsidized system, and will deliver nothing new to the citizens of the County. This will leave the telcos with considerably less revenue to fund the last mile roll outs that are already taking place --- slowing down, and ultimately stopping further fibre optic deployment.

What Huron County Needs:

In order for the County to benefit from any broadband funding received from the government, Huron County staff and council need to ensure they are in control of the allocation of the dollars. Who better to understand the needs of the County than the County itself?

By having control of the funding, the County could create targeted infrastructure projects that all telecommunications providers could tender for; showing no preferential treatment to one provider or another.

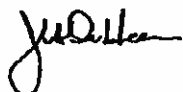
In Closing, we ask that you request that the WOWC revise the SWIFT proposal to direct the capital investments where it needs to go. This would result in local county control where the funds for Huron County can then be directed where they are needed -- to the home and farm.

We thank you for your time and attention regarding this matter.



Angela Schneider
General Manager, Hay Communications Co-operative Limited

Glenn Grubb
General Manager, HuronTel



John DeHeer
General Manager, Quadro Communications Co-operative Inc.



Tom Sullivan
President & CEO Wightman Telecom



Rob Van Aaken,
General Manager, Tuckersmith Communications Co-operative Limited.

BrookeTelecom

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Warden Todd Case
County of Lambton
789 Broadway Street
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Wyoming, Ontario
N0N 1T0

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WARDEN
CC: RVH

Dear Todd Case,

As you are aware, we at Brooke Telecom, Execulink Telecom, and Hay Communications, as well as the other Independents in Southwestern Ontario have serious concerns surrounding the SWIFT project as it is currently being presented. Through the Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus Broadband Project the region has the potential to enhance its connectivity. However, in its present form, any funding generated through this initiative will be used to over-build already existing networks, which will undermine current broadband projects to bring high speed connectivity to new end users.

Here is a summary of our main concerns:

What the SWIFT Project will not provide:

As currently defined in the Regional Broadband Feasibility Study developed by Campbell Patterson Communications, the initiative will not connect one single new resident or business to fibre optic high speed Internet. In addition, underlying the entire business model in the SWIFT proposal is the incorrect assumption that existing infrastructure owned by private corporations will be contributed in one form or another to the project. This is not the case for us as small independent providers nor, we feel, will it be by the large incumbent providers.

What the SWIFT Project will provide:

The implementation of the SWIFT initiative as it stands will create an unproven duplicate network which will be heavily subsidized by the rate payers of Lambton County to offer cut rate unproven services to the anchor tenants, such as schools, hospitals and businesses which, in many cases, are already being well served by the incumbent providers.

Impact on the Local Telcos:

The SWIFT network threatens to take these customers away from the telcos through a heavily taxpayer subsidized system, and will deliver nothing new to the citizens of the County. This will leave the telcos with considerably less revenue to fund the last mile roll outs that are already taking place, slowing down, and ultimately stopping, further fibre optic deployment.

What Lambton County Needs:

In order for the County to benefit from any broadband funding received from the government, Lambton County staff and council need to ensure they are in control of the allocation of the dollars. Who better to understand the needs of the County than the County itself?

By having control of the funding, the County could create targeted infrastructure projects that all service providers could tender for, showing no preferential treatment to one provider or another.

In closing, we ask that you request that the WOWC revise the SWIFT proposal to direct the capital investments to un-served or underserved areas to bring last mile connectivity to individual homes, farms, and businesses throughout the county.

We thank you for your time and attention regarding this matter.

Yours truly,



Jim Janssens
General Manager – Brooke Telecom Co-operative Ltd.



Angela Schneider
General Manager – Hay Communications Co-Operative Limited



Keith Stevens
Chairman – Execulink Telecom