



First Nations Cable & Six Nations Internet

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Notice Letter

May 04-2021

TO: Rogers Communications Inc., Xplornet Communications Inc., Southwestern Integrated Fibre Technology (Swift), Six Nations Of The Grand River Development Corporation, Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission, Six Nations Elected Council

CC: Six Nations of the Grand River Development Corporation, Carolyn Bennett: Minister of Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs, Marc Miller: Minister of Indigenous Services Canada, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development, Laurie Scott: Ontario Minister of Infrastructure, Ontario Regional Chief RoseAnne Archibald, Assembly of First Nations National Chief Perry Bellegarde, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Ontario Premier Doug Ford, Greg Rickford: Minister of Energy, Mines, Northern Development and Indigenous Affairs, Industry, Science and Technology

To whom it may concern:

I am deeply troubled and angered by the announcement "Six Nations is getting connected... towers, broadband.." in March 31, 2021 issue of the Turtle Island news. I have enclosed a copy of the article for your ease and reference.

The article states that Kim Barringer, Director of Indigenous Collaborations from Rogers Telecommunications Inc., gave a presentation of their proposed plan for underground fiber line at Six Nations. The article also mentions a Memorandum of Understanding for connectivity throughout the territory between the parties, which, as I understand SWIFT, Xplornet and Rogers.

On their website, SWIFT boasts of being approved for funding under the New Building Canada Fund, Small Corporations Fund- a joint federal/ provincial infrastructure funding program and leverages additional from municipal partners and private sectors investors to support the development of broadband infrastructure in eligible areas across southwestern Ontario. I note that my company First Nations Cable, fits the criteria that SWIFT heralds.

The article goes on to say that Senior Administrative Officer, Darren Jamieson said Council Entered into the MOU with Rogers in late January 2021 providing its support for the company and SNEC to co-apply for funding for the project from Canada's Universal Broadband Fund.

While I realize the tremendous need to have our Indigenous community and our members connected, particularly with the aftermath of COVID-19 pandemic, I am very disturbed that there was no attempt from any of these parties to engage my 30 -year-old company- First Nations Cable- in there discussions.

It is unfathomable that violating my rights as a First Nation business owner of 30 years, is somehow deemed acceptable by industry colleagues under the same CRTC guidelines and more so our elected officials who purports to represent our people and myself as creditable business owner within the territory.

Until otherwise clarified legally, I am of the opinion that Six Nations Elected Council (SNEC), SWIFT, Rogers, and Xplornet has made a monumental error in judgement by proceeding with this disgraceful blight of a project without consulting with Indigenous business owners that exist within the territory.

I started forming First Nations Cable 1989, applied for a CRTC license in 1991, and in 1992 was granted full broadcast license, which includes the licensed area for SIX NATIONS and surrounding territories.

We opened our doors on April 4th 1992 as a cable TV only company. In 1998 we started a dial-up internet service under the name of Six Nations Internet to coincide with the cable TV service and in 2000 we updated our internet service to a Zenith cable modem system and got out of the dial-up service.

Again in 2003 we updated our system to DOCSIS 1.1 system which performed well for the era. Since then, we made numerous changes to the DOCSIS 3.0 format which we are currently using today. We are also registered under the "Basic International Telecommunications Services License" or bits in the name of First Nations Cable.

There is a lot at stake here for First Nations Cable. Since those beginning days, we have not only provided this service to our community members when major carriers avoided us, but we have also provided jobs and capacity building projects through employment for our youth and others who have wanted to learn the business.

In the spirit of corporate reconciliation, First Nations Cable can do more and wants to do so. However, this approach of exclusion is absolutely not in line with the essentials to building a successful "shared future" for the collective Haudenosaunee here at Six Nations of the Grand River.

An inclusive Canadian economy based on respect for Indigenous rights, inclusive supply chains, practices, authentic community engagement and transparent business practices is heralded as a new way forward and a path for building a prosperous community together.

While I agree with the observation, it certainly has not been the case in this process. Economic reconciliation can be achieved through a sincere intention to be fair, respectful and honest in business transactions.

Unfortunately, the announcement in the March 31, 2021 article of the Turtle Island news certainly has not mirrored anything of this nature as it relates to First Nations Cables' inclusion in these business negotiations.

That said, I am hereby putting all the named parties on notice that I will take all necessary legal and political steps together with all factions within Six Nations of the Grand River territory to ensure this exclusion goes **NO further** and will also communicate same with every First Nations and Indigenous business owner in the country.

Sincerely:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeffery Thomas". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "J".

Jeffery Thomas

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President- First Nations Cable

Turtle Clan- Onondaga Nation

Tsa' da ja weh hon