

Charlie Angus

Member of Parliament / député
Timmins-James Bay / Timmins-baie James

Ottawa

900 Édifice La Promenade Building
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Tel./Tél: 613-992-2919
Fax/Telec: 613-995-0747

Constituency / Circonscription

202 - 60 ave Wilson Ave Timmins, Ontario P4N 2S7	201 - 30 rue Second St Kirkland Lake, Ontario P2N 1R1
Tel./Tél: 705-268-6464 Fax/Telec: 705-266-9125	Tel./Tél: 705-567-2747 Fax/Telec: 705-567-5232



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Mr. John Pecman
Commissioner of Competition
Competition Bureau of Canada
50 Victoria Street
Gatineau, Quebec K1A 0G9

July 16TH 2014

RE: ONTERA Sale

Mr. Pecman,

We represent regions of Northern Ontario that will be potentially impacted by the ONTC's decision to enter into an agreement to sell off its telecommunications division known as ONTERA to Bell Alliant.

ONTERA's telecommunications network was put in place as part of a public commitment to connect parts of Northeastern Ontario that were not being covered by the private carrier. The subsequently developed telecommunications network is a communications pipeline connecting the communities and economies of Northeastern Ontario. It is currently the wholesale provider of telecommunications services to the private companies in our regions which underpin our local economies in the digital age.

We have heard a wide variety of concerns from our constituents, businesses, and communities regarding the potential impacts of this sale. They are concerned about the potential impact on competition within the marketplace as Bell Alliant becomes the sole private sector owner of ONTERA's telecommunications network. Any competitors wishing to provide high speed or fibre optic to communities along this corridor will now have to go through their main competitor which will have a monopoly on infrastructure. This has the potential of dissuading potential new players in our region.

The future productivity and health of the Northern Ontario economy is reliant on fair and competitive access to the digital economy. It is crucial for Northern Ontario that this deal receives due diligence and a rigorous investigation. That is why we are asking that you initiate an investigation into this acquisition of ONTERA by Bell Alliant, and its impact on competition and rates for telecommunication services in North Eastern Ontario. If this sale is approved, the question must be asked – what conditions will be applied that will ensure access for small competitors wishing to utilize the former Ontera infrastructure?

Sincerely,

Charlie Angus

Charlie Angus
MP Timmins-James Bay

Glenn Tyndean
Glenn Tyndean
MP Sudbury