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Aboriginal Peoples  
Television Network

Aboriginal Peoples Television Network

**FILED ELECTRONICALLY**

January 16, 2009

Mr. Robert A. Morin  
Secretary General  
Canadian Radio-television and  
Telecommunications Commission  
1 Promenade du Portage  
Gatineau, Quebec  
J8X 4B1

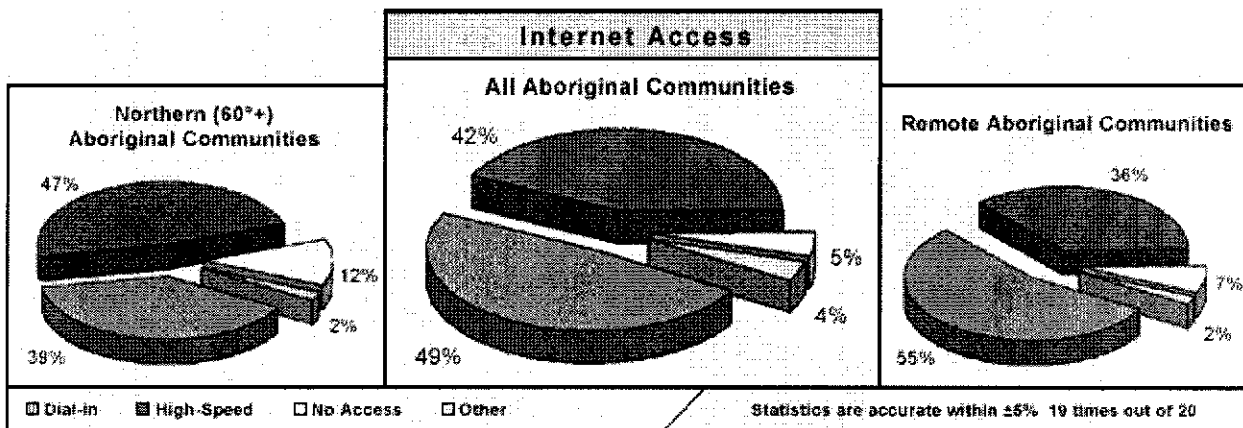
Dear Mr. Morin:

**Re: Broadcasting Notice of Public Hearing CRTC 2008-12  
Review of English- and French-language broadcasting services in  
minority language communities in Canada**

At Aboriginal Peoples Television Network Incorporated's ("APTN") appearance before the Commission on January 14, 2009, Commissioner Poirier asked whether we could file with the Commission data regarding the penetration of high speed Internet services among Aboriginal communities.

We are pleased to enclose with this letter a copy of the *2004 Report on Aboriginal Community Connectivity Infrastructure*, which is available through the Aboriginal Canada Portal ([aboriginalcanada.gc.ca](http://aboriginalcanada.gc.ca)). We referred to this report in our submission to the CRTC in its new media proceeding.

Based on that report, as of 2004, a majority of Aboriginal communities did not have access to a high speed broadband service, as reflected in the following chart.

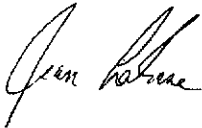


The proportion is highest within remote communities in which, in 2004, more than 62% of communities had to rely on dial-up access (which is virtually unusable for more than minimal web use) or had no access at all.

We are hoping to update some of this information as a part of the Commission's new media proceeding. Absent hard data, there is reason to believe that Internet access among Aboriginal communities is increasing to be closer to Canadian norms. Still, as we outlined in our new media submission, there are characteristics of what is considered high speed access within remote areas that have significant implications for broadband services: it is prohibitively expensive, it exhibits slower download speeds than required for most advanced broadband applications, and network capacity is constrained by satellite bottlenecks.

We would be pleased to provide the Commission with additional information as a part of the new media process as it becomes available to us.

Yours truly,



Jean LaRose  
Chief Executive Officer