



October 21, 2019

The Honourable Steve Clark
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
777 Bay Street, 17th Floor
Toronto, Ontario M5G 2E5

*Submitted Online, via the Environmental Registry of
Ontario's Comment Form*

Re: Provincial Policy Statement Review – Proposed Policies

Dear Minister Clark,

Bell Canada is pleased to have the opportunity to comment on the proposed Provincial Policy Statement, dated July 2019. Bell Canada does not have any specific concerns with the proposed policies. The purpose of this comment letter is to request the continued inclusion of certain policies that reflect the importance of communications/telecommunications infrastructure in facilitating economic competitiveness in our communities.

Comment #1: Continued Recognition of the Essential Role of Telecommunications Infrastructure

Bell appreciates the acknowledgement of communications/telecommunications as an essential component of infrastructure for our communities. The proposed Provincial Policy Statement incorporates “communications/telecommunications” in the definition of infrastructure (Section 6.0). This is unchanged from the 2014 Provincial Policy Statement. As you know, reliable, easily maintained and efficient telecommunications is essential to the 9-1-1 emergency network and the provision of fast Internet service, which is an increasingly important part of everyday life and economic competitiveness. The recognition of communications/telecommunications in the definition of infrastructure acknowledges this fundamental principle at the Provincial level. We request the continued inclusion of communications/telecommunications in the definition of infrastructure in the final Provincial Policy Statement.

Comment #2: Continued Recognition of the Role of Telecommunications Infrastructure in Creating Economically Competitive Communities

Bell appreciates the continued inclusion of policy 1.7.1 l) of the proposed Provincial Policy Statement. Currently, this policy is included in section 1.7.1 k) of the 2014 Provincial Policy Statement. This policy helps to link communications/telecommunications to long-term economic prosperity while acknowledging the importance of delivering the infrastructure in a coordinated and efficient manner. We request the continued inclusion of this policy in the final Provincial Policy Statement.

Conclusion

We would like to thank the Province for the opportunity to comment on proposed Provincial Policy Statement. Please contact Ryan Courville, Access Network Provisioning Manager, for any matters concerning this submission:

Mr. Ryan Courville
Access Network Provisioning Manager, Municipal Relations
20 Hunter Street West, Flr.3
Hamilton, ON
L8P 2Z2

If you have any questions, please direct them to the undersigned.

Yours truly,

Ryan Courville

Ryan Courville
Access Network Provisioning Manager
Municipal Relations

cc: Chris Tyrrell – WSP Canada Group Limited