



November 15, 2017

Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0N2

**RE: The Weather Network – Application Number: 2017-0586-5 Consultation
Number: 2017-365**

To whom it may concern,

On behalf of the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM), I would like to extend our support for The Weather Network's application to the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) to renew their broadcasting license. The Weather Network's application aims to ensure that weather information will remain on basic television, which is available to all subscribers, rather than moved to more expensive television packages.

Seniors, lower income individuals and families, as well as other segments of the population may not have access or utilize other sources for weather information such as Internet or mobile services and thus depend on the basic television service. Further, not all residents across Canada have equal access to broadband or specialized television packages and have no other option to obtain immediate weather information. Access to weather information is important in understanding local weather forecasts and road conditions to help to make safe travel and planning decisions.

Finally, it will also allow The Weather Network to continue funding and maintaining important infrastructure of Canada's national emergency alerting system.

We hope you take our comments into consideration to ensure access to localized weather information is more accessible to people across Canada.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan Spacek". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alan Spacek
President