



## Patrick Brown, MPP

Simcoe North  
Leader of the Official Opposition

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Mr. Chris Seidl  
Secretary General (Acting)  
Canadian Radio-television and  
Telecommunications Commission  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0N2

Dear Mr. Seidl,

### **Re: Broadcasting Notice of Consultation CRTC 2017-365; CRTC Application #2017-0586-5 by Pelmorex Weather Networks (Television) Inc.**

I am pleased to be writing to you, on behalf of myself and my constituents in the riding of Simcoe North, to express full support for the application by Pelmorex for the continued and permanent distribution of The Weather Network and MétéoMédia on the basic television service.

Simcoe North extends from Lake Simcoe and Lake Couchiching in the east to Georgian Bay in the west, and sits in the heart of one of Ontario's most severe snow belts.

It has a large rural population, and as a result many of my constituents must drive to the centres of Midland, Penetanguishene, Orillia or Barrie to work, shop, attend school or events on a daily basis. Simcoe North is also a popular year-round destination for campers, cottagers and outdoor enthusiasts.

Needless to say, affordable and convenient access to the weather information, road reports and alerts provided by The Weather Network is critical for Simcoe North residents and those who visit the area.

As part of the \$25/month basic service package, The Weather Network is the most accessible source of this information available. I therefore support The Weather Network's continued distribution on the basic service because it is an essential public service that keeps my constituents informed and safe, regardless of where they live.

Moving The Weather Network to a more expensive programming package would make it unaffordable, and the service unavailable, to many Simcoe North residents. I believe that seniors, low-income households and those who live in areas with limited access to broadband internet would be most affected by losing access to 24/7 weather information. Conversely, it is difficult to see who would benefit by removing The Weather Network from the basic service.



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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Pelmorex's operation and funding of the backbone infrastructure of our national public alerting system also makes a unique contribution to public safety at no additional cost to taxpayers. Its ongoing operation of the National Alert Aggregation and Dissemination System truly represents a model private-public partnership in Canada. Enabling government agencies to send immediate and potentially lifesaving alerts has benefitted all Canadians. That it is provided in addition to an already essential broadcast service, at no extra cost, is definitely commendable.

In closing, the constituents of Simcoe North have relied on The Weather Network being available on the basic television service so they can access up to date weather and road information, and active weather alerts, for decades.

I sincerely hope they will continue to following this proceeding.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Patrick Brown".

Patrick Brown  
Leader of the Official Opposition  
MPP – Simcoe North

Copy sent to:

[regulatory@pelmorex.com](mailto:regulatory@pelmorex.com)

**Fax:** 905-829-5800 Attn. Regulatory Affairs