

From: [Pflugrath, Charmaine](#)
To: [Fitzgerald, Maurice](#); [Hung, Belinda](#)
Cc: [Dattani, Dipak](#); [Klimek, Bob](#); [Chu, Lambert](#); [Zeinabova, Blanka](#); [Kassam, Noreen](#); [Critchley, Dave](#); [Hill, Meredith](#)
Subject: CRTC Telecom Regulatory Policy CRTC 2017-91: Implementation of the National Public Alerting System by wireless service providers to protect Canadians
Date: April 11, 2017 11:06:07 AM

Good morning,

I am pleased to announce that the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) has made a ruling on the Participation by Wireless Service Providers in the National Public Alerting System, CRTC File Number: 1011-NOC2016-0115, conducted in the spring of 2016.

The City's Emergency Management division provided two submissions in favour of location-based wireless public alerting to the CRTC during the consultation process.

In this newly announced Regulatory Policy (Please see [this link](#) for full ruling), the Commission directs wireless service providers to implement wireless public alerting capability on their long-term evolution networks by **April 06, 2018**. Concurrent with this implementation, the Commission directs the CRTC Interconnection Steering Committee (CISC) to resolve a number of outstanding issues before the mandatory distribution of emergency alert messages begins. Among these issues is the creation of a public awareness campaign to ensure that Canadians are fully informed about this new initiative

Alerts on mobile devices will warn Canadians about dangers to life and property in a timely manner so that they can take appropriate action. **The Commission expects that this new capability will be available in approximately 12 months.**

The CRTC has mandated that within 2 years of their decision (April 6, 2019), 100 percent of all devices for sale will need to be WPA-compatible. This is encouraging; but... manufacturers are simply not making compatible devices. The preferred choice, and that which the City encouraged in our submissions to the CRTC, would have included the use of all networks and all handsets, not requiring Canadians to buy a new phone to receive emergency alerts.

At the end of the day, this ruling is yet another positive outcome in favour of emergency management and can only help strengthen Public Safety advocacy moving forward.

Mass notification has been a topic of great interest, especially of the Chevron Community Advisory Panel sub-committee on Emergency Notification. Financial Management Committee has responded to correspondence from this group, most recently in March 2016. This ruling may be of interest to them.

Charmaine Pflugrath

Charmaine Pflugrath CEM

Emergency Program Coordinator | Risk Management & Emergency Planning Public Safety & Community Services

City of Burnaby | West Building – Main Floor | 4949 Canada Way, Burnaby BC V5G 1M2

www.burnaby.ca | charmaigne.pflugrath@burnaby.ca or getprepared@burnaby.ca | Office 604-294-7097

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