

December 19th, 2014

Melissa Yu
Site Development Manager
Suite 100, 468 St. Jean Street
Montreal, Canada
H2Y 2S1

Via E-mail: myu@sbsite.com

Dear Ms. Yu,

Re: Proposed Antenna Siting at 7196 Lorimer Road, Whistler British Columbia

The Whistler Chamber of Commerce represents 660 businesses in Whistler and as an organization we exist to elevate Whistler's business. However, we are convinced the new antenna system site proposed for 7196 Lorimer Road will do the exact opposite.

Our 2.5 million visitors each year come to enjoy unobstructed views of pristine wilderness, walk among real trees and immerse themselves in an authentic alpine experience. The "authentic" experience that Whistler works so hard to nurture and protect has come to be known as the "Whistler brand". It is this brand that helped us attract a Winter Olympic games in 2010 and it is also one of the reasons why Whistler was just voted the Number one Ski Resort in North America. Whistler earns these opportunities and accolades by crafting authentic alpine experiences. For Whistler, the place is the product.

The proposed antenna structure could threaten and erode our Whistler brand – *this would not elevate Whistler's business*. Whistler is responsible for 22.5% of the tourism export revenue of the province and contributes over \$1.17 million per day in taxes to the provincial and federal governments (\$428 million annually). Whistler is an economic engine for the province. A cell tower – placed near the epicenter of town – that will sit well above the existing tree line will be an eyesore in a resort that prides itself on natural vistas. The news that the tower might be dressed up as a false tree ("mono-pine") is little consolation in a town where guests and locals have come to enjoy *natural* nature.

The proposed site and structure is not acceptable to our organization and we request that SBA re-engage in public consultation and find an alternate site.

Sincerely,



Val Litwin, Chief Executive Officer
Whistler Chamber of Commerce

CC:

Government of Canada

- The Honourable James Moore (*Minister of Industry*)
- The Honourable John Weston (*MP for West Vancouver – Sunshine Coast – Sea to Sky Country*)

Government of British Columbia

- The Honourable Jordan Sturdy (*MLA West Vancouver – Sea to Sky*)
- Local Industry Canada Office

Resort Municipality of Whistler

- Nancy Wilhelm-Morden (*Mayor*)
- Kevin Creery (*Planning Analyst*)

Scott Telecom Services

- David Faulkenham