

CRTC Issues Public Notice on the Regulatory Framework for Voice Communication Services Using Internet Protocol

On 7 April 2004 the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) issued its Public Notice 2004-2 on the regulatory framework for voice communication services using Internet Protocol (IP), providing the Commission's preliminary views on the issue. Among its preliminary views is that voice communication services using IP which utilize telephone numbers based on the North American Numbering Plan and provide universal access to and/or from the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) (referred to in this public notice as "VoIP" services) have functional characteristics that are the same as circuit-switched voice telecommunications services. In addition, its existing regulatory framework should apply to VoIP services, including its determinations related to forbearance. CRTC considers, on a preliminary basis, that to the extent that VoIP services provide subscribers with access to and/or from the PSTN along with the ability to make and/or receive calls that originate and terminate within the geographic boundaries of a local calling area as defined in the Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers' (ILECs) tariffs, they should be treated for regulatory purposes as local exchange services, and be subject to the regulatory framework governing local competition. The Commission also expresses preliminary views on the following three matters: (i) the applicability of existing tariffs, and requirements to file tariffs; (ii) the provision of 911 and enhanced 911 service, message relay service and privacy safeguards; and (iii) the applicability of the national contribution collection mechanism.

Caroline Simard
GREX Advisor

(Adapted from (English) : <http://www.crtc.gc.ca/archive/eng/notices/2004/pt2004-2.htm>)

(Adapté du (Français): <http://www.crtc.gc.ca/archive/frn/notices/2004/pt2004-2.htm>)