



February 03, 2026

Mr. Marc Morin  
 Secretary General  
 Canadian Radio-television and  
 Telecommunications Commission  
 Gatineau, Quebec  
 K1A 0N2

**Subject: Part 1 Application 2025-0639-5 TEL 8640-B2-202506395 - Bell CanadaApplication  
 for forbearance from the regulation of residential local exchange services in  
 Ontario and Quebec**

Dear Mr. Morin,

On behalf of Blue Sky Economic Growth Corporation (Blue Sky Net), we respectfully submit this intervention in relation to Bell Canada's Part 1 Application for forbearance from the regulation of residential local exchange services in Calvin Township and surrounding areas.

About Blue Sky Net:

Blue Sky Net is a regional economic development organization that works to expand broadband connectivity, digital infrastructure, and data-driven planning across Northern Ontario. We collaborate with municipalities, service providers, and community partners to improve access to reliable, affordable communications services, particularly in rural and underserved areas where connectivity is essential for safety, prosperity, and inclusion.

While Blue Sky Net supports a competitive, technology-neutral telecommunications environment, we submit that the Commission's current approach to local forbearance would benefit from a more formalized and evidence-based process, particularly in rural and low-density markets.

Specifically, Blue Sky Net submits that applications for local forbearance should include a clear duty on the applicant to consult affected municipal governments and to place municipal evidence on the public record. Municipalities are uniquely positioned to assess real-world service conditions, as they coordinate emergency services, disaster response, and infrastructure planning—and receive direct, ongoing feedback from residents regarding connectivity reliability and performance.

In our view, meaningful municipal consultation is essential to determining whether "substitutable competition" truly exists in practice, rather than just in theory. The existence of nominal broadband or wireless coverage does not, on its own, establish that alternative services are reliable or capable of supporting emergency communications in adverse conditions.

Blue Sky Net further submits that the Commission should exercise caution in relying primarily on federal and provincial broadband mapping data as evidence of service availability. Based on extensive work across Northern Ontario, these datasets frequently overstate or to be honest also underestimate coverage, especially in rural and topographically varied areas. They often reflect theoretical or advertised service zones rather than verified, serviceable connectivity at the household level.

The submission by the Mayor of the Township of Calvin illustrates these gaps. Even where maps suggest multiple "served" or "under construction" areas, residents and local officials report service inconsistencies, persistent outages, and a lack of viable alternatives to legacy landline infrastructure. This discrepancy between mapped data and local experience is widespread and indicative of a systemic problem in broadband policy.

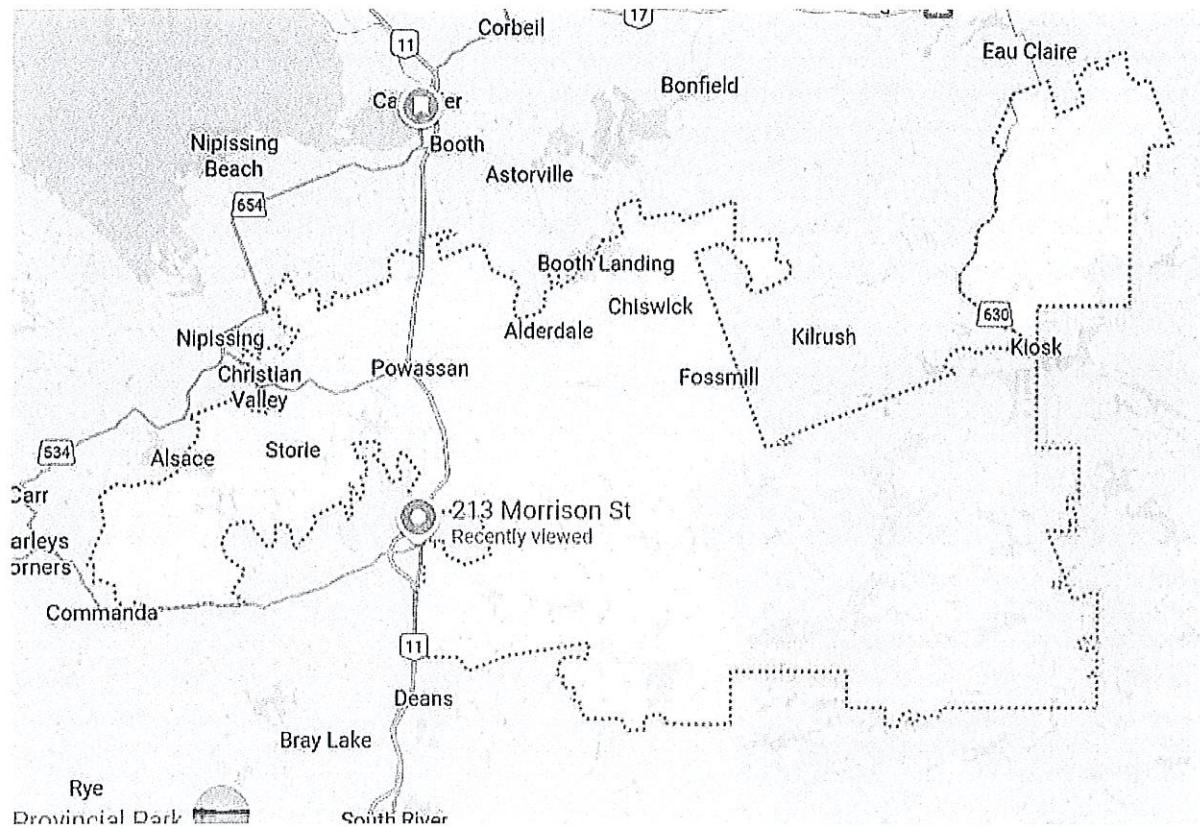
Additional on-the-ground observations reinforce these concerns:

Eastlink is listed as a landline service provider in areas such as Powassan and Trout Creek. However, local knowledge suggests their infrastructure is limited to a few legacy cable lines and does not support active internet or phone service in most of those zones. The company's own service lookup tools are unreliable, as they direct users to "call for available services," which often confirms that only small, inconsistent pockets are reachable.

TELUS's mobile coverage in these same areas is also misleading, given that TELUS operates very few towers and typically roams on Bell infrastructure. Their stated coverage reflects Bell's network more than their own, compounding inaccuracies in the mapping of competitive conditions.

Finally, the use of postal codes as a proxy for service boundaries in rural regions is deeply flawed. For instance, under postal code P0H 1Z0 (Powassan), public maps claim extensive Eastlink and TELUS coverage. That postal code spans a vast rural area where many residents have neither functional cellular service nor access to competitive landline options.

See the area covered by the POH 1Z0 postal code shown within the red border.



From a public policy and safety perspective, regulatory forbearance should not be granted in any community unless and until:

- Reliable and resilient alternative communications services are demonstrably available community-wide.
- Such availability is supported by local municipal evidence, not only national or provincial mapping tools.
- Emergency communications capacity, including access to 911 during power outages and extreme weather, is explicitly assessed.

Accordingly, Blue Sky Net respectfully recommends that the Commission consider adopting, as a general policy principle, a requirement that forbearance applicants formally consult municipalities and include their feedback in the public record. This would strengthen the **Commission's ability to evaluate real conditions, improve evidentiary quality, and ensure that regulatory protections remain in place where communities still depend on legacy networks for safety and connectivity.**

Blue Sky Net appreciates the opportunity to provide this submission and would welcome continued dialogue with the Commission on the development of a more resilient, evidence-based forbearance framework that reflects the lived realities of Canada's rural and northern regions.

Sincerely,



Susan Church  
Executive Director

c.c.

Philippe Gauvin  
Assistant General Counsel -Bell

Mayor Richard Gould  
Township of Calvin

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**AGENCIES,  
BOARDS,  
COMMITTEES**



10 February 2026

NBMCA report to Calvin Council

We have had several NBMCA Board and Executive meetings as well as a Board meeting of the North Bay Mattawa Source Protection Authority (NBMSPA) since my last report. The Source water Authority is part of the NBMCA, and the NBMCA Board is automatically on the NBMSPA board. The NBMCA board meets monthly and the NBMSPA meets four times a year along with the NBMCA Board. Much of this has already been reported by the North Bay Nugget.

Of note, is election of officers for the 2026 calendar year.

**For the NBMCA:**

Lana MITCHELL was acclaimed as chair of the NBMCA board and

Bill MORETON was elected as Vice Chair of the NBMCA board

Dave BRITTON, Lauren ROOYAKkers, and Loren MICK were elected to the NBMCA Executive Committee.

**For the NBMSPA:**

Jason Trottier has been appointed by the province to be the chair of the NBM Source Water Protection Committee.

Lana MITCHELL becomes the chair of the NBMSPA board and

Bill MORETON becomes the Vice Chair of the NBMSPA board.

The 2026 NBMCA budget was approved with an adjusted **0 % increase**. The NBMCA building has been sold to the city of north Bay and a rental agreement was reached for future use. This allowed us to pay off debts and reduce the 2026 levy.

The next meeting of the Board is Wed. 11 February 20256 at 4:00 pm

Bill MORETON

Calvin Deputy Mayor

NBMCA Board Vice Chair





MATTAWA REGIONAL OPP DETACHMENT BOARD  
CONSEIL DU DÉTACHEMENT RÉGIONAL DE MATTAWA  
DE LA POLICE PROVINCIALE

NORTH BAY OPP DETACHMENT  
DÉTACHEMENT DE NORTH BAY DE LA POLICE PROVINCIALE

10.4

RECEIVED  
Jan 29/24

Hand delivered to  
CAO  
@ PapCameron  
mtg

January 27, 2026

The Corporation of the Municipality of Calvin  
1355 Peddlers Drive  
R.R. #2  
Mattawa, ON P0H 1V0

Dear Mayor and Council:

As you are aware, the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019* (CSPA) came into effect on April 1, 2024. The Mattawa Regional Ontario Provincial Police Detachment Board (MROPPDB) would like to provide you with an overview of our progress and activities since that time, as well as our priorities moving forward.

**Official Name:** Under the CSPA, our detachment board was originally designated as North Bay OPP Detachment Board 1. In early 2025, we formally adopted the name Mattawa Regional Ontario Provincial Police Detachment Board to better reflect the area we serve.

**Membership:** In accordance with the CSPA, the MROPPDB has six members. We have one member of council from each of the four municipalities: Municipality of Calvin, Town of Mattawa, Municipality of Mattawan, and Papineau-Cameron Township, one member who is neither a member of council nor an employee of any of the above municipalities, jointly appointed by those municipalities and one member appointed by the Minister (currently vacant).

**Meeting Mandate:** As required, the MROPPDB meets at least quarterly. We continue to meet this obligation.

**Bylaws, Policies, and Governance Documents:** The MROPPDB has developed and approved the bylaws, policies, and governing documents recommended by the Ontario Association of Police Services Boards (OAPS) to meet the CSPA's requirements. To date, we have approved:

- Terms of Reference
- Bylaw for Official Name
- Participating in Board Meetings by Videoconference Policy

detailed report. Should you have community concerns or upcoming events that the OPP or the Board should be aware of, please advise your representative so the information can be brought forward at the next meeting.

**Requests to Municipalities:** We kindly ask each municipality to consider the following:

- Adding a link to our website on your municipal website to support community visibility
- Including one of the attached #KnowWhenToCall postcards in your next tax bill mail-out. To obtain the necessary quantities, please contact Andrew Kraemer, Interim Detachment Commander, at [andrew.kraemer@opp.ca](mailto:andrew.kraemer@opp.ca).

Sincerely,



Teresa Taillefer  
MROPPDB Chairperson and Member at Large

THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF CALVIN

**BYLAW NUMBER 2026-09**

**BEING A BYLAW TO CONFIRM THE PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL**

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**Legal Authority**

**Scope of Powers**

Section 8(1) of the *Municipal Act*, 2001, S.O. 2001, c.25, ("*Municipal Act*") as amended, provides that the powers of a municipality shall be interpreted broadly so as to confer broad authority on municipalities to enable them to govern their affairs as they consider appropriate, and to enhance their ability to respond to municipal issues.

**Powers of a Natural Person**

Section 9 of the *Municipal Act* provides that a municipality has the capacity, rights, powers and privileges of a natural person for the purpose of exercising its authority under this or any other Act.

**Powers Exercised by Council**

Section 5 (1) of the *Municipal Act* provides that the powers of a municipality shall be exercised by its Council

**Powers Exercised by By-law**

Section 5(3) of the *Municipal Act* provides that a municipal power, including a municipality's capacity, rights, powers and privileges under section 9, shall be exercised by bylaw unless the municipality is specifically authorized to do otherwise.

**Preamble**

Council for the Corporation of the Municipality of Calvin ("Council") acknowledges that many of the decisions it makes during a meeting of Council, regular, special, or otherwise, are done by resolution. Section 5 (3) requires that Council exercise their powers by Bylaw.

Council further acknowledges that the passing of resolutions are more expedient than adopting Bylaws for each decision.

**Decision**

Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Calvin decides it in the best interest of the Corporation to confirm its decisions by way of Confirmatory Bylaw.

**Direction**

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Calvin directs as follows:

1. The Confirmatory Period of this By-Law shall be for the Regular Council meeting of February 10, 2026 excluding Closed Meeting Agendas and Closed Meeting Minutes.
2. All By-Laws passed by the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Calvin during the period mentioned in Section 1 are hereby ratified and confirmed.
3. All resolutions passed by the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Calvin during the period mentioned in Section 1 are hereby ratified and confirmed.
4. All other proceedings, decisions, and directives of the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Calvin during the period mentioned in Section 1 are hereby ratified and confirmed.
5. This Bylaw takes effect on the day of its final passing.

Read and adopted by Resolution 2026- 60 this 10th Day of February 2026.

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MAYOR

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CAO

