



Mr. Claude Doucet  
Secretary General  
Policy Framework  
Telecommunications Sector  
Canadian Radio-television and  
Telecommunications Commission  
1 Promenade du Portage  
Ottawa ON K1A 0N2

October 16, 2018

**Filed by GCKey**

**Your reference: 8620-R63-201705675**

Re: Part 1 application by TNW Wireless Inc. relating to wholesale roaming agreements required under Telecom Regulatory Policy 2015-177

Dear Mr. Doucet,

TNW Wireless Inc (TNW Wireless) is in receipt of a procedural letter issued by Shaw Communications Inc. (Shaw) on October 15<sup>th</sup> regarding TNW's final comments filed October 9, 2018.

Shaw refers to TNW Wireless' comments which included statements regarding Freedom Mobile Inc.'s (Freedom) wireless services more specifically requesting the Commission to strike paragraphs 24 and 43 from TNW's comments and give no weight to the arguments contained therein.

It is our view that Shaw is simply distracting from the obvious, which is the nature and content of the information provided in our submission of October 9, 2018 and in previous submissions as exemplified below.

In paragraph 43, TNW Wireless stated that Freedom "uses Wi-Fi including public Wi-Fi to provide GSM-based services to its clients while their clients are outside its licensed spectrum footprint and supplements this through roaming agreements with roaming partners".

TNW Wireless further stated that "there is nothing precluding a subscriber residing in the "away network" from purchasing a Shaw/Freedom Mobile service and being in a true "permanently roaming" situation".

These statements are true, whether or not they are combined with TNW Wireless' statement in paragraph 24. TNW Wireless is not trying to lead or steer the Commission in any direction other than towards the facts. Freedom markets its services and provisions them to any customer whether or not

they reside in its licensed spectrum Service Area and does this by using a combination of its own RAN, Visited RAN (VPMN) and any Internet Wi-Fi access (public or otherwise).

Freedom's customers do in fact as Shaw notes; have the added advantage of accessing their GSM-based Voice and Text services through any Wi-Fi Internet access. Whether the customer is on Wi-Fi through the "extensive Shaw Go Wi-Fi network" or not - it is absolutely the same thing as they are on Internet services directly provisioned by any Internet Service Provider (ISP) including Shaw. These are all Internet services. Anyone can subscribe to Shaw Wi-Fi access or to any other Internet Hotspot service providers.

On Freedom's own website under "What is Wi-Fi Calling?", in *Frequently asked questions*, the response provided is:

*Wi-Fi Calling gives you the freedom to call and send text, picture and video messages over a Wi-Fi connection. The strength of your cellular signal is no longer a worry because, as long as you're connected to Wi-Fi, you can call and text as you normally do, using your existing phone number. Once you've set up Wi-Fi Calling on your Freedom Mobile phone, **it will automatically use Wi-Fi Calling whenever you're connected to a Wi-Fi network.***<sup>1</sup>[emphasis added]

In other words, once it is set up, Freedom's Wi-Fi Calling **defaults** to Wi-Fi for the provision of GSM services and there is absolutely no use restriction under Freedom's Wi-Fi Calling based on location (home, away, in/out of service area), type of network (public or otherwise) or relative data consumption whether home or away.

We note that Shaw's letter was very carefully worded to try to avoid this conclusion suggesting for example that it does not "rely" on or is "correlated" with the Shaw Go Wi-Fi network or other Wi-Fi – both terms being highly subjective in nature.

We refer back to Bell Mobility Inc. statistics cited in CRTC 2018-97 that Canadians already use Wi-Fi 76-84% for mobile data. Therefore with the default provisions of Freedom's Wi-Fi Calling, the lack of any restriction on the use of Wi-Fi and that subscribers likely spend the majority of their time connected to Wi-Fi, one has to seriously question Freedom's level of reliance on and correlation with Wi-Fi.

Nevertheless, its subscribers certainly are increasingly relying on Wi-Fi for access to GSM-based services (in or out of the Service Area). When a Freedom customer is temporarily outside of Freedom's licensed spectrum service area, all GSM-based services are provided via a roaming partner's network and/or through the use of any Wi-Fi Internet connection irrespective of which company provides the Internet connection.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.freedommobile.ca/support/search>

What is Wi-Fi Calling? x

Wi-Fi Calling gives you the freedom to call and send text, picture and video messages over a Wi-Fi connection. The strength of your cellular signal is no longer a worry because, as long as you're connected to Wi-Fi, you can call and text as you normally do, using your existing phone number. Once you've set up Wi-Fi Calling on your Freedom Mobile phone, it will automatically use Wi-Fi Calling whenever you're connected to a Wi-Fi network.

TNW obviously supports Shaw's position that it operates Freedom "within the existing regulatory framework complying with both the terms of our wholesale roaming agreements and the Commission's determinations set out in Telecom Decision CRTC 2017-56 which prohibit the use of mandated wholesale roaming on a permanent basis" and TNW Wireless itself is not requesting anything more from the Commission.

All that being said, TNW Wireless stands by the statements referred to by Shaw in its procedural letter. Again we are confident that the Commission will draw its own conclusions from the information provided and give such information any appropriate weight related to this proceeding.

Sincerely,



Lawry Trevor-Deutsch  
President

CC:

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