



## **Report to Council**

To: Mayor and Council Members  
From: Edward Hilton, Economic Development Officer  
Date: February 24, 2026  
Subject: Recommendation to Seek Intervenor Status – CRTC 2026-9 (Mobile Reporting Standards)

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### **Recommendation:**

That Council authorize the Economic Development Officer to submit a formal intervention to the CRTC regarding Notice of Consultation 2026-9; Mobile reporting standard.

### **Background:**

The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) has issued Notice of Consultation 2026-9, which aims to establish a new Mobile Reporting Standard. This standard dictates how wireless service providers (including Bell, Rogers, Telus) must report their coverage maps and signal speeds to the federal government.

Currently, coverage maps in rural Ontario are often based on theoretical "predictive modeling." These models frequently fail to account for the "shadow zones" created by localized geography and dense forest canopy found in areas like North Kawartha. This results in maps showing service in areas where residents and visitors experience frequent dropped calls or zero data connectivity.

### **Analysis:**

Staff recommends the Township intervene in this process for reasons:

#### **1. Topographical Integrity and Reporting Resolution**

Current industry standards often utilize predictive modeling that fails to account for the unique geographic features and actual end-user usage of the wireless device. Staff recommends advocating for a 50-meter grid resolution requirement. Without granular reporting that accounts for signal attenuation caused by the Township's geography and dense forest canopy, "desktop coverage" will continue to mask significant service gaps.



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## 2. Seasonal Network Congestion and Quality of Service (QoS)

A significant challenge for a rural Township like North Kawartha is the disparity between permanent and seasonal population densities. During peak visitor months, wireless infrastructure frequently reaches capacity, leading to failed call placements and data timeouts. Staff intends to advocate for Quality of Service (QoS) metrics that reflect peak-period performance, ensuring that "coverage" is defined by the ability to successfully transmit data during higher-demand intervals, not merely the presence of a signal in off-peak periods.

## 3. Emergency Resiliency and Mandatory Outage Disclosure

Staff recommends the Township advocate for a mandatory "Site-Down" reporting framework modeled after the FCC's Disaster Information Reporting System (DIRS) used in the United States. Under this model, carriers are required to provide daily updates to government authorities on the operational status of specific cell sites during a disaster. Currently, North Kawartha lacks this level of situational awareness. If a single tower serving an isolated lake community fails during a storm, the Township has no formal mechanism to receive that data from the carrier. By intervening, we can push the CRTC to adopt the U.S. approach, ensuring our emergency responders know exactly where communications have failed in real-time.

### **Financial Implications:**

There is no direct financial cost to the Township to file for Intervenor Status.

### **Strategic and/or Other Plans:**

Township of North Kawartha 2023-2026 Strategic Plan

### **In Consultation With:**

Alana Solman, CAO

### **Attachment:**

None