

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – APRIL 18, 2005

ENSURING REASONABLY-PRICED ACCESS TO CABLE TELEVISION SERVICES

Recommendation

Councillor Carella recommends that Council inform all cable television companies operating within the boundaries of the City of Vaughan that it is in support of their providing customers with access to the widest range of cable choices consistent with the level of fees currently charged to such customers.

Purpose

To ensure that Vaughan residents will have the widest possible access to cable services without having to pay additional fees

Background - Analysis and Options

Cable television is subject to federal regulation through the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC). However, within any geographic area cable providers generally enjoy a monopoly in respect of such services. Given the fact that monopolies are, by definition, not subject to the pressures of the marketplace, it is appropriate that the various levels of government, other than the federal, act as vehicles by which cable customers can inform cable providers of their concerns.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated and approved.

Conclusion

Given the monopoly nature of cable television services, citizens who choose to access such services are more or less at the mercy of established providers. It is appropriate that Council---on behalf of constituents who are subject to this monopoly---convey the sense of Council, that customers are entitled to the widest range of service selection consistent with past fee levels.

Attachments

None

Report prepared by:

Councillor Tony Carella

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Tony Carella