



## Telecom Order CRTC 2013-724

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Ottawa, 19 December 2013

### **Determination of costs award with respect to the participation of l'Union des Consommateurs in the proceeding initiated by TELUS Communications Company's application to clarify Telecom Regulatory Policy 2013-271**

File numbers: 8633-T66-201310812 and 4754-424

1. By letter dated 24 September 2013, l'Union des Consommateurs (l'Union) applied for costs with respect to its participation in the proceeding initiated by TELUS Communications Company's (TCC) application to clarify Telecom Regulatory Policy 2013-271 (the proceeding).
2. The Commission did not receive any interventions in response to the application for costs.

#### **Application**

3. L'Union submitted that it had met the criteria for an award of costs set out in section 68 of the *Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission Rules of Practice and Procedure* (the Rules of Procedure) because it represented a group or class of subscribers that had an interest in the outcome of the proceeding, it had assisted the Commission in developing a better understanding of the matters that were considered, and it had participated in a responsible way.
4. L'Union requested that the Commission fix its costs at \$855, consisting of \$105 for in-house legal fees and \$750 for in-house analyst fees. L'Union filed a bill of costs with its application.
5. L'Union made no submission as to the appropriate parties to be required to pay any costs awarded by the Commission (the costs respondents).

#### **Commission's analysis and determinations**

6. The Commission finds that l'Union has satisfied the criteria for an award of costs set out in section 68 of the Rules of Procedure. Specifically, the Commission finds that l'Union represented the interests of a significant body of consumers in the province of Quebec, including wireless service subscribers who will be affected by the outcome of the proceeding. Moreover, l'Union's intervention assisted the Commission in developing a better understanding of the matters that were considered. Finally, the Commission finds that l'Union participated in the proceeding in a responsible way.

7. The Commission notes that the rates claimed in respect of legal and analyst fees are in accordance with the rates established in the Commission's *Guidelines for the Assessment of Costs*, as set out in Telecom Regulatory Policy 2010-963. The Commission finds that the total amount claimed by l'Union was necessarily and reasonably incurred and should be allowed.
8. The Commission considers that this is an appropriate case in which to fix the costs and dispense with taxation, in accordance with the streamlined procedure set out in Telecom Public Notice 2002-5.
9. The Commission notes that it has generally determined that the appropriate costs respondents to an award of costs are the parties that have a significant interest in the outcome of the proceeding in question and have participated actively in that proceeding. The Commission considers that TCC, the Part 1 applicant in the proceeding, had a significant interest in the outcome of the proceeding and participated actively throughout the proceeding. The Commission therefore finds that the appropriate costs respondent to l'Union's application for costs is TCC.

#### **Directions regarding costs**

10. The Commission **approves** the application by l'Union for costs with respect to its participation in the proceeding.
11. Pursuant to subsection 56(1) of the *Telecommunications Act*, the Commission fixes the costs to be paid to l'Union at \$855.
12. The Commission directs that the award of costs to l'Union be paid forthwith by TCC.

Secretary General

#### **Related documents**

- *The Wireless Code*, Telecom Regulatory Policy CRTC 2013-271, 3 June 2013
- *Revision of CRTC costs award practices and procedures*, Telecom Regulatory Policy CRTC 2010-963, 23 December 2010
- *New procedure for Telecom costs awards*, Telecom Public Notice CRTC 2002-5, 7 November 2002