



Communications

Stikeman Elliott's Communications Group delivers legal and strategic advice on the most prominent matters in Canada's highly regulated communications sector. Leveraging the depth of our public and private experience, including the former counsel to the CRTC, we effectively navigate clients through complex and oftentimes changing legal climates. As a result, clients successfully obtain regulatory approvals in transactions facing intense scrutiny over competition, concentration of ownership and other sensitive issues.

Our team has a consistent track record of success for our clients, which include new media broadcasters and entertainment companies, content creators and providers, as well as private investors in the sector. Clients rely on our communications team to provide strategic and business-oriented advice related to licensing, policy and competitive disputes. We also provide advice and assistance on all elements of the Unsolicited Telecommunications Rules, including the National Do Not Call List and restrictions on automated dialers.

We are vigorous advocates for our clients before the CRTC, Innovation, Science and Economic Development (ISED) Canada (formerly Industry Canada), the Federal Court of Appeal, the Privacy Commissioner of Canada, Parliamentary Committees, and working groups. The Communications Group has also represented regulators such as the CRTC on the development of key policy issues.

Our Expertise

- Authorizations, licensing and registration
- Anti-SPAM
- *Broadcasting Act*
- Canadian ownership requirements
- Electronics manufacturing and importing
- Licensing and standards for radio and wireless devices
- Policy review
- *Radio Communications Act*
- *Remote Sensing Space Systems Act*
- *Telecommunications Act*
- Telemarketing compliance

Accolades

- Global Communications & Telecom Tech Deal of the Year and Global Corporate Deal of the Year - *2018 M&A Atlas Awards*
- Corporate Law Firm of the Year - *Chambers Canada Awards 2017*
- *Chambers Canada 2020* for Telecoms, Media & Broadcasting
- *Chambers Global 2019* for Telecoms, Media & Broadcasting

- *The Canadian Legal Expert Directory 2019* for Telecommunications
- *The Legal 500 Canada 2019* for Telecoms

Recent Work

- Ericsson, as Canadian counsel, in its acquisition of CENX Inc. and its Canadian operating subsidiary, CENX Canada Inc.
- Cogeco Communications Inc. in the equity investment by Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec in Cogeco, which will finance the US\$1.4B acquisition by Cogeco Communications Inc.'s subsidiary, Atlantic Broadband, of all of Harron Communications, L.P.'s cable systems operating under the MetroCast brand name.
- Sirius XM Canada Holdings Inc., parent of Sirius XM Canada Inc., in its recapitalization by way of a go-private transaction.
- Various companies under investigation by the CRTC with respect to alleged violations of the Unsolicited Telecommunications Rules.
- Vector Capital in its proposed C\$483M acquisition of Sandvine Corporation, a Waterloo, Ontario-based developer of network policy control solutions for communications service providers across the globe.
- Manitoba Telecom Services Inc. in the acquisition of all of its outstanding shares by BCE Inc. by way of a plan of arrangement for approximately C\$3.9B, including securing CRTC regulatory approvals.
- Yellow Pages Digital & Media Solutions Limited in its C\$35M acquisition of the assets of Oriole Media Corp doing business as JUICE Mobile.
- Primus Telecommunications Canada Inc. in its sale of substantially all of its assets and those of its U.S. subsidiaries, Primus Telecommunications, Inc. and Lingo, Inc. to Birch Communications, Inc. for a base purchase price of C\$44M and its subsequent filing for protection under the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act*.
- Juniper Networks, Inc. in connection with its acquisition of BTI Systems Inc. by way of plan of arrangement.
- TELUS Corporation in the acquisition by Baring Private Equity Asia of a 35% equity stake in TELUS International (Cda) Inc.
- MNSi Telecom in connection with its acquisition of Nexicom Inc., Nexicom Systems Inc. and a one-third interest in Trio Networks Inc.
- Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan in its C\$1.3B sale of a majority stake in Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment to Rogers Communications and BCE Inc.
- Audax Group, as Canadian counsel, in the sale of Chesapeake IRB to Linden Capital Partners.
- Transcontinental Inc. in the sale of its consumer magazines and their websites, as well as all related platforms, to TVA Group Inc. for a purchase price of C\$55.5M.

- *Voltage Pictures LLC v. John Doe and Jane Doe* – representing TekSavvy Solutions Inc. as US film company Voltage Pictures sought from TekSavvy production of personal subscriber information associated with over 2,000 IP addresses alleged to be involved in peer-to-peer file sharing.
- BCE Inc., the parent company of Bell Canada, in connection with the public offering of common shares by way of a short form prospectus in all of the provinces of Canada, and on a private placement basis in the United States and internationally, for total gross proceeds of C\$863M.
- Cogeco Diffusion Inc. and RNC Média inc. in their success before the Quebec Court of Appeal, as the latter, in a unanimous decision, upheld a judgment by the Superior Court of Quebec to reject the lawsuit instituted by Roch Guimont for alleged defamatory comments made on the air through Quebec radio stations FM 93 (Cogeco) and CHOI-FM, Radio X (RNC Média).