

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**  
between  
**Industry Canada, Pacific Region**  
and the  
**British Columbia Amateur Radio Coordination Council**

Version 961025

**This Memorandum sets out an understanding between Industry Canada, Pacific Region, and the British Columbia Amateur Radio Coordination Council concerning the coordination of radio frequency use in the Amateur Radio service within the Pacific Region.**

**1. Purpose**

The purpose of this Memorandum is to set out the understanding under by which the British Columbia Amateur Radio Coordination Council and Industry Canada in the Pacific Region cooperate in assisting radio Amateurs in the Pacific Region with respect to the coordination of Amateur radio frequency use in British Columbia.

**2. Background**

Industry Canada, a Department of the Government of Canada, administers the *Radiocommunications Act* and *General Radio Regulations*. Industry Canada document, *RP-Gen "Spectrum Policy Principles and Other Information Related to Spectrum Utilization and Radio System Policies"* incorporates the general principles which form the basis for specific policies on spectrum utilization. Industry Canada document *RIC-25 "Rules and Regulations Affecting the Amateur Service"* contains extracts from the *Act*, the *Regulations* and International Telecommunications Union Radio Regulations as they apply to Amateur radio stations.

The Pacific Region of Industry Canada deals with telecommunications matters affecting British Columbia and Yukon Territory through its four District offices.

The British Columbia Amateur Radio Coordination Council, a Society registered under the Society Act of British Columbia, acts on behalf of Amateur radio clubs throughout British Columbia. The purposes of the BCARCC are: (a) to be the means by which Amateur radio operators in British Columbia may obtain reasonable and equitable coordination of fixed frequency allocations to result in minimum interference and maximum re-use of available frequencies; and (b) to be the means by which Amateur radio clubs and individuals may coordinate their activities for the general benefit of all Amateur radio operators in British Columbia. A BCARCC document, *BCARCC Radio Frequency Coordination Policies*, sets out the general policies under which the BCARCC operates to provide frequency coordination for fixed-frequency Amateur radio operations in British Columbia.

The BCARCC cooperates with the Radio Amateurs of Canada, and with the BCARCC's counterparts in adjacent areas of Canada and the northwestern U.S.A.

The *Regulations, Part II (GR2)* set out the conditions under which radio stations in the Amateur service may operate, and Schedule II of the *Regulations* sets out the frequency bands, bandwidths and operator qualifications for the stations in the Amateur service operating in Canada. However, neither

Schedule II nor any other part of the *Regulations* sets conditions for operations on fixed frequencies within the Amateur bands, and Industry Canada policy is that selection of any operating frequency or frequencies within a band is a matter of individual operator choice.

At VHF and UHF, and to a lesser extent at lower frequencies, Amateur operation of beacons, voice repeaters and digital repeaters on fixed frequencies is common. To encourage orderly use of the available frequencies and minimize conflict between operators of fixed-frequency stations, various Amateur organizations, including the American Radio Relay League, the Radio Amateurs of Canada and others, have issued "band plans" showing channelization of the bands with specific frequencies intended for such fixed-frequency operations. It remains the responsibility of individual operators to select a fixed frequency or frequencies on which to operate, while simultaneously avoiding interference to or from other stations which may use the same frequency or frequencies. In practice, except in remote areas with little radio activity, conflicts do arise, often based on insufficient knowledge or information about frequencies in use and about the extent of radio communications coverage of existing stations. Although conflicts over frequency usage may be resolved by the individual operators, those operators generally desire to avoid conflict in the first instance, and if conflict does occur they may desire to have the assistance of a third, independent, party to resolve the conflict by regulation or by mediation.

Also, as an artifact of an earlier practice of issuing Amateur "repeater" licences showing a specific operating frequency or frequencies on the licence, some renewal Amateur station licences continue to show those specific operating frequencies. This has potential for creating a problem if the holders of such licences believe they "own" the frequencies shown, even though the licensed station may not have been operated for several months or years.

Avoiding conflict requires, as a minimum, access to an up-to-date and accurate technical database of all existing fixed-frequency Amateur stations operating in British Columbia, and operating in adjacent areas within coverage range of British Columbia. The BCARCC is prepared to establish and maintain the required database, with the cooperation and assistance of Industry Canada during the initial set-up.

In the absence of a legal authority, successful coordination requires that the BCARCC has the respect and agreement of the Amateur community and the licensing authority with regard to the activities of the frequency coordinator.

Concerned Amateur operators in British Columbia have agreed, through their clubs and individual representatives, to establish the BCARCC and to empower it to undertake frequency coordination, and mediation if requested, for the Amateur service in British Columbia.

The following paragraphs set out the understanding between Industry Canada in the Pacific Region and the BCARCC with regard to the activities of the BCARCC in the field of Amateur radio frequency coordination in British Columbia.

### **3. Understandings**

The Pacific Region of Industry Canada and the BCARCC agree to cooperate and assist each other as follows:

- 2.1 Industry Canada, under the *Radiocommunications Act* and *Radio Regulations*, is the sole regulatory authority for all matters dealing with the management of the radio frequency spectrum in Canada.
- 2.2 The BCARCC will act in an advisory or consultative capacity, to assist Amateur

operators in selection of operating frequencies, to maintain a database of frequencies selected and used by Amateur fixed-frequency operations in British Columbia, to provide education to Amateurs on matters of frequency coordination, and to mediate frequency-use conflicts if requested by the parties involved.

- 2.3 Industry Canada in the Pacific Region endorses the frequency-coordination activities of the BCARCC.
- 2.4 The BCARCC will request coordinators to establish liaison and cooperation with the District offices in the Pacific Region of Industry Canada.
- 2.5 The BCARCC undertakes to develop and maintain, to the best of its ability, a technical database of all fixed-frequency Amateur stations in British Columbia, and to include, to the extent practical, similar information regarding fixed-frequency operations in adjacent areas of the Yukon, Alberta, and the northwestern U.S.A. A public version of the database will be made available to Industry Canada in the Pacific Region and its District offices for their information and use, and this database will be updated regularly by the BCARCC.
- 2.6 If an application is received by a District office for a licence to operate an Amateur station as a repeater or on a fixed frequency, the applicant will be informed that Industry Canada does not issue authority for Amateur operation on specific frequencies and that the applicant should complete the BCARCC request for coordination form and submit it to the BCARCC.
- 2.7 The BCARCC will only accept frequency coordination applications for repeaters from licensed Amateurs of advanced standing or equivalent.
- 2.8 Industry Canada in the Pacific Region will no longer issue Amateur station licences showing a specific frequency or frequencies of operation, and will undertake to remove reference to specific operating frequencies on existing Amateur station licences.

Either party may terminate this Memorandum by written notification to the other party. This Memorandum is effective from September 1, 1996.

**Industry Canada, Pacific Region**

**British Columbia Amateur Radio  
Coordination Council**

Original signed by  
Bruce Drake, Director General

Original signed by  
W. R. Tracey, President

---

For more information on BCARCC: [secretary@bcarcc.org](mailto:secretary@bcarcc.org) or [www.bcarcc.org](http://www.bcarcc.org)