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**CRTC to rule on SSI complaint against Northwestel**

Friday, September 23, 2011 - 7:52 AM



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Yellowknife, N.W.T. - A local Internet provider's price dispute with Northwestel is now with the CRTC.

SSI Micro provides Internet services across the NWT. But in Yellowknife, the company needs Northwestel's facilities - a fibre optic network - to connect internet traffic in the city with the South.

SSI's chief development officer, Dean Proctor, said Northwestel is charging them outrageous prices for the service, and they provided the regulator with proof.

"The evidence we gave indicates pricing of similar services being 13 to 30 - that's like 3000 per cent - higher when it comes from Northwestel, then similar services we can find down south."

Their complaint is now closed and it's up to the CRTC to weigh all the evidence from SSI, and about 100 interveners, according to Proctor.

"We have a couple of Internet service providers, who are actually in competition with SSI - Tamarack Computers and Arctic Data - and those two Internet service providers also intervened in support of this because obviously, to the extent that Northwestel is overcharging SSI for pipes down south, they're clearly overcharging other Internet service providers, as well.

Now, the CRTC will decide how much Northwestel should be charging SSI, and other providers, for the use of its facilities.

A Northwestel spokesperson, Emily Younker, said SSI took the proper channels to address the issue and Northwestel has filed documents with the CRTC to refute SSI's claims.

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