

WAKE UP CALL FOR AFFORDABLE INTERNET

COMMUNITY PETITION:

Reverse the CRTC's 2021 Internet price hikes!

Canadians have spoken out **50,000+** times to say:
Cabinet **MUST** side with Canadian Internet users
and affordable Internet access.

MAY 2022 • [OPENMEDIA.ORG](https://openmedia.org)



To: The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

To: The Honourable François-Philippe Champagne
Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

May 24, 2022

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister Champagne:

I am delivering the voices of people in Canada to you on behalf of OpenMedia. **In today's submission, tens of thousands of OpenMedia community members call on Cabinet to stand with affordable connectivity by reversing the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC)'s 2021 Internet price hikes.**

In total, concerned people in Canada have taken action **over 50,000 times** since the CRTC's May 2021 Internet wholesale rates ruling to demand that Cabinet overturn the decision.

OpenMedia and 33,391 petition signers (Appendix A) urge you to immediately reverse the CRTC's Telecom Decision 2021-181, and permanently reinstate the lower 2019 wholesale rates. In addition, members of the OpenMedia community have sent nearly 17,000 combined emails to Cabinet and their MPs to [demand](#) our government take meaningful action toward affordable Internet and cell phone prices — starting with returning to the 2019 wholesale rates.

This is not the first time that people in Canada have spoken out about the CRTC's anti-affordability, pro-Big Telecom wholesale rates ruling, or Cabinet's involvement in worsening the issue. Prior to the May 2021 ruling, Canadians spoke out a whopping 63,000+ times to demand our government undo the CRTC's Internet price hikes, and clarify [Cabinet's Order in Council decision](#) that undermined the lower 2019 rates.

We the undersigned are here to remind you: the government works for Canadians, not Big Telecom. As Cabinet Ministers, you can choose to sit by and do nothing, therefore siding with Big Telecom and the CRTC's anti-consumer ruling — or, you can reinstate the lower 2019 wholesale rates, and side with Canadian Internet users and prioritize affordable Internet access. We hope you will make the right choice.

Sincerely,

[Original signed]
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Digital Rights Campaigner, OpenMedia
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[Original signed]
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**Appendix A: Petition text and signatures calling on Cabinet to reverse the
CRTC's 2021 Internet price hikes**

*OpenMedia is a community-based organization that safeguards the possibilities
of the open Internet.*

May 24, 2022



APPENDIX A: Petition text and signatures. OpenMedia and 33,391 community members call on our Cabinet to immediately overturn the CRTC's May 27, 2021 decision on Internet wholesale rates and permanently reinstate the lower 2019 rates.

PETITION TO FEDERAL CABINET:

We call on Cabinet to immediately overturn the CRTC's May 27 decision on Internet wholesale rates, and permanently reinstate the lower 2019 rates.

The CRTC's decision to raise wholesale rates not only completely abandons its own findings, but is in direct conflict with the government's 2019 policy direction, which prioritized affordability and consumer interests. It also completely undermines the federal government's promises to lower the price of telecom services in Canada.

Under CRTC Chair Ian Scott, the regulator has sided with corporate interests over that of Canadians time and again. The CRTC's job is to regulate Big Telecom – not to coddle them.

You must investigate why the CRTC is failing to act on your 2019 policy direction, and has completely abandoned Canadians in favour of granting Big Telecom's every whim.

Your government is at a crossroads: It can either sit by and do nothing, siding with Big Telecom and the CRTC, or it can reinstate the lower 2019 rates, siding with Canadian Internet users and affordable Internet access.

We hope you'll choose us.

Sincerely,

33,391 undersigned

*OpenMedia is a community-based organization that works to
keep the Internet open, affordable, and surveillance free.*



[Pages redacted to protect the privacy of OpenMedia community members]