



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

March 8, 2022

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister Champagne:

I am delivering this petition to you on behalf of OpenMedia, a community-driven organization that works to keep the Internet open, affordable, and surveillance-free. We operate as a civic engagement platform to educate, engage, and empower Internet users to advance digital rights around the world.

The OpenMedia community is seriously concerned about the impacts of the proposed Rogers-Shaw acquisition on telecom affordability and choice in Canada. Despite the fact that Canada already pays some of the highest prices in the world for home Internet and cell phone services, this buyout is poised to make prices even more expensive by reducing competition in a market already dominated by a handful of giants.

Today's submission is over 11,400 action takers strong. Close to 5,000 members of the OpenMedia community have signed our most recent petition urging you to block Rogers from buying out Shaw, and nearly 6,500 community members have sent in their responses about the individual impacts they will feel if the sale is approved.

In light of the Competition Bureau's Request for Information on Rogers-Shaw in October 2021, our community chose to share their individual experiences and concerns about how Rogers-Shaw will affect them. OpenMedia collected these unique comments as well as captured responses to a number of relevant questions, including pertinent demographic information. At a glance:

- If the Rogers-Shaw buyout is approved, our respondents are concerned:
 - Cell phone bills will get more expensive **(84.70%)**
 - Home Internet bills will get more expensive **(87.52%)**
 - There will be fewer cell phone carriers available to choose from **(86.85%)**
 - There will be fewer home Internet providers available to choose from **(87.74%)**
- If prices for cell phone and Internet services were to increase, respondents anticipate:
 - Greater financial burden on their household **(95.23%)**
 - Difficulty affording other essential expenses **(64.29%)**
 - Downgrading to a cheaper, but slower, home Internet plan **(66.03%)**
 - Downgrading to a cheaper cell phone plan, but with less data **(62.31%)**
- **41.62%** of our respondents identified as Seniors, and **26.77%** identified as Low-income.

This is not the first time that concerned people in Canada have spoken out against this buyout. You will recall that OpenMedia delivered over [62,000](#) petition signatures calling on you to block

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Rogers-Shaw in May 2021, in collaboration with civil society organizations ACORN Canada, Leadnow, and North99. Over 23,300 signatures within that submission were by members of the OpenMedia community, **bringing the total number of OpenMedia action takers against this buyout to over 34,700 to date.**

We've recently been heartened to see that elected representatives from all sides of the aisle are in agreement with our community: the Rogers/Shaw buyout is not in the interest of Canadians under ANY conditions. Our delivery to you today comes on the heels of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Industry and Technology (INDU)'s *Proposed Acquisition of Shaw Communications by Rogers Communications* [report](#), which explicitly advises you to block the deal outright. Failing to do so is now on record as acting against the public interest in the view of our own democratically-elected representatives.

We the undersigned urge you to stand by Canadians, uphold the bipartisan INDU committee's findings, and fulfill your own promises to make connectivity affordable by stopping Rogers from buying Shaw under any circumstances. **Please see Appendix A for petition text and signatures, Appendix B for a complete record of comments submitted by the community pertaining to the Bureau's RFI, and Addendum 1 for a summary of additional relevant data for your review.**

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

[Original signed]
Erin Knight
Digital Rights Campaigner, OpenMedia
1 (888) 441-2640 ext. 708
erin@openmedia.org

[Original signed]
Matt Hatfield
Campaigns Director, OpenMedia
1 (888) 441-2640 ext. 1
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APPENDIX A: Petition text and signatures

Stop the Rogers-Shaw deal NOW, and demand more Internet choice and affordability for people in Canada!

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

March 8, 2022





APPENDIX A: Petition text and signatures. OpenMedia and 4,902 community members call on Cabinet to stop the Rogers-Shaw deal, and demand more Internet choice and affordability for people in Canada.

To: François-Philippe Champagne, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry of Canada

As a concerned individual in Canada, I am urging you to block Rogers Communications from buying out Shaw Communications.

The shameful public infighting between members of the Rogers family and board has confirmed that the company is in no position to be assuming more control over the future of Canada's telecommunications market. Building 5G infrastructure and getting the majority of rural Canada effectively connected are huge challenges that will require a steady and public interest-minded hand. Considering the huge market share and power that Rogers already holds over our connectivity, their visibly dangerous instability puts the digital rights of millions of people at risk. If Rogers is allowed to buy Shaw, that power will grow even more — putting a single, out-of-control family in charge of the greatest number of home Internet and wireless customers in the country.

Even ignoring the chaos around the Rogers family's current conflict, the Rogers-Shaw deal is still bad for Canadians. We already pay some of the highest prices in the world for Internet and wireless services; this buyout will make prices even more expensive by reducing competition in a market already dominated by a handful of telecom giants.

No telecom provider — but especially not a family dynasty like Rogers — should have such dominant control over Canada's Internet and wireless services. Please put Internet affordability first by blocking the Shaw buyout, and take additional measures to finally bring robust choice and competition to our telecom market.

Sincerely,

4,902 undersigned

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

APPENDIX B: Comments submitted by the OpenMedia community pertaining to the Competition Bureau's Request for Information on Rogers-Shaw

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Addendum 1: Summary of additional relevant data for review

Stop the Rogers-Shaw deal NOW, and demand more Internet choice and affordability for people in Canada!

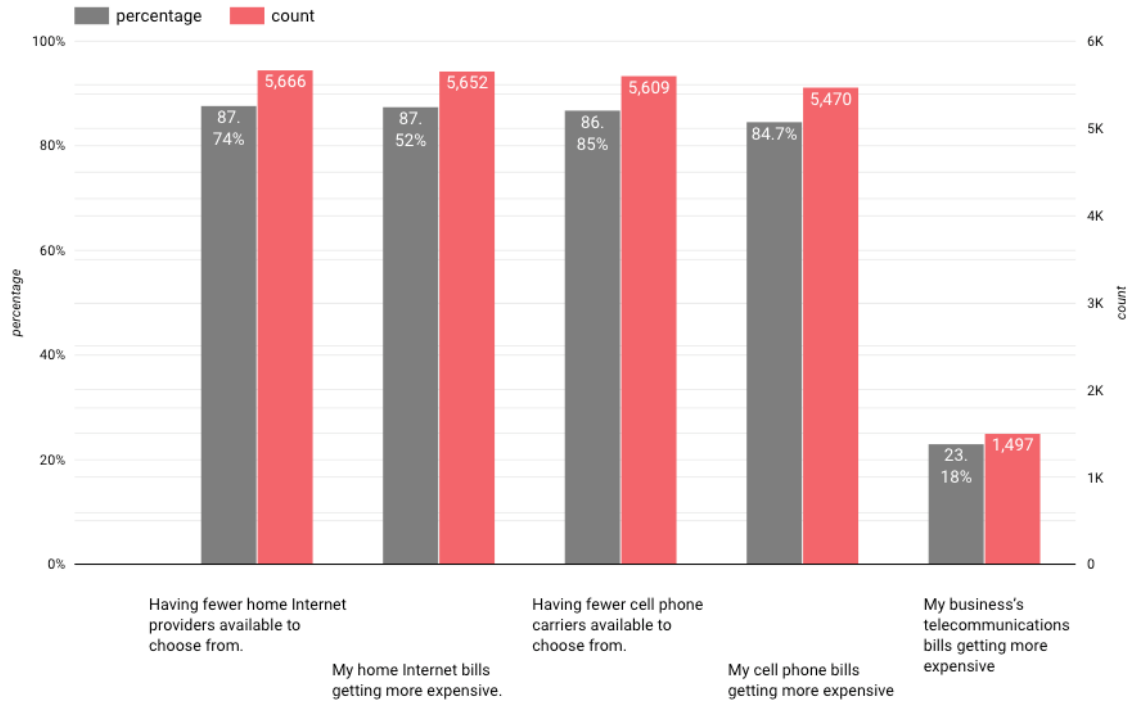
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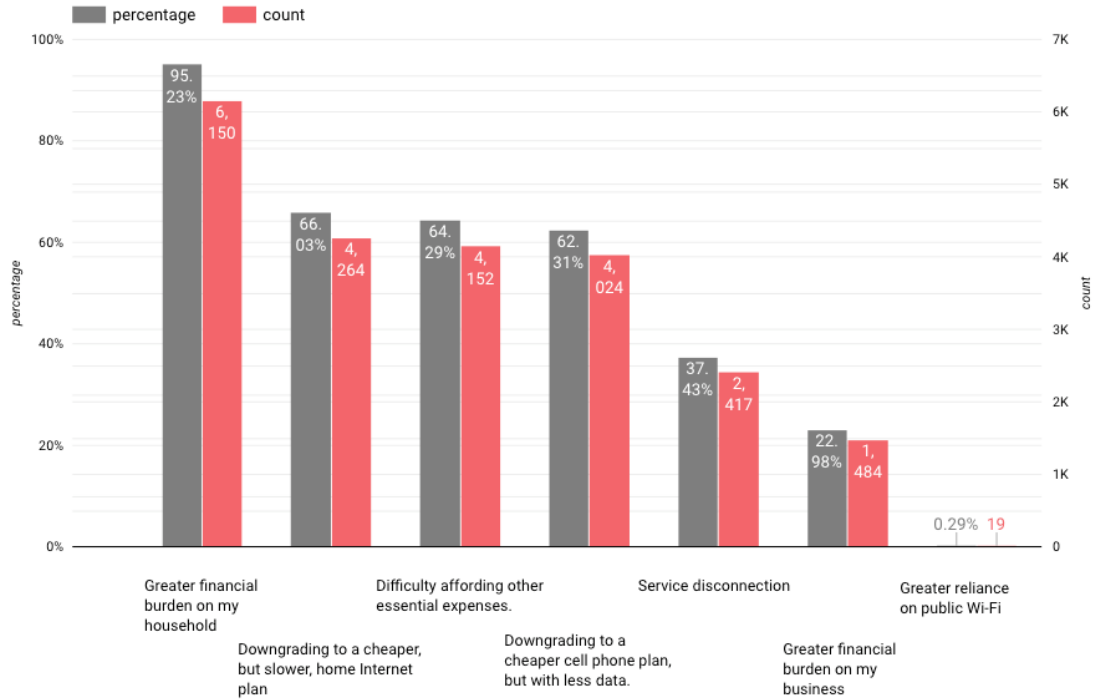


Respondents:
6,458

Q1 - If the Rogers-Shaw buyout is approved, I am concerned about the following outcomes:



Q2 - I anticipate higher prices for cell phone and Internet services will impact me in the following ways:



Q5 - Demographics. I describe myself as:

