**Bell Canada Contribution**

**to the**

**NPA 506 Relief Planning Committee**

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**DATE:** XX March 2018

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**TITLE:**  Bell Canada Contribution re: revised NPA 506 Relief Implementation Plan

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**DISTRIBUTION:** NPA 506 RPC

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ABSTRACT: This contribution proposes a revised Relief Implementation Plan and schedule based on the January 2018 R-NRUF results. This contribution used the September 2017 draft RPC RIP as a baseline document. Minor changes such as typos (506/709, dialling/dialing and Guideline/Guidelines) and formatting were accepted to provide a cleaner version to work from. Major changes were not accepted in the draft strawman document.

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**NOTICE:** This contribution is submitted to the NPA 506 RPC for the purpose of discussion and is not to be considered a binding proposal on the contributors. The contributors reserve the right to modify or withdraw this contribution at any time for any reason.

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**NPA 506 Relief Implementation Plan (RIP)**

# INTRODUCTION

This Relief Implementation Plan (RIP) was developed in accordance with the *Canadian NPA Relief Planning Guideline* (the Guideline). This RIP is a set of activities and deliverables established by the Relief Planning Committee (RPC) that are required to provide relief to the exhausting NPA. The objective of the NPA Relief Planning Process is to ensure an adequate supply of CO Codes and telephone numbers is always available to the Canadian telecommunications industry and users.

**Purpose of RIP**

The purpose of this RIP is to establish a framework and timeframe for implementing relief for NPA 506. This RIP addresses the:

1. introduction of mandatory 10-digit dialling for all local calls originating within and to the NPA 506 region prior to the introduction of new NPA Code 428.
2. implementation of new NPA Code 428 as a distributed overlay to the NPA 506 region.

This RIP contains a Relief Implementation Schedule (see Section 4), Consumer Awareness Program (CAP) (see Attachment 1) and Network Implementation Plan (NIP) (see Attachment 2).

This RIP addresses the activities, deliverables, and events impacting more than one individual TSP. It does not cover activities internal to each TSP. Attachment 3, Individual Telecommunications Service Provider Responsibilities, provides a list of activities that each TSP will need to address in its own network, systems and business operations.

In addition, this RIP does not cover issues for which there is already an established process for coordination between TSPs to establish service (e.g., interconnection agreements between carriers).

Telecom Notice of Consultation CRTC 2016-206

On 11 March 2016, the Canadian Numbering Administrator (CNA) advised the Commission that, based on the results of the latest numbering resource utilization forecast (NRUF), area code 506 is projected to exhaust by February 2021. Area code 506 covers the whole province of New Brunswick.

On 31 May 2016, the CRTC issued Telecom Notice of Consultation CRTC 2016-206 *Establishment of a CISC ad hoc committee for relief planning for area code 506 in New Brunswick*, in which it established a CISC ad hoc Relief Planning Committee (RPC) to examine options for providing relief to Area Code 506 in New Brunswick.

**July 2017 J-NRUF results**

Subsequently the July 2017 J-NRUF results indicated that the new PED for NPA 506 was deferred to 4Q 2024. Due to the delay in the PED, the RPC agreed to update the schedule and other sections, as appropriate, in the Planning Document and Relief Implementation Plan after the CNA posted an updated version based January 2018 R-NRUF results.

**January 2018 R-NRUF results**

This RIP recommends the relief implementation date and proposed schedule based upon the January 2018 R-NRUF results which forecast a December 2021 Projected Exhaust Date.

**Planning Document (PD)**

This RIP has been developed in accordance with the recommendations contained in

the Planning Document (PD). In an effort to expedite the process, the RIP & PD are being jointly submitted to the CRTC for approval.

After assessing the Relief Options and other issues contained in the PD, the RPC

submitted the following recommendations to the CISC and CRTC:

1. The Relief Method should be a Distributed Overlay of a new NPA Code on New Brunswick NPA 506;
2. NPA Code 428 should be the Relief NPA Code (In Telecom Decision CRTC 2010-784 *CRTC Interconnection Steering Committee consensus item – Reservation of area codes for future area code relief*, the CRTC directed the CNA to set aside NPA 428 for the relief of NPA 506);
3. The Relief Date should be 21 November 2020 in order to provide Carriers and customers with advanced notification and sufficient lead-time to implement relief;
4. The local dialing plan should be changed to 10 digits for all local calls within NPA 506;
5. A 7- to 10-digit local dialing transition period should be implemented commencing on 13 August 2020, with network announcements on calls dialed using 7 digits phased in over one week between 13 August 2020 and 20 August 2020;
6. Mandatory 10-digit local dialing should be implemented commencing on 7 November 2020, with network announcements on calls dialed using 7 digits phased in over one week between 7 November 2020 and 14 November 2020; and
7. The standard network announcements should be implemented commencing on 24 February 2021 and completed within one month by 24 March 2021.

**RIP Recommendations**

1. In accordance with the CRTC direction contained in Telecom Regulatory Policy CRTC 2009-156, Section 13, regarding dialling plan changes, the RPC notes that the Commission has retained the general obligation for all relevant Telecommunications Service Providers (TSPs) to inform all customers about dialling plan changes; however, TSPs may determine the appropriate methods to inform their customers.
2. All Carriers must have modified their network signaling to permit 10-digit local dialling by 22 May 2020.

**Map of NPA 506**

A map showing NPA 506 is shown below. The 506 Numbering Plan Area (NPA) consists of 88 Exchange Areas serving the province of New Brunswick which includes the major communities of Bathurst, Edmundston, Fredericton, Miramichi, Moncton and Saint John.



**Dial Plan Impacts**

Currently the dialling for local calls within NPA 506 and across its boundaries is as follows:

* 7-digit dialling for local calls within NPA 506;
* in addition to providing 7-digit dialling for local calls within NPA 506, most TSPs permit 10‑digit dialling;
* 10-digit local calling between NPA 782/902 and adjacent Canadian NPA 506 between Amherst, Nova Scotia and Sackville, New Brunswick;
* 7-digit local calling from NPA 506 (Campbellton) into Canadian NPA 418/581; and
* 7-digit local calling from NPA 506 into NPA 207 (Maine).

NPA relief will have the following impacts on dialling for local calls originated in the

NPA 506 area:

* All existing 7-digit dialling will be eliminated and 10-digit local dialling will become mandatory.

The Toll call dialling arrangement for NPA 506 will be 0 or 1+10 digits after NPA relief. NPA relief does not affect any Toll ratings.

**2. NPA RELIEF PLANNING PROCESS**

NPA Relief Planning is conducted under the regulatory oversight of the Commission in accordance with the Guideline. The Guideline was developed by the Canadian Steering Committee on Numbering (CSCN), accepted by the CISC and approved by the Commission.

The Guideline and related information on relief planning may be obtained from the www.cnac.ca web site. The CISC operates under the CISC Administrative Guidelines that may be obtained from the Commission web site (see www.crtc.gc.ca).

For each NPA projected to exhaust within a 72 month time period, the Commission informs the public that an RPC, chaired by the CNA, will be formed as an Ad Hoc Working Group of the CISC to do relief planning for the exhausting NPA. Any interested party may participate in the relief planning process. All RPCs operate as open public forums. Any party wanting to participate in this process is encouraged to visit the above web sites to obtain information on the process and schedule of events and activities. Any questions regarding the relief planning process may be directed to the CNA as follows:

Contact: Glen Brown

Telephone: 613-683-3291

Facsimile: 613-563-9293

E-mail: browng@leidos.ca

Address: CNA – Leidos Canada

Suite 1516 - 60 Queen Street

Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1P 5Y7

Individual TSPs are responsible for their own activities to implement relief (see Attachment 3). Each TSP employs a variety of information and operation support systems for the operation, maintenance, control, and administration of its network and to serve its customers. Each TSP is responsible to make the necessary changes in its systems in order to operate in the new environment and specifically to process the full 10-digit telephone number of each subscriber. Each TSP is responsible to ensure its customers are informed and implement the changes necessary to support the relief activity. Also, each TSP is responsible to ensure its own suppliers of products and services (e.g., Operator Services) implement the changes necessary to support the relief activity. Accordingly, no activities have been identified for the coordination of these functions between different TSPs, except as otherwise provided for in this RIP (e.g., Consumer Awareness Program (CAP) and Network Implementation Plan (NIP)).

Individual TSPs and industry database owners/operators shall advise Commission staff of any concerns or problems as they arise with respect to modifying their systems and databases in time to implement relief in accordance with this RIP.

**3. PROPOSED NPA RELIEF IMPLEMENTATION TASK FORCE(S)**

The RPC developed this RIP with the assistance and input of two Task Forces created by the RPC:

1. Consumer Awareness Task Force (CATF), and
2. Network Implementation Task Force (NITF).

The CNA sent an e-mail to all current and prospective Code Holders in the affected NPA requesting those entities to provide a contact name to the Co-chairs of the two Task Forces (with a courtesy copy to Commission staff). Independent telephone companies may choose to represent themselves or to be represented by their associations.

Each Task Force has at least one voluntary Co-chair. The Co-chairs of the CATF and NITF act as the single point of contact and spokespersons for their respective Task Forces. The Co-chairs maintain the list of participants on their Task Forces as confidential. All TSPs operating in the affected NPAs have a participant on each of the Task Forces.

The two Task Forces have developed and submitted separate but coordinated plans for their respective activities:

1. Consumer Awareness Program (CAP), and
2. Network Implementation Plan (NIP).

Individual TSPs are expected to develop individual consumer awareness programs and network implementation plans within the parameters of the CAP and NIP contained in this RIP. The CATF and NITF will meet periodically to perform their industry level functions identified in this RIP. The RPC will provide oversight and coordination of the CATF and NITF in accordance with the RIP.

**Consumer Awareness Task Force (CATF)**

The purpose of the CATF is to develop a comprehensive and consistent consumer awareness program for relief activities in this NPA, and to forward it to the CISC by the due date in the Relief Implementation Schedule.

To develop a CAP, the RPC created a CATF. Each TSP operating in this NPA is requested to provide the name of a representative to serve on the CATF. The CATF is Co-chaired by volunteer participants of the CATF. The Co-chairs of the CATF compile, maintain and distribute the list of all representatives on the CATF to the CATF distribution list (i.e., contact name, title, telephone number, fax number, street address, e-mail address), including the CNA.

Purpose and Mandate

The responsibilities of the CATF include, but are not limited to:

1. Develop and agree on a CAP and schedule;
2. Develop and submit progress reports;
3. Identify and address CAP issues;
4. Act as single point of contact on CAP issues; and,
5. Identify any consumer concerns or issues regarding the implementation of relief and advise the RPC, the Commission or Commission staff as appropriate.

The role of the individual CATF representative of each TSP is to ensure that its TSP organization develops, submits and implements its individual consumer awareness program in accordance with the CAP and associated schedule. Each representative acts as the single point of contact with respect to implementation of the CAP and activities for its organization. Each TSP is responsible for developing, submitting and implementing its individual consumer awareness program in accordance with the industry level CAP.

All TSPs shall provide progress reports to the CATF for submission to the RPC in accordance with the Relief Implementation Schedule.

Individual TSPs should notify the CATF, or Commission staff, or the Commission, as appropriate, if there are any problems or concerns with respect to their individual consumer awareness program activities to implement relief in accordance with this RIP.

The recommended CAP is attached to this RIP (see Attachment 1).

**Network Implementation Task Force (NITF)**

The purpose of the NITF is to develop a Network Implementation Plan (NIP) to be submitted to the CISC. This complies with the Guideline.

Each TSP operating in this NPA is requested to provide the name of a representative to serve on the NITF. The NITF is Co-chaired by volunteer participants of the NITF. The Co-chairs of the NITF compile, maintain and distribute the list of all representatives on the NITF to the NITF distribution list (i.e., contact name, title, telephone number, fax number, street address, e-mail address), including the CNA.

Purpose and Mandate

The role of the NITF is to identify and address network implementation issues that affect all carriers. The responsibilities of the NITF include, but are not limited to:

1. Develop and agree on a NIP and schedule;
2. Develop and submit progress reports;
3. Identify and address NIP issues;
4. Act as single point of contact on NIP issues;
5. Identify any network concerns or issues regarding the implementation of relief and advise the RPC, the Commission or Commission staff as appropriate; and,
6. Develop inter-network test plans, as necessary.

The role of the individual NITF representative of each TSP is to ensure that its TSP organization develops, submits and implements its individual network implementation plan in accordance with the NIP and associated schedule. Each representative acts as the single point of contact for implementation of the NIP and activities for its organization. Each TSP is responsible to develop, submit and implement its individual network implementation plan in accordance with the industry level NIP.

All TSPs shall provide progress reports to the NITF for submission to the RPC in accordance with the Relief Implementation Schedule.

Test Plans and Tests shall be arranged on a bilateral basis between interconnecting TSPs in accordance with bilateral agreements and the Relief Implementation Schedule.

Individual TSPs and industry database owners/operators (e.g., Canadian Local Number Portability Consortium) should notify the NITF, or Commission staff, or the Commission, as appropriate, if there are any problems or concerns with modifying their systems and databases in time to implement relief in accordance with this RIP.

The recommended NIP is attached to this RIP (see Attachment 2).

# PROPOSED NPA RELIEF IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

The following schedule identifies the major implementation activities, deliverables and associated dates based upon the tasks identified in the Guideline’s timeline as well as major events in both the CAP and NIP. All TSPs and telecommunications service users should plan their internal relief activities in accordance with the following Relief Implementation Schedule.

**RELIEF IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE**

**For 7- to 10-Digit Dialling Transition and a Distributed Overlay**

**of new NPA 428 over NPA 506**

**Bell Canada has proposed a Relief Implementation Schedule in a separate contribution which can be amended by the RPC and then imported to the Planning Document and this document.**

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**5. OTHER ISSUES**

**Payphone Service Providers**

All Payphone Service Providers are required to comply with the requirements contained in this RIP and Commission Decisions.

It is the responsibility of each Payphone Service Provider to update any system associated with the operation of their payphones in order to accommodate relief including the implementation of 10-digit local dialling. As well, each Payphone Service Provider must update any written instructions affixed to their payphones to advise customers that 10-digit dialling is required for local calls.

It is recommended that Commission staff notify Payphone Service Providers of the implementation of relief for this NPA, the new overlay NPA, and 10‑digit local dialling.

Individual Payphone Service Providers should notify the Commission or Commission staff, as appropriate, if they have any problems or concerns.

Telecommunication Service Users

All users are required to comply with the requirements contained in this RIP and Commission Decisions.

Users of telecommunications services are required to make the necessary changes to their telecommunications systems and equipment in order to send and receive calls using 10‑digit local dialling over the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN). Users include, but are not limited to, 9-1-1 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs), alarm companies, internet service providers, paging companies, owners of Customer Premises Equipment, unified messaging service companies, governments, apartment building owners, hydro meter readers and the general public.

Users that may be impacted by the implementation of the permissive dialling announcement should complete all necessary changes prior to the beginning of the 7‑ to 10‑Digit Dialling Transition Period for network announcements as identified in the Relief Implementation Schedule. TSPs should advise their customers that any automatic diallers or automatic call forwarding systems that are programmed to use 7‑digit dialling must be reprogrammed to use 10‑digit dialling by the introduction of the 7- to 10‑Digit Dialling Transition Period announcement.

Any devices programmed to automatically dial 7 digits cannot be changed until the TSP has implemented permissive 7/10 digit dialing in their network. These devices must then be programmed to dial 10 digits before the network announcements are introduced.

Users of telecommunications services should notify their TSP and the Commission or Commission staff, as appropriate, if they have any problems or concerns with modifying their systems and databases in time to implement relief in accordance with this RIP.

Special Types of Telecommunication Service Users

Special types of Telecommunication Service Users (e.g., 9‑1‑1 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs), alarm companies, internet service providers, paging companies, owners of Customer Premises Equipment requiring modification, unified messaging service companies, governments, apartment building owners, hydro meter readers, etc.) must take appropriate measures to ensure that their services continue to function properly. All special types of Telecommunication Service Users are requested to co-ordinate their equipment and system modifications with their TSPs to implement the new overlay NPA. This is necessary to ensure a smooth and timely transition to 10‑digit local dialling in the affected NPAs.

Alarm Service Providers

It is critically important that alarm service providers, make the necessary modifications to their systems, databases and terminal equipment after their TSP has implemented permissive 10-digit dialling and prior to the 7- to10‑Digit Dialling Transition Period start date in order to ensure continuity of service.

9‑1‑1 PSAPs

9‑1‑1 PSAPs must make any required changes to their systems and databases to accommodate the new overlay NPA and 10-digit local dialling. Individual 9‑1‑1 PSAP system operators shall identify specific problems or concerns to the Commission or Commission staff, as appropriate. It is critically important that 9‑1‑1 PSAPs make the required or necessary modifications to their systems, databases and terminal equipment after their TSP has implemented permissive 10-digit dialing and prior to the 7- to 10‑Digit Dialling Transition Period start date in order to implement the new overlay NPA and ensure continuity of service.

Directories

All Directory Service Providers are required to comply with the requirements contained in this RIP and Commission Decisions.

It is the responsibility of Directory Service Providers to make the necessary changes to their systems and directories to facilitate the introduction of the new overlay NPA and 10‑digit local dialling. All directory publishers should modify their systems to accept telephone numbers in the 10‑digit format.

To facilitate the implementation of 10‑digit local dialling, directories published before the Relief Date should identify the NPA associated with the telephone number.

After the implementation of the new overlay NPA, all future directories in the NPA 506 area should identify the NPA associated with the telephone number so that customers can obtain the appropriate 10‑digit number.

If Directories in Exchange Areas in NPA 506 have local dialling instructions, they will require modifications to indicate that all local calls must be dialled using the 10‑digit telephone number.

**6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The RPC submits this RIP to the CISC and the CRTC for approval and recommends that relief be implemented in accordance with the enclosed Relief Implementation Schedule, Consumer Awareness Program (CAP) and Network Implementation Plan (NIP).

Attachments:

1. Consumer Awareness Program (CAP)
2. Network Implementation Plan (NIP)
3. Individual Telecommunications Service Provider Responsibilities

**ATTACHMENT 1**

**Consumer Awareness Program (CAP)**

Introduction

The RPC has established a Consumer Awareness Task Force (CATF) to develop and implement this CAP.

This CAP identifies key milestones and establishes completion dates as agreed to by the RPC. It is the responsibility of all Telecommunications Service Providers (TSPs) operating or intending to operate in NPA 506 to file their individual consumer awareness plans with the Commission in accordance with the Relief Implementation Schedule. TSPs must implement those programs in accordance with this industry CAP and submit progress reports to the CATF and RPC for inclusion in the Progress and Final Reports to be filed with the Commission. The Relief Implementation Schedule contains start and end dates for industry consumer awareness activities (see the Relief Implementation Schedule included in this Relief Implementation Plan).

In order to implement the CAP, TSPs may act individually or collectively to accomplish their objectives. However, where TSPs act collectively (e.g., Telecommunications Alliance), such TSPs are individually responsible to report their progress to the CATF and RPC.

All TSPs are required to report any major relief plan concerns as they are identified, along with proposed solutions, and to address consumer concerns reported directly to the Commission.

Since New Brunswick is an official bilingual province, there is a need to provide communications in both official languages. TSPs may also consider providing communications in additional languages.

The RPC requested that the CATF develop a CAP that incorporates the following:

1) Develop and agree on a CAP schedule

2) Co-ordinate and schedule progress reports with the NITF

3) Identify and address CAP issues

4) Communications objectives

5) Target audiences (e.g., government, media and various business and residence market segments)

6) Special types of telecommunications users (e.g., alarm, apartment owners, hydro readers)

7) NPA-specific communications messages (i.e., in the exhausting NPA as well as affected Exchange Areas in neighbouring NPAs, if any)

8) Communications tactics

9) Communications theme

10) Key messages

Communications Objectives

The Communications Objectives of this CAP are as follows:

1. Increase consumer and user awareness of the introduction of the new NPA and 10-digit local dialing in the NPA 506 area.
2. Advise customers and users of the potential need to reprogram their customer provided equipment and systems prior to the beginning of the 7- to 10-Digit Dialing Transition Period announcement period (see Relief Implementation Schedule for dates) to facilitate the transition to 10-digit local dialing.
3. Encourage callers to adopt 10-digit dialing for all local calls originating within NPA 506 and the new NPA in accordance with the timeframe in the Relief Implementation Schedule.
4. Provide open communication channels to address questions and concerns from residents and businesses regarding the implementation of 10-digit local dialing and the new NPA.
5. Continue to lay the foundation for seamless addition of new NPAs in the future through successful transition to 10-digit local dialing.

Communications Tactics

TSPs should consider using the following tactics to accomplish their individual consumer awareness program activities. TSPs may opt to implement some or all of these tactics on their own or as part of an association with other TSPs. In the event that an association of TSPs is formed to coordinate consumer awareness activities, all TSPs operating in the affected NPAs are strongly encouraged to participate in the association activities.

Government Relations

TSPs should ensure that governmental authorities in the affected NPAs are informed of the relief plan (federal, provincial and municipal governments, government offices, and elected representatives).

Media Relations

To introduce and raise awareness of the new NPA and 10-digit local dialling, TSPs should conduct an ongoing media relations campaign targeting key media (including local newspapers, broadcast media, and community publications) in the exhausting NPA. TSPs should offer spokespersons for interviews that focus on how residents and businesses can prepare for the transition and to encourage them to start getting ready now.

TSPs should determine newsworthy announcements and issue press releases accordingly. The press release program will serve to update local media on the progress of 10-digit local dialling and the introduction of the new NPA.

When required, TSPs should issue a series of media alerts and public service announcements to local radio and broadcast stations to provide updated information on 10-digit local dialling.

Each TSP shall provide the news media and general public with basic information about the introduction of 10‑digit local dialling, the new NPA, and Commission decisions and regulations. Each TSP should identify its own spokesperson to speak on its behalf to the media. Individual TSPs may form alliances with other TSPs for media relations purposes and such an alliance may also have its own spokesperson.

The Canadian Numbering Administration (CNA), in its role as the Chair of the RPC, shall act as a spokesperson for the RPC.

Telecommunications Service Providers' Web Sites

TSPs should provide up-to-date information about the implementation of 10-digit local dialling in the exhausting NPA and the introduction of the new NPA on their Internet web sites.

Customer Bill Inserts & Messages

TSPs should print information on customer bills and/or distribute bill inserts to their customers advising them of the key dates for the implementation of 10-digit local dialling, the new NPA, and associated changes required to customer equipment and systems.

Advertising Campaign

TSPs should implement their own individual media advertising as necessary and voluntarily participate in a media advertising campaign coordinated with other TSPs’ activities to increase awareness amongst consumers in the affected NPAs. All media advertising campaigns, whether conducted individually or collectively, should meet the objective of providing clear and consistent messages to consumers and users as established in this CAP.

Targeted Customer Communications

TSPs should identify and communicate directly with their customers who will be required to make major changes to their telecommunications equipment and systems to accommodate 10-digit local dialling and the new NPA. Targeted communications identifying the changes required should be sent to those customers well in advance of the start date for the 7- to 10-Digit Dialling Transition Period network announcements in order to provide those customers with sufficient time to make the necessary changes. Such targeted customers may include 9-1-1 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs), alarm companies, Internet service providers, paging companies, unified messaging service companies, apartment building owners, and hydro meter readers.

Other Means of Customer Communications

TSPs should consider using other means (e.g., customer messaging, direct customer contacts, Interactive Voice Response, social media, etc.), as required, to reach their customers and provide appropriate information about the implementation of 10‑digit local dialling and the new NPA.

Communications Themes and Key Messages:

The proposed theme for the CAP should be:

“A new area code is being added to the 506 area. Add-the-code and dial 10‑digits for all local calls originating within area code 506 and the new area code 428.”

This theme should be reinforced with more detailed key messages in customer awareness activities:

1. To meet the growing demand for telecommunications services and numbers, new area code 428 will be introduced in the 506 geographic area in November 2020. The new area code will co-exist within the same geographic region as area code 506. There will be no change to customers’ existing 506 telephone numbers. Telephone numbers beginning with the new area code may be assigned for use starting 21 November 2020.
2. Adding a new area code to a calling region requires changes in local dialing. Changes are required for local dialling in area code 506 starting on 13 August 2020. In area code 506 and the new area code, 10‑digit dialling will be required for all local calls after that date.
3. In order to prepare for this change, consumers and businesses will be required to reprogram their telephone functions, mobile phones, fax machines, modems, lifeline equipment and other communications equipment by adding their area code to all programmed numbers.
4. Customers may begin reprogramming their telecommunications equipment today to accommodate 10‑digit local dialling and should have it completed by 13 August 2020when 7- to 10-Digit Dialling Transition network announcements will begin for local calls dialed using 7-digits originating within area code 506.
5. Special types of telecommunications service users with large volumes of reprogramming should contact their Telecommunications Service Provider to determine the date that they can start reprogramming their equipment.
6. Starting on 13 August 2020, local calls originating within area code 506 that are dialed using only 7 digits will generally receive a recorded announcement reminding callers to dial local calls using 10 digits consisting of the 3‑digit area code and 7‑digit telephone number. Calls will then be automatically completed. The recorded messages may prevent local data calls dialed using only 7-digits from being completed.
7. Starting on 7November 2020, all local calls originating within area code 506 and the new area code must be dialed using 10 digits consisting of the 3‑digit area code and 7‑digit telephone number. Also on that date, all local calls originating within area code 506 and the new area code that are dialed using 7 digits will be routed to a recorded announcement advising callers to dial local calls using 10 digits and the call will not be completed.
8. Local and long distance calling areas and prices will not change with the adoption of 10‑digit dialling on local calls originating within area code 506. Customers with telephone numbers in the new area code will get the same calling areas and prices as customers in the same exchange areas with telephone numbers in area code 506.
9. N11 service access codes such as emergency calls (911), directory assistance (411), repair (611) and relay service (711) will continue to be dialed using 3‑digits.

Consumer Awareness Program Timeline

All TSPs who have or plan to have customers in the affected NPAs must implement their own consumer awareness program activities in accordance with this CAP and associated dates contained in the Relief Implementation Schedule.

It is the responsibility of each TSP to submit its individual consumer awareness program to the Commission and to provide progress reports to the CATF on its own consumer awareness program activities so that the CATF can submit its required Progress Reports. In the event that a TSP does not submit its individual progress report to the CATF, the CATF will note this discrepancy in its progress report.

**ATTACHMENT 2**

**Network Implementation Plan (NIP)**

Introduction

The Canadian NPA Relief Planning Guidelines require the RPC to create a Network Implementation Task Force (NITF) with a mandate to develop a Network Implementation Plan (NIP) for implementing relief and to submit such NIP to the CISC.

Accordingly, the RPC has established a Network Implementation Task Force (NITF) to develop and implement this NIP.

This NIP addresses the introduction of 10-digit local dialling in NPA 506 as well as the introduction of new NPA 428 in the NPA 506 area.

The NIP identifies key milestones and establishes completion dates as agreed to by the RPC. It is the responsibility of all Telecommunications Service Providers (TSPs) operating or intending to operate in the area served by NPA 506 to file their individual network implementation plans with the Commission in accordance with the Relief Implementation Schedule. TSPs must implement those programs in accordance with this industry NIP and submit progress reports to the NITF and RPC for inclusion in the Progress and Final Reports to be filed by the RPC with the Commission.

All TSPs are required to report any major relief plan concerns as they are identified, along with proposed solutions, and to address consumer concerns reported directly to the Commission.

The RPC requested that the NITF develop a NIP in accordance the Canadian NPA Relief Planning Guidelines that incorporates the following:

1. Develop and agree on a NIP schedule
2. Co-ordinate and schedule progress reports with the CATF
3. Identify and address NIP issues
4. Network implementation objectives
5. Co-ordinate equipment modifications with special types of telecommunications users (e.g., alarm companies, apartment building owners, hydro meter readers, etc.)
6. Network changes
7. Intercarrier network and technical interfaces (e.g., test plan and test numbers, 9‑1‑1 impacts if any)
8. Recommend standard network switch announcements to be reviewed with the CATF (7- to 10-Digit Dialling Transition Period announcement and mandatory dialing announcement) for all Exchange Areas and NPAs affected by the Decision
9. Recommend phase-in and phase-out periods for standard network announcements
10. Recommend mandatory 10‑digit local dialling date
11. Recommend earliest effective date for activation of new CO Codes in the new NPA

Network Implementation Objectives

The objectives of this NIP are as follows:

1. Implement the standard network announcements for the 7- to 10-Digit Dialling Transition Period and for mandatory 10-digit local dialling in accordance with the CRTC Decision, RIP and Relief Implementation Schedule.
2. Make all network and interconnection modifications to implement 10-digit dialling for all local calls originating within NPA 506.
3. Implement all necessary network modifications for the introduction of new NPA Code 428 in the NPA 506 area.
4. Lay the foundation for seamless addition of new NPAs in the future through successful transition to local 10-digit dialling.

TSP Coordination with Special Types of Telecommunications Users

All TSPs are requested to co-ordinate their network and service modifications with special types of telecommunications users (e.g., 9‑1‑1 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs), alarm companies, internet service providers, paging companies, owners of Customer Premises Equipment, unified messaging service companies, governments, apartment building owners, hydro meter readers, etc.). This is necessary in order to ensure a smooth and timely transition to 10‑digit local dialling in the affected NPAs, and the introduction of the new NPA.

Test Codes, Numbers & Plans

All TSPs are required to modify their networks, systems, databases, and operator services and directory assistance databases, to accommodate 10-digit local dialling and the new NPA as per the Relief Implementation Schedule.

Test plans, if required, should be arranged on a bilateral basis between interconnecting TSPs in accordance with bilateral agreements.

In preparation for the start of inter-carrier testing, all TSPs are expected to complete modifications to their networks, systems, databases, and Operator Services and Directory Assistance databases, as necessary and per the Relief Implementation Schedule to facilitate intercarrier testing.

Test numbers in the new NPA will permit all carriers and other entities to test their equipment and ensure that the proper network changes have been made to route calls to each carrier operating in the new NPA. The test numbers shall permit TSPs and users to test their equipment both with and without having to incur toll charges.

Each Carrier may establish two test numbers in a test CO Code (NXX) for the new NPA to facilitate testing of network and billing system functionality. Routing of calls to the new NPA can be verified by dialling the new NPA-NXX-8378 (TEST) numbers which shall not provide answer supervision and therefore shall not result in a billed call to the “calling” party. Billing of calls to the new NPA can be verified by dialling the new NPA-NXX-2455 (BILL) numbers which shall provide answer supervision and therefore shall result in a billed call to the “originating” network.

The following carriers have agreed to provide test numbers in the new NPA as follows:

* Bell Canada 428-610 Saint John
* TELUS Mobility 428-999 Fredericton
* TELUS Mobility 428-580 Moncton
* TELUS Integrated Communications 428-810 Moncton

Other carriers may request and receive test CO Codes and numbers for publication in the Test Plan, in accordance with the timeframe contained in the Relief Implementation Schedule.

The test numbers must be activated in all networks by the date in the Relief Implementation Schedule and remain active until at least one month after the Relief Date.

The test CO Codes used for the test numbers must be returned to the CNA in accordance with the Relief Implementation Schedule. The CNA shall initiate CO Code reclamation in accordance with the *Canadian Central Office (NXX) Code Assignment Guideline* for all CO Codes allocated for testing purposes in the event that such CO Codes are not returned by the above carriers to the CNA in accordance with the Relief Implementation Schedule.

The standard network announcement for the test number must be as follows:

“You have successfully completed a call to the 428 Area Code Test Number at [CARRIER NAME] in New Brunswick, Canada. La communication a été établie avec succès au numéro de vérification de l'indicatif régional 428, à [NOM DU TÉLÉCOMMUNICATEUR], Nouveau Brunswick, Canada.”

In accordance with the Canadian Central Office Code (NXX) Assignment Guideline, TSPs may request other test CO Codes in the new NPA for test purposes within their own networks during the relief implementation timeframe.

In general, in NPA 506 10-digit local dialling is provided on a permissive basis in most networks as an option to 7‑digit local dialling.

l

l13 August 2020

ll13 to 20 August 2020

Mandatory 10‑Digit Local Dialling Start Date

The mandatory 10‑digit local dialling start date is 7 November 2020. All TSPs must phase-in the mandatory 10‑digit dialling announcement over a 7 calendar day period commencing on the mandatory 10‑digit dialling start date of 7 November 2020(which is coincident with the phase-out of the 7- to 10‑Digit Dialling Transition Period announcement) and ending on 14 November 2020.

Date for CO Code Activation in the New NPA (Relief Date)

The Effective Date for the introduction of the new NPA is 21 November 2020, which is the earliest date that a CO Code from the new NPA can be activated in the PSTN. This date is the Relief Date.

The 7 calendar day delay between the end of the phase-in of the 10‑digit mandatory dialling announcement and the Relief Date (i.e., from 14 November to 21 November 2020) is necessary to address any network routing, dialling or other issues that may arise.

Based on the CRTC’s determinations in Telecom Regulatory Policy CRTC 2009-156, Section 13, regarding dialling plan changes, the RPC notes that the Commission has retained the general obligation for all relevant Telecommunications Service Providers (TSPs) to inform all customers about dialling plan changes but that TSPs may determine the appropriate methods to inform their customers. In situations where TSPs have network limitations in providing recorded announcements with call completion, and the provision of such announcements and call completion would be prohibitively expensive (e.g., for companies in small and/or remote locations served by legacy technology), such TSPs may determine the appropriate methods for informing their customers (e.g., bill messages and inserts, customer letters, e-mail messages, media advertising, web sites, etc.).

7- to 10-Digit Local Dialling Transition Period Announcement

The RPC recommends the use of the following standard network announcement text by all TSPs.

“The local number you have dialled must be preceded by its area code. Your call will now proceed. Le numéro local que vous avez composé doit être précédé de son indicatif régional. Votre appel sera maintenant acheminé.”

Commencing on the start date for the permissive dialling period, each TSP must implement its own network announcements where necessary for all 7-digit dialed calls originated by its own customers on its network.

All TSPs are expected to provision appropriate capacity on their network announcement systems to provide these announcements for a reasonable quantity of call traffic. This is necessary in order to provide callers with appropriate instruction about the new dial plan and to ensure a smooth transition to mandatory 10-digit local dialling prior to the introduction of the new NPA. However, it is recognized that in peak calling periods the quantity of calls dialed using 7 digits may exceed the network announcement capacity available. In such circumstances, TSPs should process excess peak period calls without the 7‑ to 10‑digit dialling announcements in order to protect the network and ensure customers are not adversely affected.

Equipment used by local exchange carriers to provide service in some exchanges, typically those serving small communities, is generally able to provide both 7- and 10‑digit local dialling (10-digit permissive dialling), and can route calls to a network announcement, e.g. when 10-digit dialling is mandatory, or an NPA has changed; however, such equipment may not be able to connect a call following a network announcement (i.e., cut-through), as is usually required during transition to 10-digit local dialling. Investments that would be required to upgrade or replace network elements to provide transition announcements in some communities could be significant relative to their size, and such investments would provide a capability that would only be used for a short time, i.e. during the dialling transition period.

Carriers seeking relief from providing network announcements may implement alternate communications to inform their customers of the 10-digit dialling requirement (e.g., network announcements on 7-digit dialled calls, bill messages and inserts, customer letters, e-mail messages, media advertising, web sites, etc.).

Mandatory 10‑Digit Dialling Announcement

The local number you have dialled must be preceded by its area code. This call cannot be completed as dialled. Please hang up and redial using the area code. Le numéro local que vous avez composé doit être précédé de son indicatif régional. Votre appel ne peut être établi. Veuillez raccrocher et recommencer en composant l'indicatif régional.

The mandatory 10-digit dialling announcement should be retained on all networks for a minimum period of 3 months per the Relief Implementation Schedule.

Standard Network Announcements

Commencing on the mandatory 10‑digit local dialling date, TSPs must not complete 7‑digit dialled calls to telephone numbers with the exception of numbers in CO Codes approved by the Commission that can be dialled using 7‑digits (e.g., 310‑XXXX). Appropriate 10‑digit routing between networks and network announcements must be implemented by each TSP.

After the mandatory 10‑digit dialling announcement period ends, each carrier’s standard announcement should be used for all calls dialled using 7 digits.

9-1-1 Service

The introduction of 10‑digit local dialling is not expected to have any impact on the dialling of the 9‑1‑1 abbreviated dialling number nor the routing of emergency calls to the appropriate Public Service Answering Point (PSAP).

The introduction of the new NPA may have an impact on 9‑1‑1 service, trunking and systems.

TSPs who intend to provide service using CO Codes in the new NPA or to port numbers into their switch from the new NPA, shall establish 9-1-1 trunking and associated interconnection arrangements as per existing interconnection agreements. TSPs that provide 9-1-1 networking services to any PSAP shall establish 9‑1-1 trunking and associated interconnection arrangements as per existing interconnection agreements. These arrangements shall be made prior to the Relief Date upon request of TSPs, and provided that these arrangements are in accordance with the timelines, terms and conditions set out in existing interconnection agreements.

The existing procedure for implementing new TSP trunk groups for 9-1-1 traffic should be used, such as testing with other TSPs' 9-1-1 Control Centers. All TSP related changes that impact 9-1-1 must be completed in accordance with the Relief Implementation Schedule.

**Payphone Service Providers**

It is the responsibility of each Payphone Service Provider to update any system associated with the operation of their payphones in order to accommodate the new NPA and mandatory local 10-digit dialling. As well, each Payphone Service Provider must update any written instructions affixed to their payphones to advise customers that 10‑digit dialling is required for local calls.

**International Gateway Service Providers**

International Gateway Service Providers are responsible to implement changes to their network in order to accommodate the new NPA.

Intra Carrier Network and Customer Interface

All TSPs must make and test the necessary internal system, network and customer interface changes as per the Relief Implementation Schedule in order to accommodate 10-digit local dialling and the introduction of the new NPA.

All TSPs are required to implement the necessary network changes to route traffic to/from the new NPA. Switch translations must be updated and modified in all TSPs’ networks in order to process calls to/from the new NPA.

By the start of the inter-carrier testing period, Carriers must use 10-digit signalling for all local traffic they send to other Carriers, and must be able to receive 10-digit signalling on local traffic they receive from other carriers. In the event that Carriers have network equipment limitations that cannot accommodate 10‑digit signalling, alternative arrangements may be negotiated with interconnecting carriers to route calls using only 7-digit signalling, where feasible.

Each TSP is responsible for determining the impact of 10‑digit local dialing and the new NPA on its network, systems and operations including the products and services it provides to its own customers. Each TSP is responsible for making all necessary modifications to ensure service will be maintained during and after the relief implementation period for its own customers. Furthermore, TSPs shall notify all of their customers of the introduction of the new NPA and 10‑digit local dialling in accordance with the Consumer Awareness Program (CAP) (see Attachment 1 to the Relief Implementation Plan).

Network Implementation Plan Timeline & Progress Reports

All TSPs who have or plan to have customers in the affected NPAs must implement their own network implementation plan activities in accordance with this NIP and associated dates contained in the Relief Implementation Schedule.

It is the responsibility of each TSP to provide progress reports to the NITF on its own network implementation plan activities so that the NITF can submit its required Progress Reports to the RPC. In the event that a TSP does not submit its individual progress report to the NITF, the NITF will note this discrepancy in its Progress Report. If a TSP does not submit its Progress Report to the NITF, it must submit it directly to the CRTC.

Dial Plan Changes

Currently the dialling for local calls within NPA 506 and across its boundaries is as follows:

* 7-digit dialling for local calls within NPA 506;
* in addition to providing 7-digit dialling for local calls within NPA 506, most TSPs permit 10‑digit dialling;
* 10-digit local calling between NPA 782/902 and adjacent Canadian NPA 506 between Amherst, Nova Scotia and Sackville, New Brunswick;
* 7-digit local calling from NPA 506 (Campbellton) into Canadian NPA 418/581; and
* 7-digit local calling from NPA 506 into NPA 207 (Maine).

NPA relief will have the following impacts on dialling for local calls originated in the

NPA 506 area:

* All existing 7-digit dialling will be eliminated and 10-digit local dialling will become mandatory.

The Toll call dialling arrangement for NPA 506 will be 0 or 1+10 digits after NPA relief. NPA relief does not affect any Toll ratings.

**ATTACHMENT 3**

**Individual Telecommunications Service Provider Responsibilities**

Each Telecommunications Service Provider (TSP) is responsible to make the necessary changes in their information and operation support systems as well as for the operation, maintenance, control, and administration of its network and to serve its customers. Accordingly, no activities have been identified in the Relief Implementation Plan (RIP) for the coordination of these functions between different TSPs. Such “internal” systems include, but are not limited to, the following functions:

1. Operations Support
2. Products & Services
3. Marketing & Sales
4. Carrier Services
5. Network Planning & Provisioning
6. Network Operations
7. Service Assurance
8. Billing
9. Financial Systems
10. Customer Care & Customer Services (e.g., Business Offices)
11. Operator Services
12. Directories
13. Direct Marketing Centers
14. Quality Control
15. Service Provisioning & Activation
16. Repair Services
17. Human Resources/Logistics
18. Corporate Information Databases
19. Customer Provided Equipment Reprogramming, Upgrades and Testing