**CRTC INTERCONNECTION STEERING COMMITTEE**

**TIF REPORT**

**Date Submitted:                 2025-07-15**

**WORKING GROUP: CSCN**

**REPORT #:      155A                                                             File ID: CNRE155A**

**REPORT TITLE**: Proposed replacement of current adjunct with new Canadian NPA Allocation Plan and Assignment Guideline

**OUTCOME: CONSENSUS/NON-CONSENSUS**

**RELATED TASK(s) #: 124**

**BACKGROUND:**

The Canadian telecom industry is nearing exhaust of the NPAs allocated for Canada in 2000.

The current *Canadian Adjunct to the INC NPA Allocation Plan and Assignment Guidelines* (Version 2, 28 January 2011) was based on a pool of NPAs designated for future NPA relief in Canada.

During CSCN 131, the CNA noted that under the current INC *NPA Allocation Plan and Assignment Guidelines*, Canada is eligible to receive NPA assignments as required based on the Canadian industry forecast.

The CSCN decided that rather than requesting a new pool of NPAs, Canada should use the INC process and create a Canadian guideline to replace the existing adjunct (*Canadian Adjunct to the INC NPA Allocation and Assignment Guidelines*) that establishes some base rules.

The CSCN sent a letter to the CRTC Secretary General on 14 November 2024 recommending Canada follow the ATIS guideline and CRTC staff responded on 3 February 2025 requesting the CSCN establish the conditions whereby Canada can request additional NPAs from NANPA, including:

1. engaging NANPA as required to ensure Canada’s needs can be accommodated through the ATIS guideline process, either as it currently exists or as the result of modifications agreed upon between the CNA and NANPA; and
2. filing for the Commission’s consideration by **4 August 2025** new or modified Canadian-specific numbering guidelines that effectively capture the procedures for initiating and completing requests for geographic or non-geographic NPAs for Canada’s use from NANPA.

The new guideline will be in alignment with the updated ATIS guideline while also being able to stand alone should the ATIS guideline deviate from the current direction with regard to Canada’s access to resources.

**CONCLUSIONS:**

The CSCN concluded that the proposed guideline will meet the needs of the Canadian industry while ensuring that Canada will still be able to obtain additional NPAs as required if there are any changes made to the ATIS INC guideline.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The CSCN recommends that the CRTC approve the attached *Canadian NPA Allocation Plan and Assignment Guideline*, Version 1.0 replacing the *Canadian Adjunct to the INC NPA Allocation Plan and Assignment Guidelines* (Version 2, 28 January 2011).

**ATTACHMENTS:**

*Canadian NPA Allocation Plan and Assignment Guideline*, Version 1.0

**Canadian NPA Allocation Plan and Assignment Guideline**

**Version 1.0**

Approved by Telecom Decision CRTC XXXX-XXX

Dated: DD MMMM YYYY

**Developed by:**

**The Canadian Steering Committee on Numbering (CSCN)**

**Date approved by CSCN: 15 July 2025**

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# Introduction

## This guideline was developed to exist alongside ATIS-0300055 *NPA Allocation and Assignment Guidelines*. The Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solution’s (ATIS) guidelines were approved by the Industry Numbering Committee (INC) to outline the process for the assignment of Numbering Plan Area (NPA) codes, or Area Codes for geographic and non-geographic purposes.

## This guideline is approved by the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC), Canada’s federal regulatory body on telecommunications. While this document is intended to agree with the guidelines detailed in ATIS-0300055, changes to that document approved by the INC may include the introduction of differences between the two guidelines. In cases where this should occur, Canada shall continue operating under the detailed assignment procedures and principles within this currently approved guideline.

## The Canadian Steering Committee on Numbering (CSCN), a CRTC Interconnection Steering Committee (CISC) sub-working group, may make recommendations for changes to this guideline through the CISC process to the CRTC. These changes may be made to keep this guideline in alignment with ATIS-0300055 where appropriate for Canada.

# Purpose and Scope

## This document contains procedures and principles for reserving, releasing reservations, assigning and returning NPA codes for geographic and non-geographic use in Canada.

## North American Numbering Plan numbers are ten digits in length, and they are in the format NXX-NXX-XXXX, where N is any digit 2-9 and X is any digit 0-9. The first three digits are called the Numbering Plan Area (NPA) code, often called the Area Code. The second three digits are called the Central Office (CO) Code or prefix. The final four digits are called the line number.

## The NANP conforms to the International Telecommunications Union Recommendation E.164, the international standard for numbering plans. All countries assigned the ITU Country Code 1 for their Public Switched Telephone Network are members of the NANP. These countries are Canada, United States including its territories (American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico and United States Virgin Islands), Bermuda and many Caribbean nations, including Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jamaica, Turks and Caicos Islands, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sint Maarten, Trinidad and Tobago.

# Assumptions and Constraints

## The Canadian Numbering Administrator (CNA) will act on Canada’s behalf with the NANP Administrator (NANPA) to submit applications/requests for NPA reservations or release of reservations, NPA assignments, and NPA returns.

## Additionally, the Numbering Resource Utilization Forecast (NRUF) results project the exhaust of NPAs for Canadian geographic and non-geographic NANP resources.

# NRUF

## In accordance with the *Canadian Numbering Resource Utilization (C-NRUF) Guideline*, Canada conducts NRUFs periodically. The NRUF results provide Projected Exhaust Dates (PEDs) for Canadian geographic NPA complexes (i.e., sets of NPAs overlayed on a geographic area).

## Additionally, the NRUF results predict the exhaust of NPAs for Canadian non-geographic NANP resources. Non-geographic codes are not limited to geographic Exchange Areas and may be used across Canada.

## The PEDs in the NRUF results will be used as the basis for reserving additional codes with the NANP Administrator (NANPA) for Canada.

# NPA Reservations

## Based on the NRUF PEDs, geographic NPA complexes or non-geographic numbering resource types may enter a 10-years-to-exhaust window. Geographic NPA complexes or non-geographic numbering resource types that enter this window are eligible to have a relief NPA reserved in the NANP for Canada.

## Due care should be taken to ensure that any geographic NPA complex or non-geographic numbering resource exhibits a trend such that the timeframe to exhaust is decreasing (i.e., the PED is moving further into the window). This should ensure that reservations are not made too hastily, thereby avoiding unnecessary release and reassignment of NPA codes in the NANP.

## The CNA, as the Canadian Administrator of NPA resources shall:

1. Consult with CRTC staff before requesting an NPA reservation;
2. Request the NPA reservation with NANPA;
3. Maintain a log of the NPA reservations;
4. Advise the CSCN of any new NPA reservations; and
5. Include new NPA reservations on the NPA Status Report delivered to CSCN plenary meetings.

# Releasing NPA Reservations

## If the results of the NRUF show that the PED for an NPA complex (geographic or non-geographic) has moved beyond the 10-years-to-exhaust window and an NPA has already been reserved for future relief of that NPA complex, the reserved NPA should be released in the NANP.

## Due care should be taken to ensure that any geographic NPA complex or non-geographic numbering resource exhibits a trend such that the timeframe to exhaust is increasing (i.e., the PED is moving further out of the window). This should ensure that reservation releases are not made too hastily, thereby avoiding unnecessarily renewing and re-releasing NPA codes in the NANP.

## The CNA, as the Canadian Administrator of NPA resources shall:

1. Consult with CRTC staff before requesting an NPA reservation be released;
2. Submit a request to NANPA to release the NPA reservation;
3. Maintain a log of the released NPA reservations;
4. Advise the CSCN when NPA reservations have been released; and
5. Remove released NPA reservations from the NPA Status Report delivered to CSCN plenary meetings.

# NPA Assignments

## For geographic NPA complexes, a relief implementation plan will be submitted to the CRTC in accordance with the *Canadian NPA Relief Planning Guideline*. Upon a positive determination by the CRTC, Canada may have a reserved NPA assigned.

## In accordance with the *Canadian NPA Relief Planning Guideline*, a relief planning committee (RPC) may elect to recommend an NPA that is different from the NPA reserved for that NPA complex but the recommended NPA should come from the group of NPAs already reserved for relief in Canada, even if that NPA is already reserved for a different NPA complex. This may be done for technical or other practical reasons. In these cases, and upon a determination by the CRTC, reservations must be updated with NANPA to reflect the changes.

## For non-geographic numbering resources, Canada may seek assignments of reserved NPAs in accordance with the associated, approved resource guideline, or in consultation with CRTC staff or the CSCN.

## The CNA, as the Canadian Administrator of NPA resources shall:

1. Apply for the assignment of the reserved relief NPA through NANPA for;
   1. geographic NPAs in accordance with CRTC determinations of relief implementation plans submitted by relief planning committees; or
   2. non-geographic NPAs in accordance with associated guidelines or in consultation with CRTC staff or the CSCN.
2. For geographic NPA assignments, draft a planning letter describing the implementation for NANPA to distribute to the NANP, in accordance with the approved geographic relief implementation schedule;
3. For non-geographic NPA assignments, draft a planning letter describing the implementation for NANPA to distribute to the NANP;
4. Maintain a log of NPA assignments;
5. Advise the CSCN of any new non-geographic NPA assignments;
6. Implement new geographic NPA assignments in the CNA systems in accordance with the approved geographic relief implementation schedule;
7. Implement new non-geographic NPA assignments in the CNA systems and open them for assignment before the relieved NPA is exhausted; and
8. Include new non-geographic NPA assignments on the NPA Status Report delivered to CSCN plenary meetings.

# Returning NPAs

## From time to time, a NANP-based NPA code may cease to be required for use in Canada.

## Based on CRTC determinations, Canada may return an NPA to the NANPA when it is no longer required.

## The CNA, as the Canadian Administrator of NPA resources shall:

1. Process any sub-NPA resource returns (e.g., NXXs) where appropriate;
2. Send correspondence to NANPA indicating that Canada is returning the NPA;
3. Maintain a log of the NPA returns;
4. Advise the CSCN of any NPA returns;
5. Update the CNA public website and status data as appropriate for any NPA returned; and
6. Include new NPA returns as appropriate on the NPA Status Report delivered to CSCN plenary meetings (i.e., removing those reservations from the report), or from future NRUF requests.

\*\*\* End of Document \*\*\*