

ACCESS SERVICES TARIFF FOR
INTERCONNECTION WITH INTEREXCHANGE
CARRIERS (IXC'S)

CRTC 21480

Original Title Page

NORTHWESTEL INC.

ACCESS SERVICES TARIFF FOR
INTERCONNECTION WITH INTEREXCHANGE
CARRIERS (IXC'S)

CONTAINING

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

RATES AND CHARGES

APPLICABLE TO THE INTERCONNECTION

OF THE COMPANY'S FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT WITH THOSE OF
INTEREXCHANGE CARRIERS (IXC'S)

Northwestel's Tariffs are published under the direction of the Company's Regulatory Affairs Manager

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For explanation of symbols see Page 1

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EXPLANATION OF SYMBOLS

- (A) - to denote increases
- (R) - to denote reductions
- (C) - to denote changes in wording which result in neither increases nor reductions in rates or charges
- (D) - to denote material previously shown has now been deleted
- (M) - to denote information moved to or from another page
- (N) - to denote new rates or items
- (S) - to denote reissued material
- (V) - not available for new installation or for expansion of existing service
- (Z) - available on recovery basis only and at the discretion of the Company

**ACCESS SERVICES TARIFF FOR
INTERCONNECTION WITH INTEREXCHANGE
CARRIERS (IXC'S)
CHECK SHEET**

**CRTC 21480
8th Revised Page 2
Cancels 7th Revised Page 2**

Original and revised pages of this Tariff listed below are in effect:

Page	Revision	
Title	Original	
1	Original	
2	8	(C)
3	3	
3A	Original	
4	Original	
5	1	
6	1	
7	Original	
8	Original	
9	1	
10	3	(C)
11	1	
12	Original	
13	Original	
14	1	
15	Original	
16	Original	

**ACCESS SERVICES TARIFF FOR
INTERCONNECTION WITH INTEREXCHANGE
CARRIERS (IXC'S)**

**CRTC 21480
3rd Revised Page 3
Cancels 2nd Revised Page 3**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

(C)

	<u>Item</u>	<u>Page</u>
Explanation of Symbols	-	1
Check Sheet	-	2
Table of Contents	-	3
Index	-	3A
PART I – GENERAL		
TERMS AND CONDITIONS	10	4
DEFINITIONS	20	7
TEST FACILITIES	30	8
PART 2 – CARRIER ACCESS TARIFF		
INTERCONNECTING CIRCUITS WITH TRUNK SIDE ACCESS	40	9
OPERATOR SERVICES	41	12
STANDBY CIRCUITS	50	13
<i>RESERVED FOR FUTURE USE</i>	60	14
<i>RESERVED FOR FUTURE USE</i>	70	14
FACILITIES FOR DEDICATED ACCESS LINES	80	14
COMPENSATION PER CALL	90	14
<i>RESERVED FOR FUTURE USE</i>	100	15
BILLING AND COLLECTION SERVICE	200	15

**ACCESS SERVICES TARIFF FOR
INTERCONNECTION WITH INTEREXCHANGE
CARRIERS (IXC'S)**

CRTC 21480

Original Page 3A

INDEX

(N)

<u>Description</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Page</u>
Billing and Collection Service.....	200	15
Description of Service.....	200.1	15
Definitions	200.2	15
Terms and Conditions	200.3	16
Rates and Charges.....	200.4	16
Bundled CAT.....	40.2	10
Compensation per Call	90	14
Description of Service.....	90.1	14
Terms and Conditions	90.2	14
Charges	90.3	14
Definitions	20	7
Emergency Busy Line Verification /Interruption Service.....	41.2	12
Facilities for Dedicated Access Lines.....	80	14
Interconnecting Circuits with Trunk-side Access	40	9
General.....	40.1	9
Bundled CAT.....	40.2	10
Toll-free Carrier Identification Charge	40.3	10
PIC Processing.....	40.4	10
Long Distance Directory Assistance.....	41.3	12
Long Distance Operator Assistance.....	41.4	12
Network Changes	10.2	6
Network Outages	10.3	6
Operator Services	41	12
General.....	41.1	12
Emergency Busy Line Verification /Interruption Service.....	41.2	12
Long Distance Directory Assistance.....	41.3	12
Long Distance Operator Assistance	41.4	12
PIC Processing.....	40.4	10
Protection.....	10.4	6
Standby Circuits	50	13
Terms and Conditions	50.1	13
Rates and Charges.....	50.2	13
Terms and Conditions	10	4
General.....	10.1	4
Network Changes.....	10.2	6
Network Outages	10.3	6
Protection.....	10.4	6
Test Facilities.....	30	8
Toll-Free Carrier Identification Charge	40.3	10

Item

10. TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. General

- a) Subject to the terms and conditions as set out in this Tariff and in Decision CRTC 2000-746, Interexchange Carriers (IXC) may:
 - 1. interconnect their services and facilities to any of Northwestel Inc.'s (the Company's) services and facilities, subject to their availability; and
 - 2. except where expressly prohibited by the Company's tariffs, resell any of the Company's services and facilities, subject to their availability.
- b) The provision of access services is further subject to the terms and conditions specified in the Agreement Specifying the Procedures of the Interexchange Carrier Group between the IXC and the Company (the "CSG Agreement"), including the Appendices and Schedules, and in the PIC/CARE Access customer Handbook described in Item 40.4(c). The CSG Agreement defines and determines the procedures for handling confidential information provided by the IXC to the Company and specifies procedures with respect to the receipt and processing of orders from the IXC, interexchange carrier billing, network planning requirements and PIC information processing, in relation to services provided as a result of interconnection.
- c) Insofar as they are reasonably applicable and not inconsistent with this Tariff, the Company's General Tariff and all other Company Tariffs, including any amendments to or replacements of them extend and apply to this Tariff. The Company's Terms of Service and General Regulations, including any amendments to or replacements of them, apply to this Tariff, with such modifications, as the circumstances require.
- d) Any facilities and services of the Company required by the IXC for the purposes of interconnection or resale may be acquired through any of the Company's Tariffs including this Tariff.
- e) The provision of the connections outlined in this Tariff does not constitute a joint undertaking with the IXC in the furnishing of any service.
- f) In the furnishing of such connections, the Company is not responsible to the IXC's subscribers for end-to-end service.
- g) The IXC is considered to be the Company's customer for any connections provided pursuant to this Tariff.

Item

10. TERMS AND CONDITIONS (cont'd)

1. General (cont'd)

- (h) When it is necessary for the Company to install special equipment or to incur any unusual expense in order to meet an IXC's requirements, an additional charge may be assessed based on the equipment installed or the unusual expense incurred. In addition, when the IXC cancels an application for an access arrangement after the Company has incurred costs associated with the provisioning of that arrangement, the IXC will pay the Company all such costs.
- (i) The IXC will furnish or arrange to furnish to the Company, at no charge, adequate equipment space and electrical power required by the Company to provide the connections under this Tariff at the IXC's premises, or at its subscriber's premises, as appropriate.
- (j) The IXC will also furnish or arrange to furnish to the Company, at no charge, any additional facilities or protective apparatus that may be required due to the particular hazardous locations of the connections.
- (k) In cases of subscriber-provided equipment or facilities, the interface with the Company's equipment or facilities shall comply with Section XIII (3001) 1301-1311 of the Company's General Tariff.
- (l) Pursuant to the requirements of Decision CRTC 2002-13, as a condition of acquiring telecommunications services from the Company for resale purposes, resellers must make available to their end-users the following information, within a reasonable period of time in Braille, large print, computer diskette or such other format as is mutually agreed upon by the parties:
 - i) upon request of subscribers who are blind:
 - 1. billing statements;
 - 2. bill inserts sent to subscribers about new services or changes in rates for existing services; and
 - 3. any bill inserts that are mandated from time to time by the Commission; and
 - ii) upon request of subscribers or potential subscribers who are blind, information setting out the rates, terms and conditions of the service.
- (m) However, in the case of a request for an excessively large volume of information, the service provider may limit the alternative format to computer diskette or any other electronic format mutually agreed upon by the parties.
- (n) When an IXC offers shared tenant services, it must provide the Company with direct access, under reasonable terms and conditions, to tenants who choose to receive service from the Company rather than, or in addition to, service from the IXC.
- (o) Prior to receiving service pursuant to this Tariff, an IXC must register with the Commission and the Company.
- (p) Together with its registration, an IXC shall file with the Commission a full description of its network, including information regarding the extent of owned and leased transmission facilities, and shall notify the Company of such filing.

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(M) - Moved to 1st Revised Page 6, CRTC 21480

Item

10. TERMS AND CONDITIONS (cont'd)

2. Network Changes

- (a) The Company does not make any representation that its equipment and facilities are adapted or will remain adapted for use in connection with the IXC-provided equipment of facilities.
- (b) The Company reserves the right to change in whole, or in part, the design, function, operation or layout of its equipment, apparatus, lines, circuits or devices as it considers necessary. The Company shall not be responsible to an IXC or to its subscribers for any of their equipment, apparatus, lines, circuits or devices, either in whole or in part, which cease to be compatible with the Company's facilities or become inoperative because of such changes to the Company's equipment, apparatus, lines, circuits or devices.
- (c) The Company will, however, provide the IXC with six months advance notice of minor changes and two years advanced notice of major changes to the design, function, operation or layout of its equipment, apparatus, lines, circuits or devices. When it is not possible to give the IXC six months or two years notice, the Company will advise the IXC as soon as a decision to proceed with the change has been made.
- (d) The Company will also provide the IXC with at least two years notice in writing of any changes in its network that could affect any of the interconnections or access arrangements contemplated in this Tariff. When it is not possible to give the IXC two years notice, the Company will advise the IXC as soon as a decision to proceed with the change has been made.

3. Network Outages

The Company will provide the IXC with the earliest possible notice of all network outages affecting the operation of the IXC's network.

4. Protection

- (a) The characteristics and methods of operation of any circuits, facilities or equipment of the IXC, when connected to the Company's shall not:
 - 1. interfere with or impair service over any facilities of the Company's or its connecting carriers involved in its services;
 - 2. cause damage to its plant;
 - 3. impair the privacy of any communications carried over its facilities;
 - 4. create hazards to the Company's employees or to the public.
- (b) If such characteristics or methods of operation are not in accordance with the preceding, the Company will, where practicable, notify the IXC that temporary discontinuance of the use of any circuits, facilities or equipment may be required. When prior notice is not practicable, nothing contained within this Tariff shall be deemed to preclude the Company from temporarily discontinuing forthwith the availability to the IXC of any circuit facility or equipment if such action is reasonable under the circumstances. IN cases of such discontinuance, the IXC will be promptly notified and afforded the opportunity to correct the condition, which gave rise to the temporary discontinuance.
- (c) During any period of temporary discontinuance of service caused by a trouble or condition arising in the IXC's operations, facilities or network, no refund for interruption of service, as set forth in the Company's Terms of Service shall be made.

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Item

20. DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this Tariff:

“**Bundled CAT**” means the bundled carrier access tariff approved in Decision CRTC 2000-746. This single rate includes switching and aggregation, contribution and equal access start-up rates, without any designation of individual rates.

“**Canadian Operating Company**” refers to one of the following companies: Aliant Communications; Bell Canada; Manitoba Telecom Services; Saskatchewan Telecommunications Inc.; Telus Communications Inc.; Northwestel Inc.

“**Circuit**” means an analogue voice-grade channel or a digital 64kbps (DS-0) channel.

“**Circuit Group**” means a group of equivalent circuits.

“**DAL or Direct Access Line**” means a network arrangement used to transmit traffic over a dedicated facility between a Carrier’s or Other service Provider’s interexchange network and a subscriber’s premises. A DAL is a 64kbps circuit.

“**Data Service**” means a telecommunications service other than a voice service.

“**Dedicated Service**” means a telecommunications service, which is dedicated to the private communications needs of a user where one end of the facility used to provide the service is terminated at equipment dedicated to the user.

“**Interconnecting Circuit**” means a circuit that connects an IXC’s facility to a facility of the Company to provide access to the Company’s Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN). An interconnecting circuit connects an IXC’s facility to a Company central office to which end offices are directly connected in order to originate or terminate toll traffic (toll office).

“**Interexchange Carrier ((IXC))**” means a Canadian Carrier as defined in Section 2 of the Telecommunications Act, that provides interexchange service in competition with one of the Canadian Operating Companies.

“**Joint-use Basis**” means on a basis in which a circuit is not dedicated to a single user.

“**Operator Services**” means service performed by Canadian Operating Company operators, at the request of an IXC operator or an IXC subscriber, for calls delivered to the operators from the IXC’s network. Operator services include busy line verification, call interruption, long distance directory assistance, 800/888 directory assistance and completion of calls to non-dialable points.

“**Person**” means a partnership, firm, body corporate or politic, government or department thereof and the legal representatives of such person.

“**Resale**” means the subsequent sale or lease on a commercial basis, with or without adding value, of a telecommunications service leased from an IXC or from the Company.

“**Reseller**” means a person engaged in resale.

Item

20. DEFINITIONS (cont'd)

“**Responsible Organization (RESP ORG)**” is the entity identified by the 800/888 Subscriber or Agent that assumes the duty of managing and administering the 800/888 record (number) in the 800/888 Service Management system on behalf of the 800/888 service subscriber.

“**Standby Circuit**” means an interconnecting circuit with trunk-side access, which has been activated but rendered incapable, by the Company, of carrying traffic.

“**Subscriber**” means a person for whom telecommunications equipment, facilities or service have been provided by an IXC.

“**Toll-Free Calls**” means calls, which are dialed 1+800/888/877 (or other designated prefixes) when the call is billed to the called party.

“**Trunk-side Access**” means any connecting arrangement provided by the Company over which calls dialed 1+ and 011+ can be routed to the IXC's network and over which traffic from the IXC's network can be routed for termination in the local PSTN.

“**User**” means a person using a telecommunications service or facility for the person's private communications needs.

“**Voice Service**” means a two-way telecommunications service involving direct real-time communications between two or more natural persons. It does not include a service which limited to the co-ordination or setting up of a data service.

Item

30. TEST FACILITIES

1. The Company will furnish to the IXC, subject to the availability of facilities, interconnecting circuits, CCS7 connections and 800 connections, with appropriate ANI or Caller ID signalling, for the purpose of testing its network, at the rates and charges for such connections specified in the Company's Tariffs.
2. Connections furnished to the IXC pursuant to this item will be restricted to testing functions. The IXC shall not use these connections to carry any of its administrative or commercial traffic.
3. Bundled CAT charges will not apply to facilities designated as test facilities.

PART 2 – CARRIER ACCESS TARIFF

Item

40. INTERCONNECTING CIRCUITS WITH TRUNK-SIDE ACCESS

1. General

- (a) An interconnecting circuit “with trunk-side access” refers to a connecting arrangement provided by the Company over which traffic from the IXC’s network can be routed for termination in the local Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN).
- (b) An interconnecting circuit with trunk-side access may be arranged for Feature Group D service, which provides the IXC with the capability of offering subscribers access to its network by dialing 1+ or 011+. Interconnecting circuits with trunk-side access arranged for Feature Group D service are connected to an Access Tandem (AT Connection) and may use Multi-Frequency (MF) signalling or CCS7 signalling, subject to the availability of suitable facilities.
- (c) An interconnecting circuit with trunk-side access may be arranged to provide for the routing of toll-free calls destined for the IXC’s network. This arrangement is available for AT Connections only and may use MF or CCS7 signalling.
- (d) When CCS7 signalling is requested, CCS7 links are required. CCS7 links refer to the DS-0 channels between designated Canadian gateway Signalling Transfer Points (STPs) and the IXC’s STPs or between the Canadian gateway STPs and the IXC’s switch(es). This interconnecting arrangement may be provided by the Company, subject to the availability of suitable facilities, or by another designated Canadian Operating Company as determined by network design requirements to carry CCS7 signalling information associated with interconnecting circuits with trunk-side access which connect the Company to an IXC for the purposes of call set-up and take-down.
- (e) The facility over which interconnecting circuits with trunk-side access and CCS7 links are provided is furnished at the rates and charges specified in Tariff CRTC 3003, Item 1112.
- (f) In addition to the service charges associated with the Tariff Item referenced in (e) above, the following services charges associated with the provision of interconnecting circuits with trunk-side access and CCS7 links will apply for each DS-0 Set. A DS-0 Set is defined as a group of DS-0s which are of the same type (ie., Feature Group D or 800/888), within the same DS-1, connected at the same location and ordered at the same time.
 - 1. Inward Order, each DS-0 Set.....\$1,219.00
 - Change Order, each DS-0 Set.....\$ 791.00
- (g) An STP-to-STP port connection or Switch-to-STP connection is required for each DS-0 CCS7 link connected to the Company’s designated gateway STP.
- (h) Interconnection is permitted only through circuits with trunk-side access.

(C)

**ACCESS SERVICES TARIFF FOR
INTERCONNECTION WITH INTEREXCHANGE
CARRIER (IXC'S)**

**CRTC 21480
3rd Revised Page 10
Cancels 2nd Revised Page 10**

PART 2 – CARRIER ACCESS TARIFF

Item

40. INTERCONNECTING CIRCUITS WITH TRUNK-SIDE ACCESS (cont'd)

2. Bundled CAT

- (a) When an IXC requests an interconnecting circuit with trunk-side access, a Bundled CAT applies, as specified below, for each minute of traffic originating or terminating in the Company's territory. The chargeable time begins when connection is established between the calling and called numbers (conversation minutes) and ends when that connection is terminated.

Bundled CAT per minute of traffic (originating or terminating)\$0.0415

(R)

- (b) When an IXC uses a DAL to originate or terminate traffic in the Company's territory, a bundled CAT charge applies based on a loading of 8,000 minutes per month per DAL.

Monthly Bundled CAT charge per DAL
= 8,000 x \$0.0415= \$332.00

(R)

- (c) For each minute of traffic accessing or egressing Bell Canada's Access Tandem Switch in Montreal, a Satellite Proxy Transport charge applies, in addition to the Bundled CAT rate described in (a).

Satellite Proxy Transport Charge per minute (originating or terminating)\$0.034

3. Toll-Free Carrier Identification Charge

- (a) 800/888 dialed calls routed to the IXC are subject to a carrier identification charge as specified in (b) below. This charge will also be attributed to the Company.

(b) Toll-Free Carrier Identification Charge\$0.007914

4. PIC Processing

- (a) When the IXC is provided with interconnecting circuits with trunk-side access arranged for Feature Group D service, the IXC can offer its subscribed customers access to its network through 1+ and 011+ dialing. Such access is enabled through the identification of the IXC as the customer's Primary Interexchange Carrier (PIC). PIC selections may be specified for eligible Company-provided primary monopoly exchange services which provide direct voice access to the PSTN through "1+" dialing and which are provisioned in End Offices which support Feature Group D. A list of specific eligible services is included in the PIC/CARE Access Customer Handbook (the Handbook) described in (c) below.

- (b) An IXC with Feature Group D service is required to establish a PIC processing account with the Company at least 90 calendar days prior to the requested commencement of PIC processing. When the account is established, the IXC must identify the PIC processing parameters and options required, as specified in the IXC's Customer Account Record Exchange (CARE) Profile which is provided in the Handbook. The establishment of the PIC processing account is subject to a service charge as specified in (h)(2) below. Subsequent changes to these parameters and options must be provided in writing at least 30 calendar days prior to the requested date for implementation of the changes.

**ACCESS SERVICES TARIFF FOR
INTERCONNECTION WITH INTEREXCHANGE
CARRIERS (IXC'S)**

**CRTC 21480
1st Revised Page 11
Cancels Original Page 11**

PART 2 – CARRIER ACCESS TARIFF

Item

40. INTERCONNECTING CIRCUITS WITH TRUNK-SIDE ACCESS (cont'd)

4. PIC Processing (cont'd)

- (c) The Company will provide each IXC, which establishes a PIC processing account with two copies of the User Handbook. The Handbook reflects standards and procedures for the processing of PIC transactions between the Company and the IXC. Additional copies of the Handbook are provided subject to the charge as specified in (h)(3) below.
- (d) PIC processing charges apply for establishing or changing the PIC selection for a customer's access line, such as for new or additional access lines, customer moves and customer-initiated number changes. Charges for processing customer PIC transactions are assessed to the IXC selected by the customer and are as specified in (h)(4) below.
- (e) In the case of PIC selection changes, which are disputed by the customer or an IXC on behalf of the customer, the customer's PIC selection will be reinstated to the previous PIC. The IXC must then provide evidence to customer authorization as described in section 4.5 of Schedule 4 (PIC Information Processing) of the CSG Agreement. If such customer authorization is not provided within 15 business days from the date of the request from the Company, the IXC will be deemed to have requested an unauthorized PIC change, and will be assessed the charge specified in (h)(5) below. A PIC processing charge as described in (d) above will also be assessed to the IXC having requested the unauthorized PIC change, to cover the reinstatement of the unauthorized PIC to the previous PIC selection.
- (f) To enable the IXC to validate or place PIC subscription orders at the Working Telephone Number (WTN) level, the IXC may request and obtain from the Company a detailed record transaction in CARE format of all WTNs subscribed to a specific Billing telephone Number (BTN). Service charges apply as specified in (h)(6) below.
- (g) To enable the IXC to perform reconciliation between the IXC's billing records and the Company's PIC database, the IXC may request a Verification Record from the Company. Verification Record transactions are subject to the service charge specified in (h)(7) below.

(h) Rates and Charges

(C)

1. Account Set-up charge, each PIC processing account.....	\$ 781.46
2. Changes to CARE profile, each request	195.36
3. User Handbook (each additional copy over 2)	97.68
4. PIC Processing charge, each access line.....	9.32
5. Unauthorized PIC Change charge, each access line	102.12
6. BTN Detail charge, each WTN provided	0.55
7. Verification Record charge, each access line	0.20

- (i) The PIC processing charges specified in (h)(4) and (h)(5) above will also be attributed to the Company.

PART 2 – CARRIER ACCESS TARIFF

Item

41. OPERATOR SERVICES

1. General

When an IXC operator, or an IXC customer, accesses a Canadian Operating Company operator from the IXC's network and requests an operator service, the IXC from whose network the operator is accessed is charged for each service performed (as applicable).

2. Emergency Busy Line Verification/Interruption Service

When an emergency situation is declared, the Company operator will verify if a called line is actually in use (busy) or interrupt a conversation in progress if requested by an IXC operator. A charge does not apply for this service.

3. Long Distance Directory Assistance

The Company provides Long Distance Directory Assistance to IXC customers and operators who access the long distance operator via the IXC's network. A charge as specified in the Company's General Tariff Item 406 is assessed.

4. Long Distance Operator Assistance

Upon the request of an IXC operator, the Company's operators will assist in completing long distance calls to non-dialable points, which terminate in the Company's territory. A charge as specified in the Company's General Tariff Item 2260.3(a) applies to the IXC on each occasion when such assistance is provided.

PART 2 – CARRIER ACCESS TARIFF

Item

50. STANDBY CIRCUITS

1. Terms and Conditions

- a) All requests to establish standby circuits and to subsequently remove the standby condition must be addressed to the Company's Carrier Services Group.
- b) Upon removal of the standby condition, standby circuits may be used only for the type of service specified in the original order, which established them.

2. Rates and Charges

- a) The Company will furnish standby circuits at the rates and charges referenced in Item 40 for interconnecting circuits with trunk-side access.
- b) The only Service Charge associated with the establishment of a standby circuit is the one to activate the appropriate connection or access as follows:
 - 1. For interconnecting circuits with trunk-side access, the service charge is that specified for an Inward Order in Item 40.1.(f)(1).
- c) Designation of an active circuit to standby and removal of the standby conditions are each subject to the appropriate charges as follows:
 - 1. For interconnecting circuits with trunk-side access;

The Change Order Charges as specified in Item 40.1.(f)(1).
- d) Bundled CAT charges do not apply to interconnecting circuits designated as standby circuits.

**ACCESS SERVICES TARIFF FOR
INTERCONNECTION WITH INTEREXCHANGE
CARRIERS (IXC'S)**

**CRTC 21480
1st Revised Page 14
Cancels Original Page 14**

PART 2 – CARRIER ACCESS TARIFF

Item 60. *Reserved for Future Use*

Item 70. *Reserved for Future Use*

Item 80. **FACILITIES FOR DEDICATED ACCESS LINES**

The Company will provide local loops and associated connecting links, in accordance with the provisions of CRTC 3003, Item 202 of the Company's General Tariff to APLDS who wish to provide Dedicated Access Lines (DALs) to their subscribers for use as dedicated access arrangements to their toll offerings. In addition, bundled CAT charges will apply as specified in Item 40.2(b).

Item 90. **COMPENSATION PER CALL**

1. Description of Service

- (a) The assessment of an access charge for each toll-free call from the Company's public or semi-public telephones ("pay telephones") is referred to as "compensation per call."

2. Terms and Conditions

- (a) The compensation per call charge applies to the IXC, for each completed toll-free call that originates from a Company pay telephone and is carried by the IXC, except in limited situations where the toll-free call cannot be captured due to technical limitations.
- (b) Additional toll-free calls initiated through the use of the "next call" key on the pay telephone are also subject to the compensation per call charge. However, additional toll-free calls achieved through the use of dialing sequences on the IXC's platform are not subject to the compensation per call charge.
- (c) Toll-free calls are considered completed when the call is answered.
- (d) Each month, the Company will send the IXC a composite electronic list of the toll-free numbers that originated at the Company's pay telephones and were carried by the IXC. The list will include the toll-free numbers that were called and the number of times they were called in the previous billing period. This information is available on a disaggregated basis by originating exchange and, if so requested by the IXC, will be provided in that manner beginning with the first complete billing period following the request.
- (e) Call detail recording is not provided.

3. Charges

The IXC shall pay to the Company the following compensation per call charge for each toll-free call as shown below.

	<u>CHARGE</u>
Payphone per call compensation, Per completed call.....	\$0.25

For explanation of symbols see Page 1

(N)

Item

100. *Reserved for Future Use*

Item

200. **BILLING AND COLLECTION SERVICE**

1. Description of Service

The Company will provide Billing and Collection Service for eligible message toll service calls, as defined in the Company's Billing and Collection Services Agreement, which are completed over the IXC's network, at the rates specified below. Billing and Collection service includes:

- (a) Preparation and rendering of bills for charges purchased by the company, from the IXC, which are associated with eligible calls by customers of the IXC who also maintain accounts with the Company.
- (b) Collection of payments for charges associated with eligible calls made by customers of the IXC, including appropriate taxes, which will be remitted by the IXC to the appropriate governments.
- (c) Answering of customer questions regarding charges billed by the Company for eligible calls provided by the IXC, excluding questions about the details of the IXC's services, rates, rate structures and similar matters.
- (d) Application of credits and adjustments to customer accounts, in accordance with billing and collection services procedures, which are provided to the IXC from time to time by the Company.

2. Definitions

For the purpose of this Tariff Item:

"ACCOUNT RECEIVABLE" means an individual charge associated with an Eligible Service purchased from a Service Provider according to the terms and conditions of the Company's Billing and Collections Services Agreement.

"ELIGIBLE SERVICES" are telecommunications services, as specified in the Billing and Collection Services Agreement, which are provided by IXCs or resellers to Customers utilizing such IXC's or resellers' respective networks.

"SERVICE PROVIDER" is either:

- (a) an IXC providing Eligible Services;
- (b) a reseller with interconnecting circuits with trunk-side access providing Eligible Services.

PART 2 – CARRIER ACCESS TARIFF

Item

200. BILLING AND COLLECTION SERVICE (cont'd)

3. Terms and Conditions

- (a) The IXC must execute a Billing and Collection Services Agreement, which details the terms and conditions of the service, with the Company.

4. Rates

- (a) An Accounts Receivable Management discount, as a percentage of the value of the accounts receivable purchased, will apply to each account receivable purchased from the IXC..... 3.38%
- (b) Processing charges per account receivable purchased from the IXC will apply each time an account receivable is:
 - Processing charge per account receivable billed to a customer \$0.8352
 - Processing charge per account receivable returned prior to billing \$0.0289
 - Processing charge per account receivable returned or charged back to the IXC after billing \$13.50

(R)