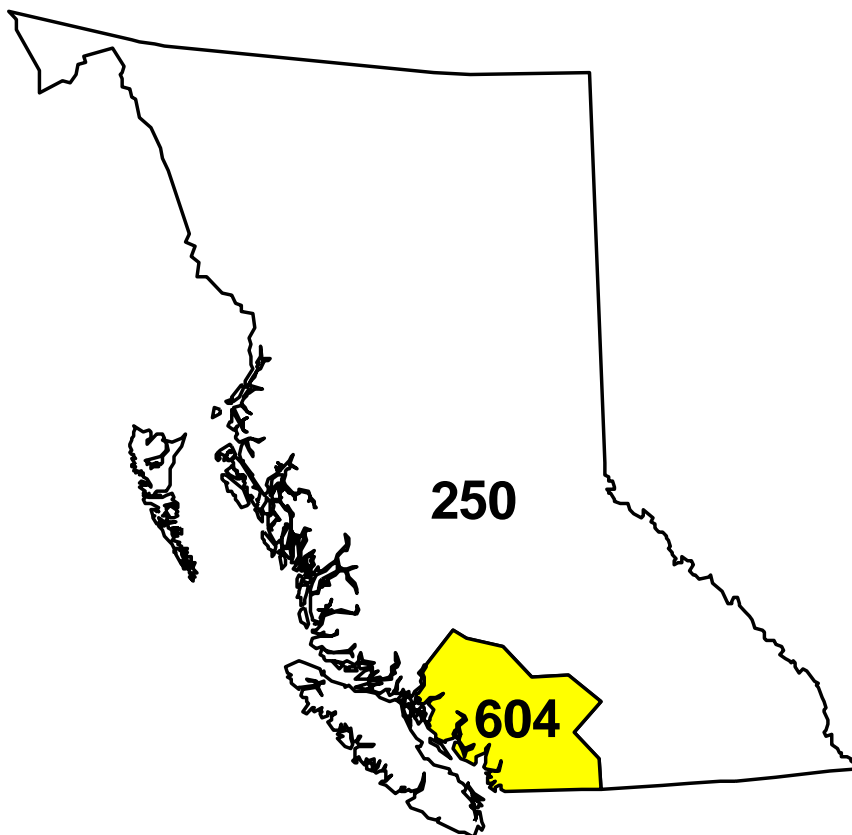


# Initial Planning Document NPA 604 Numbering Relief



**CNA**

Science Applications International  
Corporation (SAIC Canada)

July 27, 1999  
As Presented on 24 September 1999

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# Initial Planning Document NPA 604 Numbering Relief

## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Initial Planning Document (IPD) identifies possible solutions for providing relief to the 604 NPA geographic area. Based on the 1999 Central Office Code Utilization Survey (COCUS), the existing 792 NXX codes are forecasted to exhaust 1stQ 2004.

The following alternatives were evaluated:

- a. Split the NPA into two geographic areas (two options):
  - (i) Municipalities of Vancouver, Burnaby and New Westminster share a single NPA.
  - (ii) Vancouver Exchange area is assigned a single NPA
- b. Split the NPA into two geographic areas and realign NPA 250 boundary to move Vancouver Island into a new NPA geographic area; and
- c. Introduce a new NPA using the Distributed Overlay Option.

The following is a comparison of the alternatives evaluated:

Description	Alternatives			
	Municipality Split #a. (i)	Vancouver Exchange Split #a. (ii)	Split Boundary Realignment #b.	Distributed Overlay #c.
Exhaust – NPA 604	2012	2016	2016	2004
Exhaust – New NPA	2040	2035	2012	2015
Exhaust – NPA 250	2007	2007	2035	2007
# Changes Required	1.1 M	1.6 M	2.1 M	Nil
Dialing Impact	7/10D	7/10D	7/10D	10D
Permissive Dialing	Required	Required	Required	Required

This initial planning document is being issued in accordance with Industry Carriers Compatibility Forum (ICCF) guidelines to facilitate the selection of a consensus NPA code relief alternative.

Given the magnitude of this undertaking, inter-company commitment and co-operation are essential throughout the planning, provisioning and implementation stages of the introduction of the new NPA.

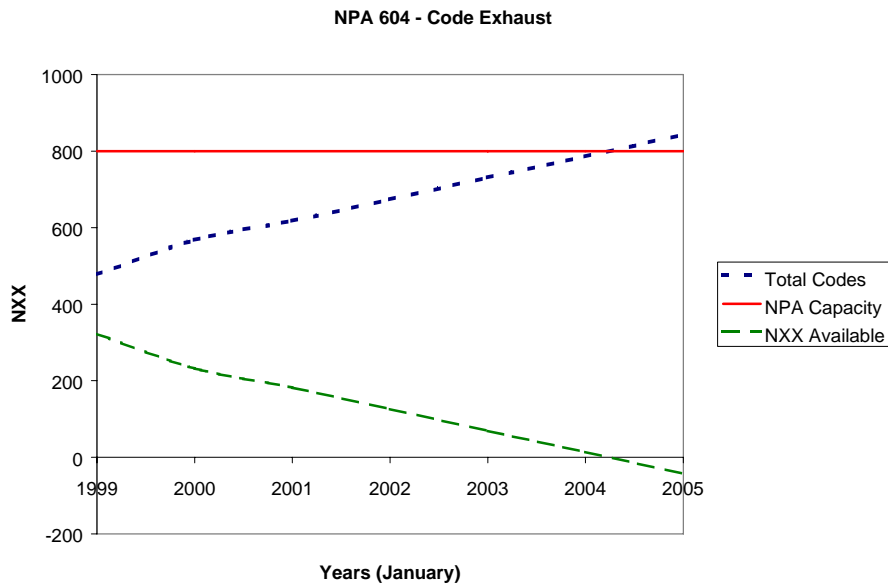
## 2. INTRODUCTION

In October 1995, relief to NPA 604 was provided by geographically splitting the area. Vancouver, Sun Shine Coast and Fraser Valley retained NPA 604 and the remainder of the province was assigned NPA 250 (Attachment 1). Coincident with the split, 10 digit dialing became mandatory for local calls between NPA's; but there was no local calling between NPAs 250 and 604 hence only 7 digit dialing was necessary for local calls.

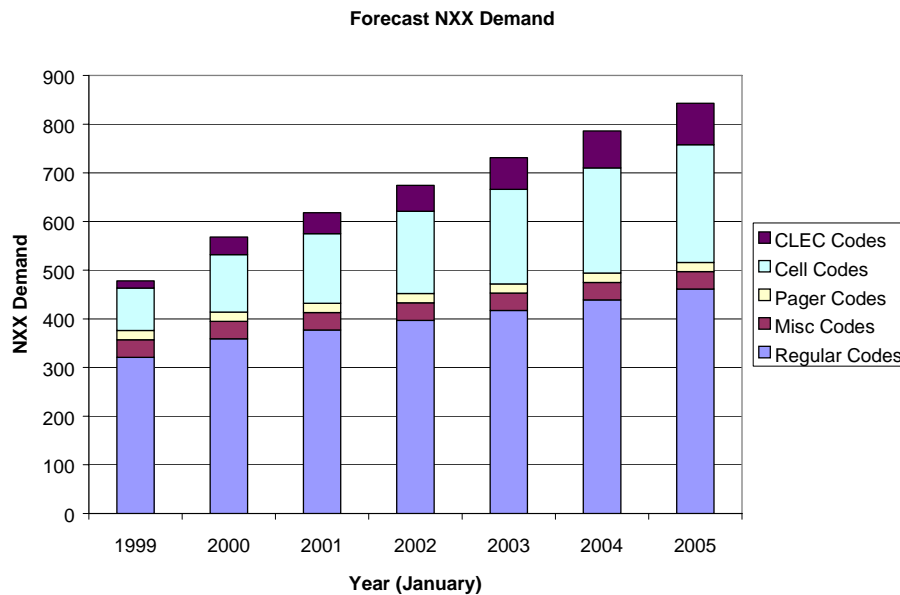
### 3. CENTRAL OFFICE CODE EXHAUST

All NPA 604 Central Office NXX codes are expected to exhaust in 1st quarter 2004, this determination is based on the 1999 Central Office Code Utilization Survey (COCUS) results which were issued by the new Canadian Numbering Administrator. This finding is consistent with the results of the 1998 COCUS which indicated that NPA 604 was likely to exhaust in the year 2004.

The year over year change in the cellular forecasts, CRTC Telecom Decision 94-19 which allows for local competition and the granting of PCS licenses for the introduction of this service in 1996 have all contributed to the NPA exhaust. The forecasted NXX demand by providers until year 2005 is summarized in the following graphs.



**Figure 1 – NPA 604 CO Code Exhaust**



**Figure 2 – NPA 604 COCUS 1999**

The above graphics highlight the need to have relief in place well in advance of reaching 792 NXX codes, to allow for forecast volatility and to accommodate a period for permissive dialing and intercepting of misdialled numbers.

## 4. CODE RELIEF METHODS

Once the necessity for NPA code relief was established, all options of code relief methods were considered but only the following alternatives were examined in detail.

- a. Geographic Split (Two options)
- b. Distributed Overlay; and
- c. Realignment of NPA boundaries

### 4.1. Geographic Split

#### 4.1.1. Definition

By this method, the exhausting NPA is split into two geographic areas, leaving the existing NPA code to serve an area with the highest customer density (to minimize number changes), and assigning a new NPA code to the remaining area. This method traditionally divides areas by jurisdictional, natural or physical boundaries between the old and the new NPA.

This method has been the alternative chosen for practically all NPA relief situations prior to 1995. NPA splits have occurred with enough frequency so that technical aspects have been addressed and established implementation procedures are generally understood. Public education and acceptance of the

process has been made easier because of the numerous NPA splits that have occurred. This method generally provides long term relief of an area.

#### 4.1.2. *General Attributes*

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- Old method of NPA relief is familiar to the public and has well established implementation procedures.
- Ten digit dialing for local calls between NPA's.
- Number changes required in new NPA boundaries.
- Reprogramming or replacement of equipment (Switches, PBX's, Cell Phones etc.).
- Existing customers inconvenienced.
- More economic burden (businesses, public costs, stationery, etc.).
- NPA exhaust occurs more rapidly requiring new NPAs.
- Not as expensive to display in telephone directory.
- Requires a permissive dialing period.
- Possible boundary disputes.

### **4.2. Distributed Overlay**

#### *4.2.1. Definition*

An NPA overlay occurs when more than one NPA code serves the same geographic area. Opening up a new NPA code provides code relief when the existing NPA is exhausted. Numbers from the new NPA are assigned to new growth on a carrier neutral basis, i.e., first come first served. This method will necessitate 10 digit dialing of local calls between the old and new NPAs coincident with NXX codes being implemented in the new NPA (universal 10 digit dialing for all local calls eliminates customer confusion). The distributed overlay strategy is considered in situations when growth in telephone numbers is expected to be more or less evenly distributed throughout the existing NPA.

#### 4.2.2. *General Attributes*

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- New method of NPA relief, no general public understanding.
- Requires universal 10 digit dialing within the NPA.
- No number changes are required for existing customers.
- Least disruptive to end-users.
- Less economic burden for existing business.
- Greater longevity of numbering resource before new NPA required.
- Same location, two NPAs in residence/business.
- Increased directory costs.

### **4.3. Boundary Realignment**

In an NPA boundary realignment the NPA requiring relief is adjacent to an NPA within the same province which has spare NXX code capacity. A boundary shift occurs so that spare codes in the adjacent NPA can be used in the NPA requiring relief. As a result, the geographic area of the exhausting NPA shrinks while the geographic area of the NPA with spare capacity expands. Only the customers in the geographic area between the old and the new boundaries are directly affected by the change. This method is viewed as an interim measure because it tends to provide a shorter-term relief than when providing a new NPA code.

## 5. IMPACT OF RELIEF METHODS

### 5.1. Geographic Split

Two geographic splits were assessed namely; i) split by municipality boundaries, and ii) split by Vancouver Exchange area

a. Split by Municipalities (Attachment 2)

This option groups three municipalities Vancouver, Burnaby and New Westminster as one entity and would retain NPA 604. The other entity which groups remainder of Vancouver free calling, Fraser Valley, Sun Shine Coast and Whistler area municipalities would be assigned the new NPA. This option would result in approximately 1.1 Million number changes. Relief to NPA 604 and the new NPA is expected to last until year 2012 and 2040 respectively

b. Split by Exchange Area (Attachment 3)

This option has Vancouver Exchange (Municipalities Of Vancouver and major part of Burnaby) as one entity and it retains NPA 604. The rest of NPA 604 geographic area would be assigned the new NPA. This option would result in approximately 1.6 Million number changes. Relief to NPA 604 and the new NPA is expected to last until year 2016 and 2035 respectively.

In both of the above split options a permissive dialing period of at least six months is necessary.

### 5.2. Distributed Overlay (Attachment 4)

This alternative would result in the new NPA being introduced coincident with the exhaust of NPA 604. Coincidentally, universal 10 digit local dialing would be required. Although a permissive dialing period is not necessary, it is recommended that an adaptation period for 10 digit dialing be introduced prior to assigning the first NXX in the new NPA. Relief to the new NPA is expected to last until year 2015. Main advantage of this alternative is that number changes are not required.

### 5.3. NPA Split + Boundary Realignment (Attachment 5)

This alternative considers splitting NPA 604 with Vancouver Exchange retaining 604 and remainder of the 604 covering area and entire Vancouver Island in the new NPA . NPA 250 is adjacent to NPA 604 and at a projected annual growth rate of approximately 25 NXX codes is expected to exhaust in IVQ 2007. Since NPA 604 is projected to grow about 55 codes annually, a boundary alignment to remove Vancouver Island from NPA250 would extend the exhaust of NPA 250 from 2007 to 2035. Consequently NPAs 604 and 250 would then need relief in year 2016 and 2035 respectively. However, this changes the exhaust for the new NPA from 2035 to 2012, the benefit of this option is that the code relief will be required in 2012 (New NPA) instead of 2007 (NPA250). It is anticipated that in the long term this alternative would defer the cost for another by five years. This alternative will cause approximately 2.1 Million number changes.

## 6. DIALING CHANGES

In addition to the dialing patterns that exist for local calls between NPA 604 and NPA 250, the following tables reflect the dialing arrangement for each alternative for local calls only. The dialing arrangement for toll calls is the same in each alternative.

<b>Geographic Split</b>	<b>Today</b>	<b>After Relief</b>
Landline to Wireless within NPA	7 digits	7 digits
Landline to Wireless between NPAs	N/A	10 digits
Landline to Landline within NPA	7 digits	7 digits
Landline to Landline between NPAs	N/A	10 digits
Wireless to Wireless within NPA	7 digits	7 digits
Wireless to Wireless between NPAs	N/A	10 digits

<b>Distributed Overlay</b>	<b>Today</b>	<b>After Relief</b>
Landline to Wireless within NPA	7 digits	10 digits
Landline to Wireless between NPAs	N/A	10 digits
Landline to Landline within NPA	7 digits	10 digits
Landline to Landline between NPAs	N/A	10 digits
Wireless to Wireless within NPA	7 digits	10 digits
Wireless to Wireless between NPAs	N/A	10 digits



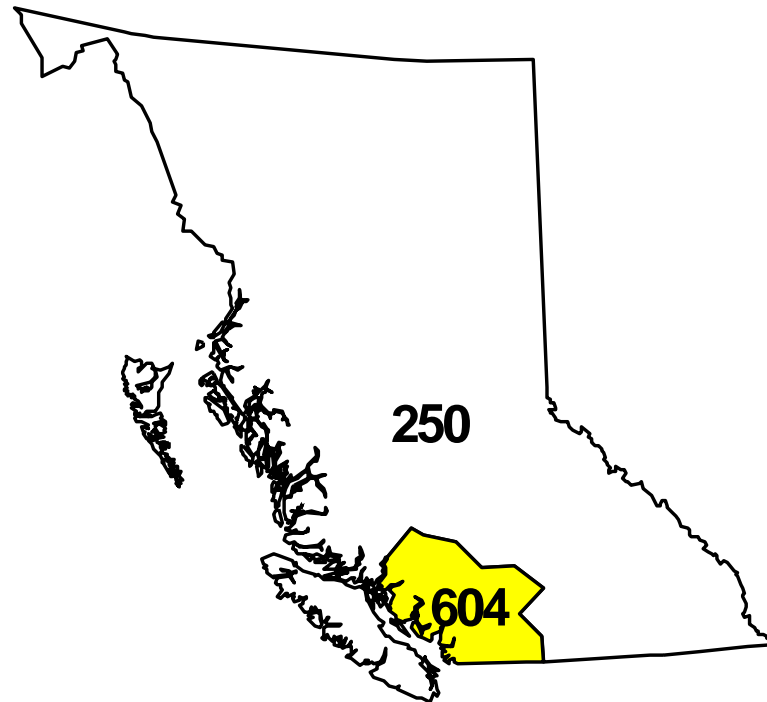
## 7. PROPOSED SCHEDULE

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Activities</u>
July 1999	Initial Planning Document Issued
September 1999	NPA Relief Industry Meetings Begin
Oct. 1999 – Jan. 2000	Follow-up Meetings ( as required )
February 2000	NPA Relief Industry Meetings Complete
March 2000	Conduct COCUS by Exchange
April 2000	Industry Consensus/Regulatory Decision
March 2001	Conduct COCUS by Exchange
May 2001	Establish Firm Relief Dates
September 2001	Notify Business Community
September 2001	Apply to NANPA for New NPA
November 2001	NANPA Industry Letter
March 2003 <sup>1</sup>	Industry Implementation of New NPA
September 2003 <sup>2</sup>	Industry Implementation of New NPA
March 2003 – September 2003 <sup>1</sup>	Permissive period
March 2003 – June 2003 <sup>2</sup>	10 Digit local Dialing Adjustment Period
June 2003	Mandatory 10 Digit local Dialing
September 2003	First NXX Opened in New NPA

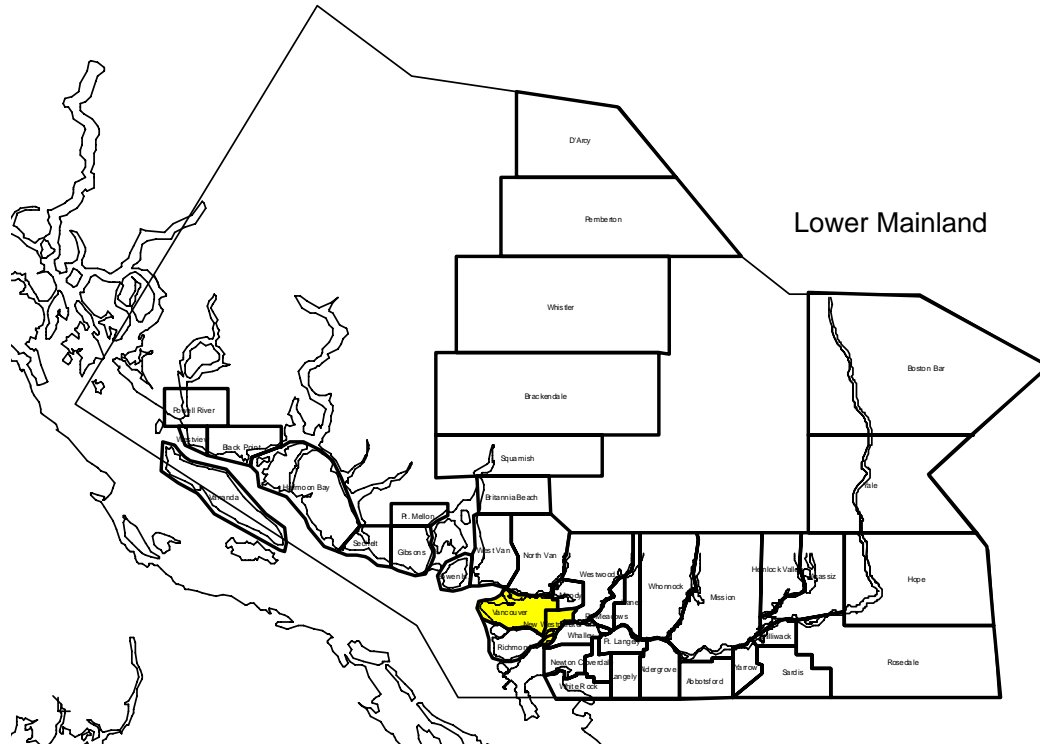
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1 Applies to split and boundary realignment alternatives.

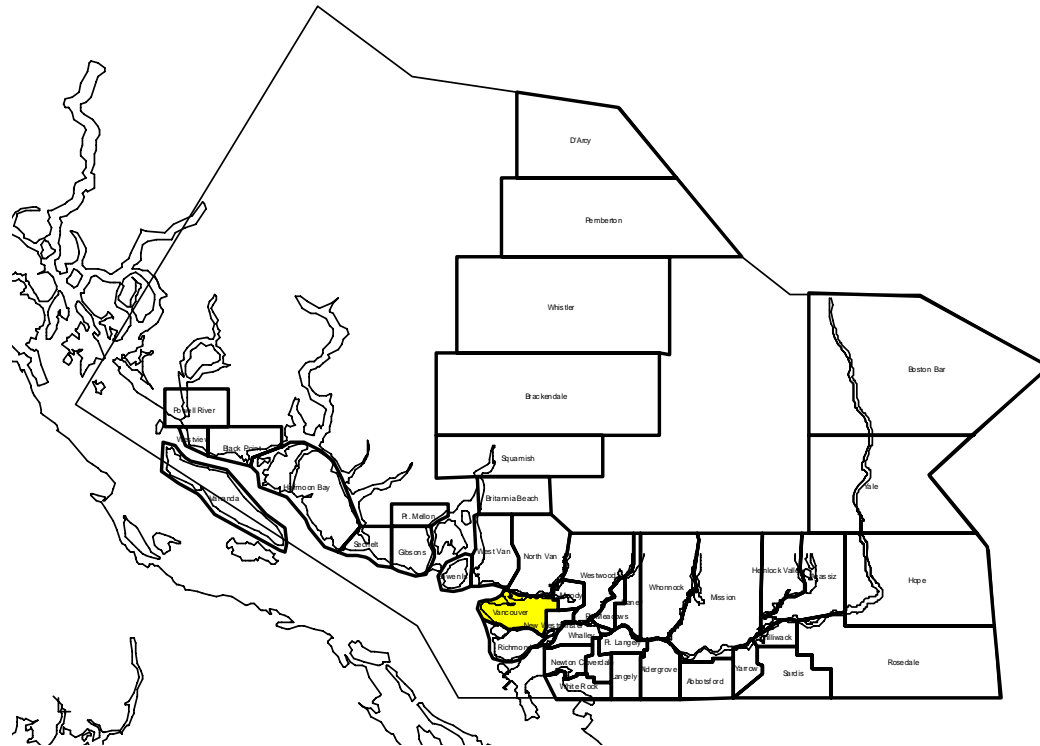
2 Applies to distributed overlay alternative.



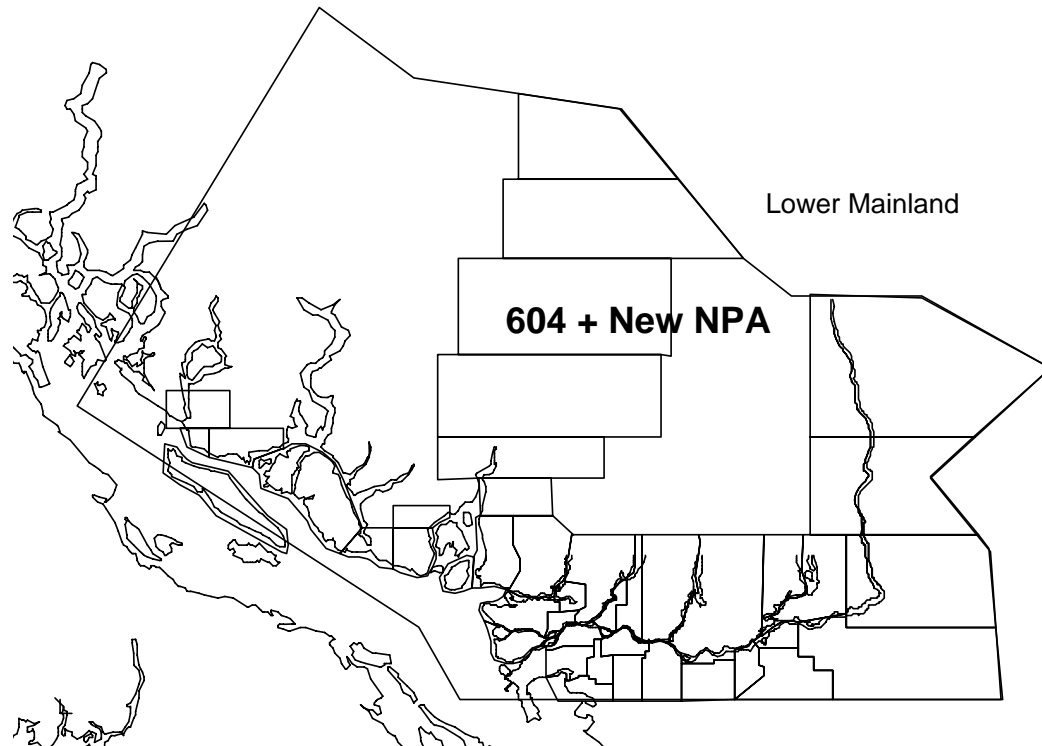
Attachment 1 – NPA's 604 and 250



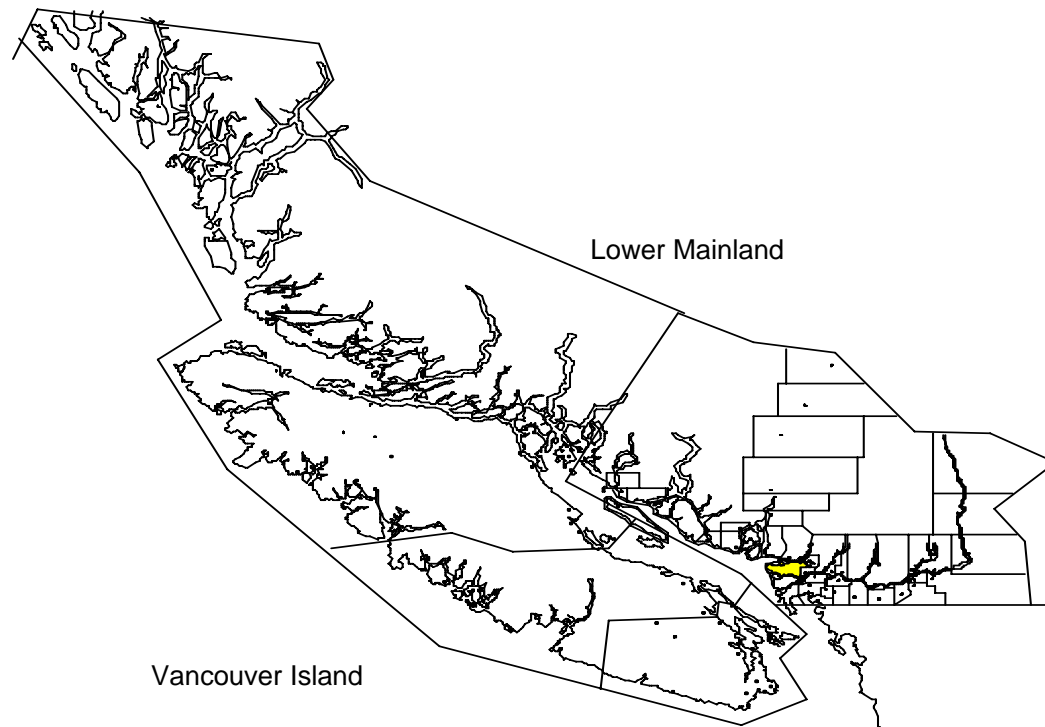
**Attachment 2 – 604 Municipality Split**



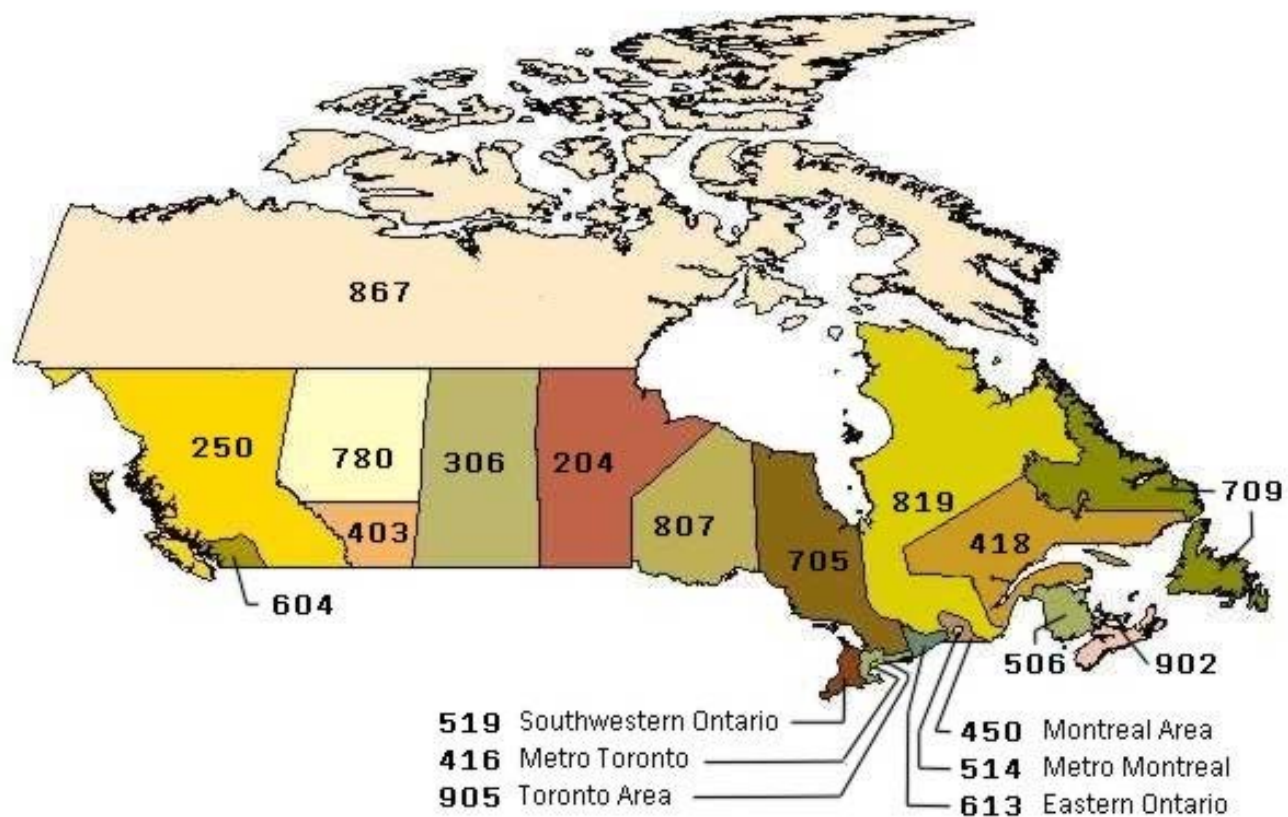
**Attachment 3 – 604 Exchange Area Split**



[Attachment 4 – Distributed Overlay](#)

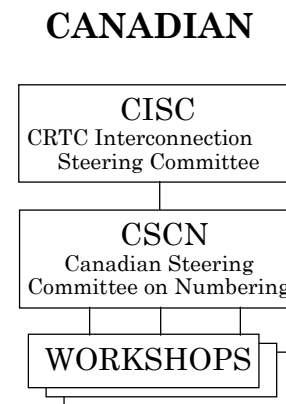
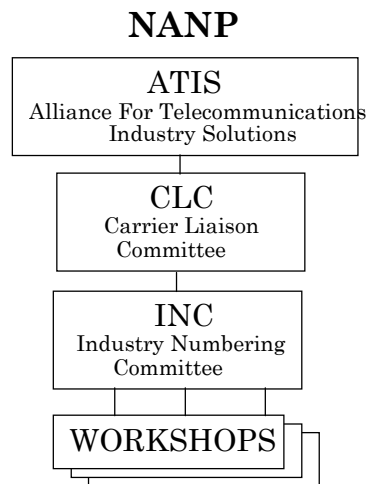


**Attachment 5 – NPA Split + Boundary Realignment**



[Appendix 1 – Area Code Map](#)

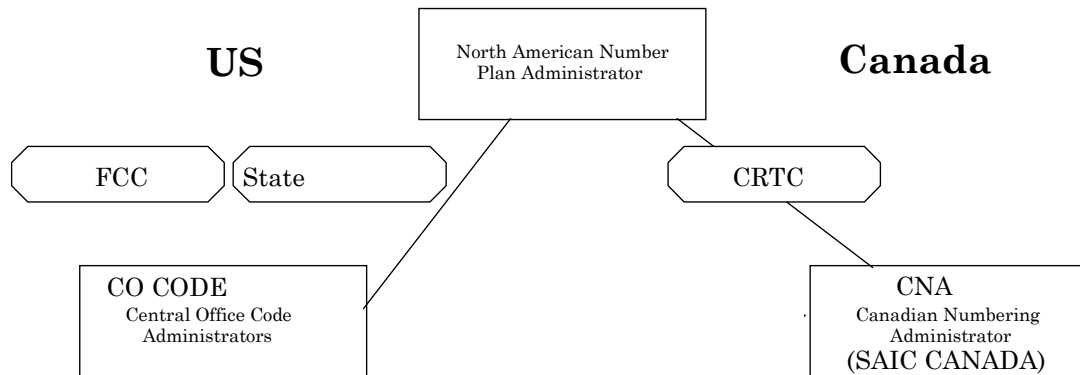
## Industry Forums



### [Appendix 2 – Industry Forums](#)



# Numbering



## Appendix 3 – Numbering Administration

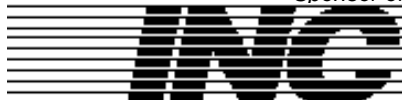
**Appendix 4 - NPA Code Relief Planning & Notification Guidelines**

The *NPA Code Relief Planning & Notification Guidelines* may be obtained from the ATIS website at <ftp://ftp.atis.org/pub/clc/inc/97040416.doc>. **Double-click on the object below to open and view this document.**



Alliance for Telecommunications  
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Industry Numbering  
Committee

A forum of the Carrier Liaison Committee

1200 G Street NW  
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[www.atis.org](http://www.atis.org)

## **NPA CODE RELIEF PLANNING & NOTIFICATION GUIDELINES**

These guidelines are reissued in connection with the resolution  
of INC Issue 105

## Appendix 5 – Distribution List

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