

BlackBerry maker joins opposition

By Bernard Simon in Toronto

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Research In Motion, the maker of BlackBerry, has emerged as one of the most vocal opponents of Ericsson's proposed purchase of Nortel's wireless assets, writes Bernard Simon in Toronto.

RIM, one of Canada's few remaining technology giants, alleges that it has "found itself blocked at every turn" in its own quest to acquire the Nortel business.

Roger Martin, dean of the Rotman School of Business at the University of Toronto and a RIM director, accused his fellow-Canadians in the Globe and Mail earlier this week of taking a "boy-scout" attitude to foreign investors. According to Mr Martin, "the Canadian people who financed the research and development behind the intellectual property won by Ericsson must be assured that it will not be used to the detriment of their own Canadian companies. The Swedish government would not dream of allowing that to happen if the shoe were on the other foot".

Nortel, which is in court-supervised bankruptcy protection, says RIM has refused to comply with court procedures for the auction of the wireless assets.

Mike Lazaridis, RIM's joint chief executive, is expected to be among the witnesses at today's parliamentary hearing on the Nortel sale.

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