

November 30, 2015

***Via GC Key***

Mr. John Traversy

Secretary General

Canadian Radio-television

and Telecommunications Commission

Ottawa, Ontario

Dear Mr. Traversy:

**Re: City Saskatchewan Report for the 2014-15 Broadcast Year on Learning Opportunities for Category 7 Drama and Comedy Programming (Broadcasting Decision CRTC 2012-339)**

Rogers Media Inc. (Rogers) is pleased to file this annual report describing the efforts of City Saskatchewan to connect programming drawn from program category 7 (Drama and comedy) to learning opportunities made available by educators in Saskatchewan.

**Status Report 2014-15**

As previously reported, there have been many changes to the structure, priorities, programming, and staff at the Ministries of Education and Advanced Education and post-secondary institutions in Saskatchewan. Identification and recognition of learning opportunities for programs classified as category 7 (Drama and comedy) as well as other program categories are moving forward, but remain a slow process.

**Early Years**

In the 2013-14 report, we reported that Early Years learning resource evaluations had been moved to the Saskatchewan Teachers Federation’s (STF) Saskatchewan Professional Development Unit (SPDU). We wish to confirm that this change was subsequently reversed; evaluations are once again managed by the Ministry of Education’s Early Years consultants.

In accordance with this revised process, all new program materials for a pre-school audience were submitted to the Early Years Branch at the Ministry of Education in May 2015. We are pleased to report that all the program materials provided were evaluated and deemed suitable as preschool content for three- four- and five-year-old children in August 2015. We received this note with the letter providing accreditation for the programs:

*Thank you for offering age-appropriate programming for young viewers.*

* Lynn Allen, Executive Director, Early Years

**Kindergarten to Grade 12**

We can confirm that extensive curriculum renewal and restructuring is ongoing for Kindergarten to Grade 12 (K-12) as well. The Ministry of Education is operating under a “Stop/Pause” directive which has essentially stalled content evaluation for curriculum with the exception of limited identified learning areas and grade levels. The Ministry’s goal of performing evaluations across all curriculum areas by Fall 2014 has been delayed, possibly until 2016. According to Ministry officials, the “Stop/Pause” directive will end at some point; however, it may not occur until the conclusion of the provincial election in April 2016. Nevertheless, City Saskatchewan staff continue to meet with the Director of the Curriculum Unit at least twice annually to discuss developments and opportunities and are in regular contact with the SPDU’s Learning Resources Consultant.

The evaluation process for learning resources for K-12 as facilitated by the SPDU for the Ministry of Education is still a work in progress, with evaluation turn-around time exceeding the initial goal of three months. Of the seven programs/series provided for evaluation in March 2014, only one series, *One with Nature,* has been approved as a learning resource while the other six continue to be considered.

One success is a partnership with the Ministry of Parks, Culture, and Sport on a project to preserve Saskatchewan’s military history and integrate this subject matter into the provincial curriculum. This initiative resulted in the eight-part series *Stories of Courage: Saskatchewan Second World War Veterans Remember*. This television series is part of City Saskatchewan’s educational on-air schedule, available on other platforms, and includes supplementary teacher guides and lesson plans that have been placed in the provincial social studies curriculum for use in classrooms.

**Independent Schools and Home-Based Education and First Nations Schools**

As reported in 2013-14, City Saskatchewan provides customized schedule and educational programming information on a bi-monthly basis to the Independent Schools and Home-Based Education (ISHBE) branch of the Ministry of Education. This branch distributes the information to all registered independent schools and home educators in Saskatchewan. This initiative provides information on accessing curriculum-based video resources for educators unable to access the ROVER system (internal video streaming service) in their classrooms. We are pleased to report that we continue to receive positive reviews from ISHBE.

In February 2015, the Education and Training Secretariat Executive Director at the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) began distributing City Saskatchewan’s schedule and program information to the province’s First Nations educators. This new opportunity allows our educational programming to reach more K-12 schools and students in Saskatchewan.

**Post-Secondary**

As previously reported, universities in Saskatchewan have been undergoing internal reorganization and transition, with little appetite to engage with educational programming offered by City Saskatchewan. However, this may be changing as an initial meeting was held with the Dean of Fine Arts, the Department Head of Film, at the University of Regina and in June 2015 to explore content creation which would align with the current Film Production/Studies curriculum. Further meetings are planned later in 2015.

A Saskatchewan documentary series, *Nightclub Confidential*, has been recognized as a learning resource for the University of Regina’s Department of Economics course ECON 269 by Dr. Jason Childs, who indicated in correspondence from July 2015 that the “series presents some of the behind-the-scenes realities of the retail side of the industry and will provide students with a viewpoint not available through any other means.”

As reported last year, Saskatchewan Polytechnic (formerly the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology) has provided accreditation for several series from program categories 5(b) and 2(b) as learning resources for selected courses and programs. For instance, Saskatchewan Polytechnic has accredited the 5(b) series *Let’s Talk English* which is being shown as part of the Language Instruction for New Canadians (LINC) program:

*Classroom instructors will be accessing* Let’s Talk English *as a means to augment the cultural/social themes that are an integral part of the LINC curriculum as well as to bring another dimension to the language learning experience. Those on the wait list are given information on how to access* Let’s Talk English *so that they can learn English while waiting to get into face-to-face classes.*

* Brenda Sherring, Program Head, LINC, School of Human Services and Community Safety, Saskatchewan Polytechnic - Regina Campus

The learning applications for this series are being further developed, as Ms. Sherring has recently undertaken a project to develop curriculum related to this series. If successful, this three-year project will result in each segment of the series having expansive curriculum guides written for use in all Saskatchewan LINC programs. It may then be made available to Citizenship and Immigration Canada for other regions.

**The Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trades Certification Commission**

The Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trades Certification Commission (SATCC) is an accredited provincial educational body created by the province “to provide for the Regulation and Training of Apprentices, Tradespersons and Journeypersons and the Qualifications Necessary for Certificates, Permits, Endorsements and Identification Cards”. The SATCC has accredited various category 2(b) (Documentaries) and 5(b) (Informal Education) programs on City Saskatchewan’s non-commercial schedule as part of their certification process.

The station continues to partner with the SATCC by showcasing various apprenticeship training initiatives and opportunities in the broadcast schedule. In addition, City Saskatchewan partnered with Skills Canada by providing information about the provincial and national initiatives targeted to students in the trades and technology sectors in the 2014-15 broadcast year.

**Accredited Category 7 (Drama and Comedy) programming**

All Category 7 programming broadcast in the educational portion of City Saskatchewan’s broadcast day in 2014-15 was content targeted to children, with a primary focus on pre-school ages.

In the 2014-15 broadcast year, the following Category 7 television series/programs were newly evaluated and are considered pre-school content for three-, four- and five-year-old children by the Early Years Branch of the Saskatchewan Ministry of Education:

* *Tales of Ty the T-Rex*
* *Doowett*

**Performance Evaluation**

In City Saskatchewan’s performance evaluation for the broadcast year 2013-14, the Commission noted an apparent non-compliance issue with respect to condition of licence #3. This condition states that the licensee shall devote no less than 60% of the broadcast month to the broadcast of programming drawn from categories 2(a) Analysis and interpretation, 2(b) Long-form documentary, 5(a) Formal education and pre-school, and 5(b) Informal education/Recreation and leisure.

With respect to this compliance issue, Rogers filed an application (2015-1168-4) requesting an amendment to the broadcasting licence of City Saskatchewan to allow programming accredited by an educational institution or Saskatchewan’s Ministry of Education to satisfy condition of licence #3. This application is currently being considered by the Commission. Should the Commission approve the application there will be no issues of compliance regarding COL #3 for the 2013/14 broadcast year. We are committed to resolving this programming issue to ensure we are in full compliance with our conditions of licence.

We trust the Commission will recognize the efforts City Saskatchewan has made over the last year to engage the educational community in its programming and we commit to continue these efforts in the current broadcast year.

Should the Commission have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

[*Filed Electronically*]

Susan Wheeler

Vice-President, Regulatory, Media

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