



Broadcasting Decision CRTC 2005-387

Ottawa, 9 August 2005

Rogers SportsNet Inc.
Across Canada

Application 2005-0480-5
Broadcasting Public Notice CRTC 2005-60
15 June 2005

SportsNet – Licence amendment

1. The Commission **approves** the application by Rogers SportsNet Inc. (Rogers) to amend the broadcasting licence for the national specialty programming undertaking known as SportsNet.
2. The Commission did not receive any interventions in connection with this application.
3. In *SportsNet – Licence renewal*, Broadcasting Decision CRTC 2004-11, 21 January 2004, the Commission imposed the following condition of licence, which relates to SportsNet's requirements with respect to expenditures on Canadian programming:

3(b) In each broadcast year of the licence term, excluding the final year, the licensee may expend an amount on Canadian programs that is up to five percent (5%) less than the minimum required expenditure for that year calculated in accordance with this condition; in such case, the licensee shall expend in the next broadcast year of the licence term, in addition to the minimum required expenditure for that year, the full amount of the previous year's under-expenditure.

4. Rogers proposed to replace condition of licence 3 (b) with the following condition:

3(b)(i) In any broadcast year of the licence term, excluding the final year, the licensee may expend an amount on Canadian programming that is up to five percent (5%) less than the minimum required expenditure for that year calculated in accordance with this condition; in such case, the licensee shall expend in the following year of the licence term, in addition to the minimum required expenditure for that year, the full amount of the previous year's underspending;

(ii) For the 2004/2005 broadcast year, the licensee may expend an amount on Canadian programming that is up to twenty one percent (21%) less than the minimum required expenditure for that year calculated in accordance with this condition; in such case, the licensee shall expend the full amount of this underspending by the end of the licence term.

5. The applicant stated that, due to the National Hockey League (NHL) lockout, SportsNet will not be able to meet its requirements with respect to expenditures on Canadian programming for the 2004/2005 broadcast year.
6. The Commission considers that the NHL lockout resulted in negative financial consequences for SportsNet and that the applicant could not have anticipated those consequences. The Commission notes that the new condition of licence, while granting the applicant some flexibility in its Canadian programming expenditures for the 2004/2005 broadcast year, will ensure that the applicant's expenditures on Canadian programming achieve the required levels by the end of the current licence term.

Secretary General

This decision is to be appended to the licence. It is available in alternative format upon request, and may also be examined in PDF format or in HTML at the following Internet site: <http://www.crtc.gc.ca>