



Broadcasting Decision CRTC 2006-553

Ottawa, 25 September 2006

**Surjit S. Gill, on behalf of a corporation to be incorporated
Across Canada**

*Application 2006-0130-4
Public Hearing at Edmonton, Alberta
19 June 2006*

Channel Punjabi News – Category 2 specialty service

*In this decision, the Commission **approves** an application for a broadcasting licence to operate a new Category 2 specialty programming undertaking.*

The application

1. The Commission received an application by Surjit S. Gill, on behalf of a corporation to be incorporated, for a broadcasting licence to operate a national, ethnic Category 2¹ specialty programming undertaking to be known as Channel Punjabi News.
2. The applicant proposed to offer a third-language, niche service consisting of news from India for the Punjabi-speaking community in Canada. The applicant proposed that not less than 90% of all programming broadcast during the broadcast week would be in the Punjabi language. All of the programming would be drawn from the following categories set out in Schedule 1 to the *Specialty Services Regulations, 1990*: 1 News; and 13 Public service announcements.
3. The applicant also requested that it be authorized, by condition of licence, to broadcast up to six minutes per hour of local or regional advertising.
4. The Commission did not receive any interventions in connection with this application.

Commission's analysis and determinations

5. The Commission is satisfied that the application is in conformity with all applicable terms and conditions announced in *Introductory statement – Licensing of new digital pay and specialty services – Corrected Appendix 2*, Public Notice CRTC 2000-171-1, 6 March 2001 (Public Notice 2000-171-1). Furthermore, given that the service will offer more than 90% of its programming in a third language, the Commission is satisfied that the application falls under *Revised approach for the consideration of broadcasting licence applications proposing new*

¹ The Category 2 services are defined in *Introductory statement – Licensing of new digital pay and specialty services*, Public Notice CRTC 2000-171, 14 December 2000.

third-language ethnic Category 2 pay and specialty services, Broadcasting Public Notice CRTC 2005-104, 23 November (Public Notice 2005-104). Accordingly, the Commission **approves** the application by Surjit S. Gill, on behalf of a corporation to be incorporated, for a broadcasting licence to operate the national, niche third-language ethnic Category 2 specialty programming undertaking, Channel Punjabi News.

6. With respect to the request to broadcast up to six minutes per hour of local or regional advertising, the Commission notes that, as set out in Public Notice 2005-104, the Commission generally permits new third-language services to broadcast up to six minutes per hour of such advertising unless an intervener makes a compelling case to the contrary. In the present case, there were no interventions opposing the proposal to broadcast local and regional advertising. The Commission therefore **approves** the applicant's request for authority to broadcast up to six minutes per hour of local and regional advertising. A **condition of licence** to that effect is set out in the appendix to this decision.
7. The Commission notes that Channel Punjabi News will devote not less than 90% of its program schedule to programming in the Punjabi language. In accordance with Public Notice 2005-104, the remainder of the program schedule, i.e. up to 10% may be in one or both official languages. The Commission encourages the applicant to ensure that all such programming serves to promote Canada's linguistic duality.
8. The applicant has indicated that it will be entering into programming supply agreements and licence trademark agreements with non-Canadian independent producers. The Commission reminds the applicant that it must comply at all times with the *Direction to the CRTC (Ineligibility of non-Canadians)*, P.C. 1997-486, 8 April 1997, as amended by P.C. 1998-1268, 15 July 1998 (the Direction). Accordingly, the Commission **requests that the applicant** file with it for prior review, a copy of any programming supply agreement and/or licence trademark agreement that it intends to enter into with a non-Canadian party, in order to ensure that the applicant complies at all times with the Direction.
9. The licence will expire 31 August 2013, and will be subject to the **conditions** set out in Public Notice 2000-171-1, as well as to the **conditions** set out in the appendix to this decision.

Issuance of the licence

10. A licence will be issued once the applicant has satisfied the Commission, with supporting documentation, that the following requirements have been met:

- an eligible Canadian corporation has been incorporated in accordance with the application in all material respects;
- the applicant has entered into a distribution agreement with at least one licensed distributor; and
- the applicant has informed the Commission in writing that it is prepared to commence operations. The undertaking must be operational at the earliest possible date and in any event no later than 36 months from the date of this decision, unless a request for an extension of time is approved by the Commission before 25 September 2009. In order to ensure that such a request is processed in a timely manner, it should be submitted at least 60 days before that date.

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>

Appendix to Broadcasting Decision CRTC 2006-553

Conditions of licence

1. The licence will be subject to the conditions set out in *Introductory statement – Licensing of new digital pay and specialty services – Corrected Appendix 2*, Public Notice CRTC 2000-171-1, 6 March 2001 except for condition 4d) which will not apply, and condition 4a) which is replaced by the following:

Except as otherwise provided in subparagraphs b) and c), the licensee shall not broadcast more than twelve (12) minutes of advertising material during each clock hour, no more than six (6) minutes of which may consist of local or regional advertising.

2. The licensee shall provide a national, niche third-language ethnic Category 2 specialty programming service consisting of news from India for the Punjabi-speaking community in Canada.
3. The programming shall be drawn exclusively from the following categories, as set out in Schedule I to the *Specialty Services Regulations, 1990*, as amended from time to time:
 - 1 News
 - 13 Public service announcements.
4. Not less than 90% of all programs broadcast during the broadcast week shall be in the Punjabi language.

For the purposes of the conditions of this licence, including condition of licence no. 1, *broadcast day* refers to the 24-hour period beginning each day at 6 a.m., or any other period approved by the Commission.