



## Broadcasting Public Notice CRTC 2006-72

Ottawa, 12 June 2006

### **Call for comments on a request by the Governor in Council pursuant to section 15 of the *Broadcasting Act* to prepare a report examining the future environment facing the Canadian broadcasting system**

*The Governor in Council has issued an Order in Council requesting that the Commission provide a factual report on the future environment facing the Canadian broadcasting system. To respond to this request, the Commission is seeking submissions from the public. The deadline for submissions is 1 September 2006.*

#### **Background**

1. On 8 June 2006, the Governor in Council issued Order in Council P.C. 2006-519 (the OIC), a copy of which is appended to this notice. The OIC was issued pursuant to section 15 of the *Broadcasting Act* (the Act), which provides that the Governor in Council may request that the Commission hold hearings or make reports on any matter within its jurisdiction under this Act.
2. In the OIC, the Governor in Council notes that the evolution of audio-visual technologies is profoundly changing how Canadians communicate, express themselves and interact with various media, bringing with it important economic and social implications and leading to a new communications and media environment. The Governor in Council is of the view that the Canadian broadcasting system, using various audio-visual technologies, must remain relevant in a global digital environment and that Canada should continue to play a leading role in the development and usage of world class communications technologies while fostering Canadian cultural choices and broadening public access to local, regional, national and international information and programming. The Governor in Council has therefore requested that the Commission provide a factual report on the future environment facing the whole broadcasting system.

#### **Call for comments**

3. To fulfil the request set out in the OIC, the Commission seeks information from the public addressing the points set out in the OIC. This information will inform the Government's own policy determinations with respect to the future of broadcasting in Canada, as well as the Commission's review of certain aspects of its regulatory framework for over-the-air television.

4. The deadline for submissions is **1 September 2006**. Each submission should include a short executive summary, and research findings should provide details concerning the methodology employed in conducting the research.
5. The Commission will not formally acknowledge comments. It will, however, fully consider all comments and they will form part of the public record of the proceeding, provided that the procedures for filing set out below have been followed.

### **Procedures for filing comments**

6. Interested parties can file their comments to the Secretary General of the Commission:
  - **by using the**  
[Broadcasting Intervention/Comments Form](#)

OR

  - **by mail to**  
CRTC, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0N2

OR

  - **by fax at**  
(819) 994-0218
7. Submissions longer than five pages should include a summary.
8. Please number each paragraph of your submission. In addition, please enter the line \*\*\*End of document\*\*\* following the last paragraph. This will help the Commission verify that the document has not been damaged during transmission.

### **Important notice**

9. Note that all information that you provide as part of this public process, except information granted confidentiality, whether sent by postal mail, facsimile, e-mail or through the Commission's web site at [www.crtc.gc.ca](http://www.crtc.gc.ca), becomes part of a publicly accessible file and will be posted on the Commission's web site. This information includes your personal information, such as your full name, e-mail address, postal/street address, telephone and facsimile number(s), and any other personal information you provide.
10. Documents received electronically or otherwise will be put on the Commission's web site in their entirety exactly as you send them, including any personal information contained therein, in the official language and format in which they are received. Documents not received electronically will be available in PDF format.

11. The personal information you provide will be used and may be disclosed for the purpose for which the information was obtained or compiled by the Commission, or for a use consistent with that purpose.
12. The Commission encourages interested parties to monitor the public examination file and the Commission's web site for additional information that they may find useful when preparing their comments.

**Examination of public comments and related documents at the following Commission offices during normal business hours**

Central Building  
Les Terrasses de la Chaudière  
1 Promenade du Portage, Room 206  
Gatineau, Quebec K1A 0N2  
Tel: (819) 997-2429 - TDD: 994-0423  
Fax: (819) 994-0218

Metropolitan Place  
99 Wyse Road  
Suite 1410  
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia B3A 4S5  
Tel: (902) 426-7997 - TDD: 426-6997  
Fax: (902) 426-2721

205 Viger Avenue West  
Suite 504  
Montréal, Quebec H2Z 1G2  
Tel: (514) 283-6607

55 St. Clair Avenue East  
Suite 624  
Toronto, Ontario M4T 1M2  
Tel: (416) 952-9096

Kensington Building  
275 Portage Avenue  
Suite 1810  
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 2B3  
Tel: (204) 983-6306 - TDD: 983-8274  
Fax: (204) 983-6317

Cornwall Professional Building  
2125 - 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Room 103  
Regina, Saskatchewan S4P 3X3  
Tel: (306) 780-3422

10405 Jasper Avenue  
Suite 520  
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 3N4  
Tel: (780) 495-3224

530-580 Hornby Street  
Vancouver, British Columbia V6C 3B6  
Tel: (604) 666-2111 - TDD: 666-0778  
Fax: (604) 666-8322

Secretary General

*This document 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 Public Notice CRTC 2006-72**

### **Order in Council by the *Governor in Council***

P.C. 2006-519  
June 8, 2006

Whereas the evolution of audio-visual technologies is profoundly changing how Canadians communicate, express themselves and interact with various media bringing with it important economic and social implications and leading to a new communications and media environment;

Whereas the Canadian broadcasting system, primarily through its broadcast of English and French language programming services and programs, must meet the diverse needs of Canadian men, women and children, of all cultures;

Whereas the Government is of the view that the Canadian broadcasting system, using various audio-visual technologies, must remain relevant in a global digital environment and that Canada should continue to play a leading role in the development and usage of world class communications technologies;

Whereas the Government seeks to foster Canadian cultural choices by ensuring that Canadian content is available and accessible to Canadians, reflecting the rich diversity of this country;

Whereas Canadians seek a broad access to local, regional, national and international information and programming;

Whereas the Government favours a smart regulatory approach that ensures effective and efficient regulation focussed on results for Canadians;

Whereas the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (hereinafter referred to as "the Commission") is responsible for regulating and supervising all aspects of the Canadian broadcasting system with a view to implementing the broadcasting policy for Canada;

Whereas paragraph 3(1)(b) of the *Broadcasting Act* (hereinafter referred to as "the Act") provides that the Canadian broadcasting system comprises public, private and community elements;

Whereas paragraph 3(1)(c) of the Act provides that English and French language broadcasting, while sharing common aspects, operate under different conditions and may have different requirements;

Whereas subparagraph 3(1)(d)(iv) of the Act provides that the Canadian broadcasting system should be readily adaptable to scientific and technological change;

Whereas paragraph 3(1)(e) of the Act provides that each element of the Canadian broadcasting system shall contribute in an appropriate manner to the creation and presentation of Canadian programming;

Whereas subparagraph 3(1)(t)(ii) of the Act provides that distribution undertakings should provide efficient delivery of programming at affordable rates, using the most effective technologies available at reasonable cost;

Whereas paragraph 5(2)(c) of the Act provides that the Canadian broadcasting system should be regulated and supervised in a flexible manner that is readily adaptable to scientific and technological change;

Whereas paragraph 5(2)(f) of the Act provides that the Canadian broadcasting system should be regulated and supervised in a flexible manner that does not inhibit the development of information technologies and their application or the delivery of resultant services to Canadians;

Whereas the Commission has already undertaken a review of the impact of technological changes on its regulatory policies with respect to commercial radio undertakings;

Whereas the Telecommunications Policy Review Panel, while not mandated to examine the broadcasting system, reported on the impact of evolving technologies on the telecommunications and broadcasting distribution sectors;

Whereas the Governor in Council is seeking a factual record on the future environment facing the whole broadcasting system that will inform the Government's own policy determinations with respect to the future of broadcasting in Canada;

Whereas subsection 15(1) of the Act provides that the Commission shall, on the request of the Governor in Council, hold hearings or make reports on any matter within the jurisdiction of the Commission under the Act;

And whereas, in accordance with subsection 15(2) of the Act, the Minister of Canadian Heritage has consulted with the Commission with regard to this request;

Therefore, Her Excellency the Governor General in Council, on the recommendation of the Minister of Canadian Heritage, pursuant to subsection 15(1) of the *Broadcasting Act*, hereby requests the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission to hold hearings and provide a factual report at the earliest time practicable, and in any event not later than December 14, 2006, on the following matters:

- a) the current state of audio-visual technologies and their predicted evolution over the coming years;
- b) with respect to the usage of audio-visual technologies by Canadians,
  - (i) changes in this usage since January 1, 2000,
  - (ii) changes in demand for various kinds of programming and programming services since January 1, 2000,
  - (iii) how Canadians of different generations use various technologies and the impact that these different uses will have on the broadcasting system,
  - (iv) a comparison of the adoption rate for technologies between Canada and other countries,
  - (v) the demand for various kinds of programming and programming services by the Canadian population, taking into account its full diversity,
  - (vi) how future generations will consume or access content, programming, and programming services, and
  - (vii) the impact this evolution of technologies has for content and programming choices available to Canadians, including local, regional, national and international content; and
- c) with respect to the impact on the broadcasting system,
  - (i) the adoption of technologies by broadcasting undertakings since January 1, 2000,
  - (ii) the economic and regulatory impact on the broadcasting system caused by these technologies,
  - (iii) the kind of content delivered through the regulated and the non-regulated aspects of the system, and how it is delivered,

- (iv) the different methods for providing local, regional and national programming on a going forward basis,
- (v) the predicted economic impact these technologies will have on broadcasting undertakings, and
- (vi) the adoption of technologies by the independent production sector and their impact on this sector.