



Filed Electronically

Ms. Janice Charette
Clerk of the Privy Council and Secretary to the Cabinet
Langevin Block
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A3

Dear Ms. Charette:


Re: Petition to the Governor in Council of FRIENDS concerning Broadcasting Decision CRTC 2022-165: CBC Licence Renewals

1. These comments are provided by Unifor in support of the above referenced FRIENDS petition requesting that the Governor in Council issue an Order pursuant to Section 28 of the *Broadcasting Act*, setting aside Broadcasting Decision CRTC 2022-165 (the “Decision”) or referring it back to the CRTC for reconsideration and hearing (the “Petition”).
2. The Commission’s decision allows the CBC to eliminate newscasts, in effect reducing employment in the already barebones news industry. Unifor deeply believes that local news is the glue that binds this country and a strong public broadcaster with a mandate to provide this service ought to be the cornerstone of its core purpose. This decision will not only serve to erode the already fragile news landscape, it will also set a dangerous precedent going forward that undermines our communities and our democracy.
3. C-11 was supposed to be about leveling the playing field, but this decision creates more disparities. Commissioner Lafontaine’s dissenting opinion, points out that the “*Canadian Programming Exhibition Framework Provides the Corporation with a Significant Competitive Advantage Over all Other Canadian Television Broadcasters....Putting further competitive pressure on the domestic television ecosystem before broader policy reviews are undertaken is highly inappropriate and unnecessary at this time.*”¹

¹ Broadcasting Decision CRTC 2022-165 and Broadcasting Orders CRTC 2022-166 and 2022-167 page 255

4. Unifor appreciates this opportunity to provide these comments.

Yours truly,



Randy Kitt

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