

23 January 2025

Marc Morin Secretary General CRTC Ottawa, ON K1A 0N2 Filed online

Dear Secretary General,

Re: TV5 Québec Canada, Demande de la Partie I - Modification d'une condition à l'ordonnance de distribution CRTC 2018-345 afin d'augmenter les tariffs de distribution - TV5 Québec Canada, Part 1 Application 2024-0630-6 (Montréal, 2 December 2024)

- The Forum for Research and Policy in Communications (FRPC) is a non-profit and non-partisan organization established in 2013 to undertake research and policy analysis about communications, including broadcasting. The Forum supports a strong Canadian communications system that serves the public interest as defined by Parliament in the 1991 *Broadcasting Act*.
- The Forum is intervening with respect to the above-noted application by TV5/Unis to increase its monthly BDU-subscriber rates by 4 cents per month (16.7%) in Francophone markets and by 2 cents per month (7.1%) in Anglophone markets. TV5/Unis estimates that the CRTC's approval of its application will generate an additional \$3.1 million from BDU subscribers over the two years from 2024/25 to 2025/26. Based on TV5/Unis' application, it appears that this additional money would be devoted primarily to reducing the operating deficit of TV5/Unis: its Canadian programming expenses would increase by \$578,910 while its deficit would decrease (from \$2,488,920 to \$46,344).

Type of BDU market:	Monthly subscriber rate		Monthly subscriber rate		% increase	Revenue impact	Impact on Canadian
	Current	Proposed	proposed	2024/25 to 2025/26	programming expenses		
Francophone markets	\$0.24	\$0.28	16.7%	¢2 114 174	¢570.010		
Anglophone markets	\$0.28	\$0.30	7.1%	\$3,114,174	\$578,910		

Our comments begin in Part I with a brief overview of TV5/Unis' licensing background and follow in Part II with a discussion of the service's application. The Forum sets out its comments on the application in Part III, and our conclusions and recommendations follow along with Appendices 1 through 4. Briefly, FRPC is concerned that, assuming the Commission applies the criteria it



generally uses for discretionary service rate increases to TV5/Unis, the TV5/Unis application sets out insufficient evidence to enable the CRTC to approve TV5/Unis' application.

I. Background

TV5 was first licensed almost 38 years ago. The history of its Canadian broadcasting licence is somewhat difficult to trace: the Forum was unable to locate three decisions involving a change in ownership and control (Decision CRTC 91-675), an administrative renewal (Decision CRTC 92-825) and the 1994 renewal of its licence (Decision CRTC 94-490) using the CRTC's search engine (see Appendix 2 and Appendix 3).

A. Licence initially granted to partnership in 1987

- TV5/Unis was first licensed in 1987 as a French-language specialty service distributed on an "optional basis ... for distribution on the basic service". The CRTC considered it as a replacement for "TVFQ-99 on most cable undertakings"; where BDU subscribers paid \$0.20 per month for that service, the CRTC authorized TV5's distribution at the wholesale subscriber rate of \$0.27 per month.¹
- The CRTC in 1987 denied TV5's request for mandatory carriage as the service was not "deemed to be of national public interest" and required that 19.5% of its programming schedule be Canadian.
- B. 33 years of operation: 7 administrative, 3 'regular' renewals and amendments granting more revenue and more flexibility
- Since approving the establishment of the Consortium de Télévision Québec Canada (Consortium) as a not-for-profit corporation in Decision CRTC 91-675² 33 years ago the CRTC has renewed TV5/Unis's licences administratively 7 times, and has evaluated its performance in 3 'regular' renewal processes: see Table 1 (and Appendix 1 for details).
- In approving a change in TV5' control in 1991 from a broadcasters-producers partnership to a non-profit corporation, the Commission denied the service's request for mandatory carriage due to lack of information about TV5's service "in the foreseeable future": see Table 1. The TV5/Unis licence currently expires on 31 August 2026.
- C. Major changes to TV5: advertising, licences, wholesale rate and carriage
- 9 The CRTC has approved several requests by TV5/Unis to amend its licence since approving the service in 1987 (see Table 1, below). These amendments involved TV5's advertising limits, its

¹ Decision CRTC 87-895.

² See

Decision CRTC 1991-675 did not renew TV5's licence but rather issued the licence to a newly described non-profit corporation.

Consortium de Télévision Québec Canada, Decision CRTC 91-675 (Ottawa, 28 August 1991) (no paragraph numbers).



feeds, the wholesale rate it may charge to broadcasting distribution undertakings (BDUs) and its carriage by BDUs.

Table 1

Administrative	Renewal	Amendments						
92-825 (1 year)								
	94-490 (7 years)	: committed to increase minimum Canadian content from 10% to 15% and to						
	include original	15-minute news magazine in evening broadcast period daily (7 days/week)						
	•	posed subscriber-rate increases (from \$0.28) to \$0.30 in Jan/95 and to \$0.32 in						
	Jan/98)							
	Condition of lice Sept/94 to Aug/	nce: \$32.846 million in spending or investment in Canadian content from						
		95-832: grants TV5 appl'n to reduce CPE by 20.7% (\$0.97 million)						
2000-408 (1 year)								
		2001-90 establishes dual-status carriage: carriage on basic unless service agrees in writing to discretionary carriage						
2002-197 (6 months)		agrees in writing to discretionary carriage						
2002-137 (01110110115)	2003-77 (6 years	s) – renews licence from 1 Mar/03 to 31 Aug/09						
		express Canadian programming spending as % of gross revenues from previous						
		year instead of in predetermined amounts (¶16) Amends condition of licence to reefer to language of broadcasting and original French-language						
	productions (¶1							
		2004-467: grants TV appl'n to raise TV5 advertising from 3 to 12 mins/hr						
		2006-23 announces end of dual status and distribution on analog basic						
		2007-246: CRTC denies TV5's request for mandatory distribution on digital						
		basic, finding it "is not of exceptional importance in fulfilling objectives of the Act"						
		2008-328: grants TV5 appl'n for HD format use						
2009-145 (1 year)								
2010-562 (2 years)								
2011-312 (1 year)								
		Broadcasting Regulatory Policy CRTC 2013-372 grants TV5 and UNIS						
		mandatory carriage on digital basic, a fee of \$0.24/subscriber in						
		Anglophone markets and of \$0.28/subscriber in Francophone markets (¶39)						
		(According to dissent by Commissioner Molnar, 15% of its programming is						
		Canadian and 15% of mandatory distribution funds would go to Canadian						
		programming expenditures:						
		55% Canadian programming expenditures (CPE) * 75% of CPE devoted to						
		original, first-run Canadian programming * 60% of original first-run						
		programming devoted to OLMCs * 60% of productions devoted to OLMCs						
		would originate outside of Quebec = 15%)						
	2013-384 (5 yea	·						
	Adds UNIS licend							
		ent that 75% of minimum required Canadian programming expenditures must b						
		nal, first-run Canadian programs for both feeds of its service combined						
		rs): 1 Sept/18 to 31 Aug/23 al-basic carriage order renewed: \$0.24/subscriber in English-language markets						
	, ,	oscriber in French-language markets (¶39)						



TV5/Unis licensing	history, 1992-20	23
Administrative	Renewal	Amendments
		2020-317: grants TV5 appl'n to change French-language text of CoL 2(c) to
		refer to programs originally in French rather than original French programs
2023-245 (3 years+		
Aug/23 to Aug/26)		
		Broadcasting Regulatory Policy CRTC 2023-306 removes advertising limits
		for discretionary services including TV5/Unis

- First, in 2004 the CRTC quadrupled the national advertising time available to TV5, raising it from 10 3 to 12 minutes per hour.⁵ Two years ago (Fall 2023) the Commission dropped advertising limits for all discretionary television services, including TV5/Unis.⁶
- 11 Second, in 2013 the CRTC authorized the Consortium to operate a second feed. While the TV5 feed "would offer programming focused primarily on reflecting the international Francophonie", the UNIS feed would "offer programming focussed on reflecting the diversity of the Canadian Francophonie, including official language minority communities (OLMCs)".7
- 12 Third, and also in 2013, the Commission in Broadcasting Regulatory Policy CRTC 2013-372 granted TV5/Unis and several other discretionary services mandatory digital-basic carriage. 8 (The CRTC in July 2007 had dropped the "dual-status" accorded to TV5 and other services under which services had to be carried as part of BDUs' analog basic service unless the former agreed to carriage on a discretionary tier.)
- 13 Last, the CRTC in the same regulatory policy proceeding – involving not just TV5/Unis but 20 other existing and proposed discretionary services – permitted TV5 to raise the wholesale rate charged for TV5 by BDUs in Anglophone markets from a range of 2¢ to 8¢ per subscriber, to 24¢ per subscriber. 9

Rates charged in BDU Anglophone markets until				
2013: % of Francophones in non-Francophone				
markets and wholesale per subscriber rate				
0.00% - 1.99%	\$0.02			
2.00% - 4.99%	\$0.04			
5.00% - 14.99%	\$0.06			
15.00 – 49.99%	\$0.08			

The CRTC's 2013 renewal of TV5 did not include a condition of licence with respect to advertising limits as the CRTC had consolidated such requirements in Standard conditions of licence, expectations and encouragements for specialty and pay television Category A services, Broadcasting Regulatory Policy CRTC 2011-443 (Ottawa, 27 July 2011), Appendix 1, "Conditions of licence".

Standard conditions of service for licensed discretionary services, national news discretionary services and mainstream sports discretionary services and exemption order for exempt discretionary services – Modifications to the advertising time limit requirement, Broadcasting Regulatory Policy CRTC 2023-306 and Broadcasting Order CRTC 2023-307 (Ottawa, 5 September 2023) - Removes advertising limits for discretionary services including TV5/Unis

TV5/UNIS TV - Licence renewal and renewal of mandatory distribution order, Decision CRTC 2013-384 (Ottawa, 8 August 2013), ¶2.

Applications for mandatory distribution on cable and satellite under section 9(1)(h) of the Broadcasting Act, Broadcasting Regulatory Policy CRTC 2013-372 (Ottawa, 8 August 2013).

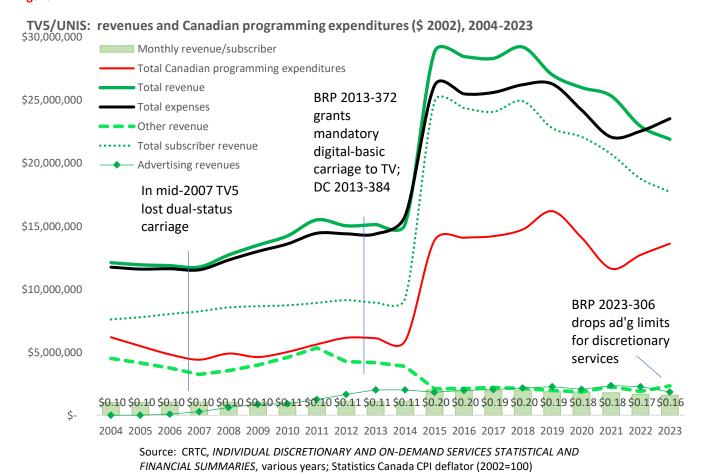
TV5/UNIS TV – Licence renewal and renewal of mandatory distribution order, Decision CRTC 2013-384 (Ottawa, 31 August 2018) renews TV5/Unis licence.



- Of these changes the most consequential has been the mandatory digital-basic carriage requirement and the increase in revenues from non-Francophone BDU markets.
- TV5's total BDU-subscriber revenue increased by 2.7 times (171%) between 2013/14 and 2014/15, from \$11.6 million to \$31.5 million (in current terms), and by 168.4% in real (2002) terms or \$15.6 million: see Figure 1 (next page).

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Figure 1



By contrast TV5/Unis' advertising revenues over the same period remained relatively flat. TV5/Unis's evidence is that its national advertising revenues decreased by 26.9% between 2021/22 and 2023/24 and that it will continue to decrease with or without a rate increase. ¹⁰

DM#4764614 – Annexe B – Prévisions financières sans augmentation.pdf; DM#4764615 – Annexe C – Prévisions financières avec augmentation.pdf.

In other words, if the CRTC grants TV5/Unis a rate increase, the service does not appear to anticipate that it will attract more audiences (and, therefore, advertising revenues) by including different programming in its schedule.



II. TV5/Unis' application

Table 2 TV5/Unis proposed rate increase

17 TV5/Unis is asking the CRTC on an 'interim and urgent basis' to increase the rate charged by distributors in all markets they

Type of BDU market:	Monthly sub	% increase	
	Current	Proposed	proposed
Francophone markets	\$0.24	\$0.28	16.7%
Anglophone markets	\$0.28	\$0.30	7.1%

serve: as Table 2 shows, by 4 cents per subscriber in BDU Francophone markets and by 2 cents per subscriber in BDU Anglophone markets.¹¹ Describing either its application or the CRTC's approval of the application as "la 1ère en 35 ans",¹² TV5/Unis also says that it does not plan to change its programming if the CRTC approves this application¹³ but may reduce its deficit.¹⁴

- The Consortium argues that despite its rationalization of its expenses and efforts to obtain one-time governmental assistance it faces a number of challenges including falling subscription and advertising revenues and rising program production, staffing and technical expenses (linked to the service' availability online). TV5/Unis' evidence is that it has taken many steps to address this situation, including reviewing its structure and compressing its expenditures, though it provided no specific details on this point.
- The Consortium forecasts that in 2024/25 the salaries of TV5/Unis will increase by 1% (and 2% for unionized employes, in line with its current contract). In 2025/26 it expects that most of its expenses will increase by 2% except for marketing and online expenses that are stable. It forecasts a 2% increase in employee numbers, along with a modest ("légère") reduction in total

TV5/UNIS TV fait face à de nombreux défis dont : i) le désabonnement continu aux services de télédistribution dans les foyers canadiens qui occasionne une baisse des revenus d'abonnement au Service; ii) la décroissance continue des revenus publicitaires des services linéaires et la migration des achats publicitaires vers les plateformes numériques; iii) l'augmentation de l'ensemble des coûts d'opération, y compris des coûts de production d'émissions et de main d'oeuvre; iv) l'ajout de coûts techniques liés à l'offre indispensable de la programmation du Service sur les plateformes en ligne. Nous vous référons à la demande complète jointe aux présentes.

¹¹ TV5/Unis, *Part 1 Application 2024-0630-6*, Form 301 (Montréal, 2 December 2024) at 3(a):

^{...} sur une base intérimaire et urgente, le tarif de distribution de TV5/UNIS TV versé par les entreprises de distribution de radiodiffusion autorisées, tel que prévu à la condition c) de l'ordonnance de radiodiffusion CRTC 2018-345, datée du 31 août 2018. La demande de modification vise également le paragraphe d) de l'ordonnance de radiodiffusion afin d'en ajuster les dates, suite à la décision du Conseil.

TV5/Unis Supplementary Brief, at ¶28: "L'approbation de la présente demande d'augmentation, la 1ère en 35 ans, permettrait à TV5 Québec Canada de réduire son déficit, sans toutefois revenir à l'équilibre budgétaire, le temps que le Conseil poursuive ses démarches pour moderniser ses cadres réglementaires en réponse à l'entrée en vigueur de la nouvelle Loi sur la radiodiffusion."

DM#4764616, Application form 301, s. 3(e):

[&]quot;Si cette modification est approuvée, entraînera-t-elle des changements de programmation? Non"

TV5/Unis Supplementary Brief, at ¶28: "

¹⁵ DM#4764616, Application form 301, s. 4.2(a):

TV5/Unis Supplementary Brief, at ¶27: "TV5/UNIS TV a mis en oeuvre plusieurs mesures pour tenter de redresser la situation en revoyant sa structure interne et en comprimant ses dépenses au maximum."

DM#4764614 – Annexe B – Prévisions financières sans augmentation.pdf: "Augmentation de salaire des cadres de 1% et des employés syndiqués de 2% conformément à la convention collective en vigueur."

DM#4764614 – Annexe B – Prévisions financières sans augmentation.pdf: "La majorité des dépenses augmentent de 2% sauf les frais de marketing et web qui sont stables."



- salaries in 2024/25 due to a reorganization.¹⁹ TV5/Unis also assumes that its national advertising sales will decrease by 10%, while its online sales will increase by 30%.²⁰
- The Consortium also says that while it has strengthened its program offering by adding the UNIS TV service²¹ and received \$771,023 from Heritage Canada in 2024-25, its financial projections were based on also receiving \$750,000 in 2025-26.²² It argues that its position has become untenable²³ due to a structural deficit.²⁴

III. FRPC comments on TV5/Unis' application

According to the appendices of TV5/Unis' application, the CRTC's approval of an increase in the rates BDU charge subscribers to receive its services would generate \$3.1 million in new revenues for the service. Its expenses would remain unchanged except for an increase of \$578,910 in Canadian programming expenditures (representing 18.6% of the \$3.1 million increase):

Table 3 Impact of TV5/Unis' proposed rate increase on revenues, expenses and Canadian programming expendi

\$	Revenues	Expense	СРЕ			
DM#4764614 – App B – no rate increase						
2024/25	\$32,209,739	\$32,229,137	\$17,438,703			
2025/26	\$31,086,207	\$32,293,769	\$17,854,874			
Total, no rate increase	\$63,295,946	\$64,522,906	35,293,577			
DM#4764615 – App C – rate	increase					
2024/25	\$33,262,302	\$32,229,137	\$17,438,703			
2025/26	\$33,147,818	\$32,872,679	\$18,433,784			
Total, with rate increase	\$66,410,120	\$65,101,816	\$35,872,487			
Difference between no-rate i	ncrease and rate-i	ncrease forecasts				
2024/25	\$1,052,563	\$0	\$0			
2025/26	\$2,061,611	\$578,910	\$578,910			
Total	\$3,114,174	\$578,910	\$578,910			

The difference between the additional revenue generated by approving TV5/Unis' rate-increase application and its \$578,910 in Canadian programming expenditures is \$2,535,264. This would be devoted to reducing TV5/Unis' structural deficit; it says that financial support provided by the government is insufficient for this purpose (¶22). TV5/Unis does not provide any information

DM#4764614 – Annexe B – Prévisions financières sans augmentation.pdf: "Nous avons prévu 2 % d'augmentation pour l'ensemble des employés, mais nous anticipons malgré tout une légère baisse de la masse salariale en F26, par l'effet de réorganisation de l'effectif amorcée en F25."

²⁰ Ibid. "Les ventes publicité télé baissent de 10% alors que les ventes numériques augmentent de 30%".

DM#4764612, TV5/Unis, Demande de la Partie I - Modification d'une condition à l'ordonnance de distribution CRTC 2018-345 afin d'augmenter les tarifs de distribution - TV5 Québec Canada, (Montréal, 2 December 2024) [TV5/Unis Supplementary Brief], at ¶9.

²² *Ibid.*, ¶22.

²³ *Ibid.*, at ¶10.

²⁴ *Ibid.*, ¶22.



- about any online revenues or expenditures, saying that online advertising revenues do not compensate for losses due to subscribers disconnections from BDU services.²⁵
- TV5/Unis does not set out information about its current programming performance. This gap might not matter but for the complete absence on the historical public record of such information from the CRTC: Table 4.

Table 4 CRTC decisions about TV5/Unis and its programming performance

CRTC decision	Canadian content – % of bro	oadcast day	1 st run Canadian	(hours)
	Condition of licence	Actual	Condition of licence	Actual
87-895	2: 19.5%		3: hours of 1 st run	
1988/89 (Year 1)		27.4%	3(b): 357	Unknown
1989/90 (Year 2)		21.4%	3(c): 365	Unknown
91-675	2: 10%	Unknown	134:30	Unknown
2003-77	2: 15.0%	Unknown	104	Unknown
2013-384	2(b)(i): 15% of TV5 International 2(b)(ii): 75% of TV UNIS	Unknown	Requirement dropped 4. 75% of minimum require programming expenditures to original, first-run Canadia both feeds of its service con	must be devoted an programs for
2018-344	2(b)(i): 15%	Unknown	Requirement dropped 4. 75% of minimum require programming expenditures to original, first-run Canadia both feeds of its service cor	must be devoted an programs for

Earlier FRPC noted TV5/Unis' evidence that it 'has taken many steps to address this situation, including reviewing its structure and compressing its expenditures'. According to the CRTC's financial summaries, TV5/Unis increased its technical, sales and administrative expenses over the past five years, while reducing its programming and production expenses: Table 5. Among the 9(1)(h) services, in fact, TV5/Unis is the only service that increased its overall expenses (including technical, sales and administrative expenses) while reducing its expenditures on Canadian programming.

Table 5 Comparison of 9(1)(h) services' revenues and expenses, 2018/19 to 2022/23

9(1)(h) services	% change, 2018/19 to 2022/23								
	Revenues								
	Subscriber	Total	Prog & prod	Technical	Sales	Admin	Total	CPE	
APTN (lic'd in DC 99-42)	-10.0%	-7.3%	13.0%	2.1%	-12.8%	-5.7%	6.1%	13.9%	
AMI-tele	-4.7%	-3.9%	-9.6%	0.4%	-2.2%	3.5%	-7.0%	-5.4%	
AMI-TV	-10.1%	-8.5%	1.3%	17.0%	-17.3%	0.2%	0.7%	15.6%	
CPAC*	-11.0%	-10.6%	-5.3%	16.8%	-24.0%	-11.5%	-5.4%	-6.0%	
CBC News Network	-11.4%	-2.6%	9.4%	-20.2%	-2.9%	23.7%	8.8%	7.0%	
ICI ARTV	-16.3%	-19.3%	-7.1%	-20.3%	-46.4%	-14.6%	-13.7%	-10.5%	

lbid., at ¶17: "... TV5 Québec Canada tente de rejoindre les auditoires qui ne sont pas ou plus abonnés aux services de télédistribution traditionnelle avec une offre numérique de contenus sur ses plateformes en ligne. Toutefois, les revenus publicitaires qui y sont générés n'arrivent pas à compenser la perte associée aux revenus d'abonnements."

TV5/Unis Supplementary Brief, at ¶27: "TV5/UNIS TV a mis en oeuvre plusieurs mesures pour tenter de redresser la situation en revoyant sa structure interne et en comprimant ses dépenses au maximum."



9(1)(h) services	% change, 2018/19 to 2022/23							
	Revenu	es			Expense	es		
	Subscriber	Total	Prog & prod	Technical	Sales	Admin	Total	CPE
ICI RDI	-16.4%	-10.9%	7.8%	23.6%	0.5%	10.6%	8.6%	4.2%
TVA LCN*	-0.4%	7.8%	24.6%	-4.8%	25.5%	-4.4%	21.8%	24.1%
OMNI Regional*	42.8%	30.0%	39.6%	-22.7%	-58.3%	-36.9%	24.8%	54.2%
The Weather Network	-9.9%	-20.3%	-14.5%	7.7%	-60.6%	-13.5%	-15.4%	-14.5%
TV5 - Unis	-10.1%	-6.4%	-2.5%	31.1%	16.5%	19.7%	3.4%	-2.9%

- * BDU ownership; Source of 9(1)(h) services: see Appendix 4
 - Given that TV5/Unis is arguing that its current financial situation is untenable, it would have been useful to understand its reasons for increasing rather than reducing technical, sales and administration expenditures.
 - It also appears from the CRTC's data that TV5/Unis' staffing levels also did not remain flat or decrease but instead grew by 11.2% between 2018/19 and 2022/23, the largest increase percentage increase among the 9(1)(h) services: Table 6.

Table 6 TV5/Unis average staff count, 2018/19 to 2022/23

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	Ave	rage staff	count, 2018	3/19 to 202	2/23		
9(1)(h) services	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Change	% change
APTN (lic'd in DC 99-42)	190	190	194	168	185	-5.00	-2.6%
AMI-tele	26.23	24.1	24.51	22.23	17.66	-8.57	-32.7%
AMI-TV	55.15	55.63	55.51	51.33	44.7	-10.45	-18.9%
CPAC*	91	79	80	84	91.75	0.75	0.8%
CBC News Network	430.13	439.44	426.18	455.1	463.25	33.12	7.7%
ICI ARTV	21.09	17.73	14.36	13.35	12.95	-8.14	-38.6%
ICI RDI	332.21	338.37	319.29	319.81	324.1	-8.11	-2.4%
TVA LCN*	62	44	15	11	11	-51.00	-82.3%
OMNI Regional*	68.12	69.29	77.14	76.92	73.99	5.87	8.6%
The Weather Network	140	141	134.5	132	133	-7.00	-5.0%
TV5 - Unis	65	69	72	73	72.3	7.31	11.2%

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

The day after TV5/Unis filed Application 2024-0630-6, the CRTC denied a rate-increase application by AMI-TV and AMI-télé on the grounds that the service had not provided clear evidence of immediate financial need.²⁷ Even though these services had reduced their staff by 30% in 2022,²⁸ the CRTC wrote that

... an applicant requesting a rate increase outside of the licence renewal process should be able to demonstrate its inability to meet its requirements without the rate increase. Alternatively, the applicant should clearly establish that the requested rate increase would add sufficient value to the broadcasting system to justify approval of the increase" (¶28)

²⁷ AMI-tv and AMI-télé – Application to increase the monthly per subscriber wholesale rates, <u>Broadcasting Decision</u> CRTC 2024-314 (Ottawa, 3 December 2024), at ¶6.

²⁸ *Ibid.*, at ¶9.



- As in 1991 (see ¶8, above), TV5/Unis has provided little evidence to support its request and has not addressed the issue of BDU-rate affordability. Its application does not describe the programming it now broadcasts, the percentage of Canadian programming within its schedule, the level of original first-run content it intends to provide, viewing hours to TV5/Unis²⁹ or subscribers' attitudes towards its proposed rate increase. While TV5/Unis said that 'a rate increase would enable it to continue to provide quality programming services and to invest in original, French-language production especially in relation to producers in official-language minority communities', 30 TV5/Unis did not explain how its two feeds would change if its application were denied. It said, moreover, that even if it receives the rate increase it does not intend to change its programming. 31
- The CRTC should consider approving TV5/Unis' application if TV5/Unis amends its application to provide the following necessary and relevant information:
 - a. the level of Canadian programming it has broadcast from 2018/19 to 2023/24
 - b. audience hours tuned to TV5/Unis from 2018/19 to 2023/24
 - whether TV5/Unis has undertaken any survey research to assess Canadian BDU subscribers' opinions about a rate increase that will not significantly change TV5/Unis' Canadian programming
 - d. the degree to which BDU subscription fees are funding TV5/Unis' online programming,
 - e. whether TV5/Unis' online programming differs from its discretionary service programming, and
 - f. whether it is appropriate for BDU subscribers to pay higher BDU rates to reduce deficits described by a programming service as structural when little evidence exists demonstrating the service' efforts to reduce its expenditures and deficit, and when the federal government is apparently unwilling to address the structural needs of a broadcasting service established in part to meet international commitments.

Lm.

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c. David Cantin

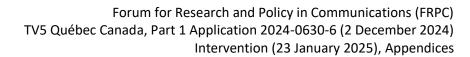
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TV5/Unis instead addresses its reach at ¶16 of its Supplementary Brief:

La portée hebdomadaire moyenne de TV5/UnisTV chez les francophones du Québec, telle que mesurée par Numéris, s'élève à 1,9 Millions de téléspectateurs, soit 25 % de l'auditoire francophone du Québec." [footnote omitted] "Les auditoires francophones en milieux minoritaires ne sont pas mesurés par Numéris mais nos études annuelles confirment que près de 40 % des adultes francophones de 18 ans et plus déclarent écouter TV5 et/ou UnisTV quelques fois par semaine ou tous les jours. (BIP recherche, Juin 2024).

³⁰ DM#4764616, TV5/Unis, *Part 1 Application 2024-0630-6*, Form 301 (Montréal, 2 December 2024) at 3(b).

³¹ *Ibid*.: "Si cette modification est approuvée, entraînera-t-elle des changements de programmation? Non"





Appendices

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Appendix 1 Summary of TV5's licensing history

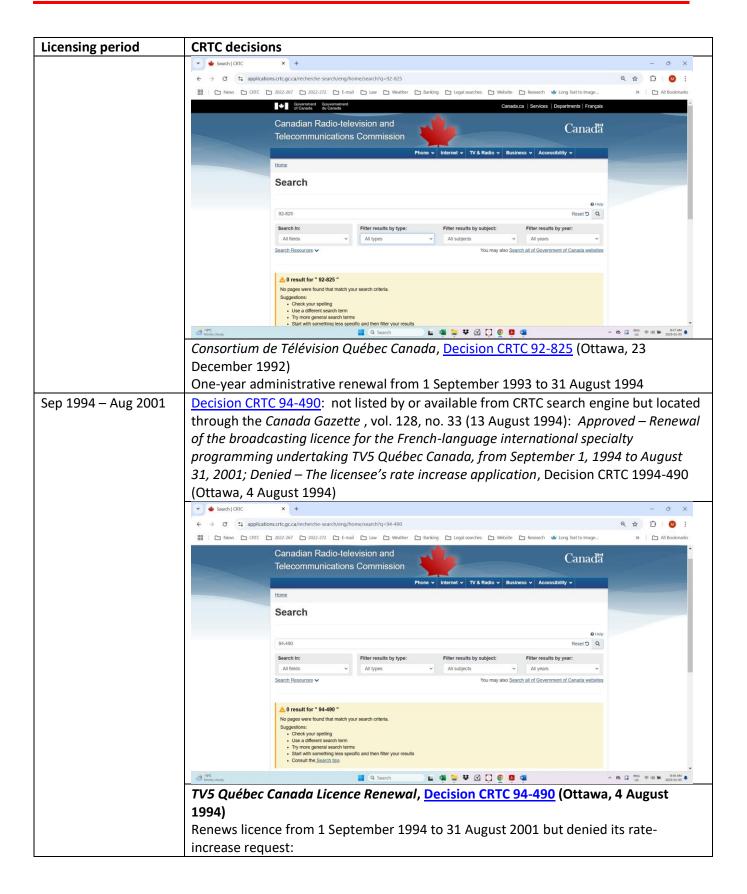
Licensing period	CRTC decisions
Dec 1987 – Aug 1990	Consortium de télévison Québec Canada, Decision CRTC 87-895 (Ottawa, 1 December 1987) grants TV5 licence on optional-to-basic basis; mandatory carriage not granted because CRTC "was concerned that, over time, problems would arise with licensees' accountability to their audiences and to the broadcasting system. It also considered that the distribution of these services could not be deemed to be of national public interest pursuant to subsection 9(4) of the regulations"32 The CRTC required that 19.5% of TV5's programming schedule be Canadian and "that this level will be increased" when the licence is renewed Wholesale subscriber rate: \$0.27 to 31 Aug/89 (CoL 8(a)) \$0.28 beginning 1989/90 (CoL 8(b)) Must broadcast "original, first-run Canadian programs" ['not previously distributed by any broadcast licensee and distributed for first time by TV5] 356 in 1988/89 (CoL 3(b)) 365 in 1989/90 (CoL 3(c)) Must expend on acquisition of/investment in Canadian programs \$4.9 million in 1988/89 (CoL 4(b)) \$5.7 million in 1989/90 (CoL 4(c)) Limited to 3 min/hour of national advertising (CoL 5)
Sept 1990 to Aug 1991	Consortium de télévision Québec Canada, <u>Decision CRTC 90-77</u> (Ottawa, 5 February 1990) renews licence for one year at licensee's request, as discussions with "its European partners and participating governments" were then proceeding to enable it to define its relations with those parties
Sep 1991 to Aug 1993	 Consortium de Télévision Québec Canada, Decision CRTC 91-675 (Ottawa, 28 August 1991) [not listed by CRTC search engine but found through general Internet search] see Appendix 3 CRTC approved transfer of assets to and new licence to "an association of broadcasters and producers linked by a partnership agreement" to a "non-profit corporation" that was "incorporated by letters patent issued under the Canada Corporations Act" 2-year licence ending 31 August 1993 monthly wholesale subscriber rate of \$0.28 in Francophone markets (defined in Public Notice CRTC 1987-261) and from \$0.02 to \$0.08 in non-Francophone markets depending on % of Francophones in the service area [see condition of licence 8(b)] reduction in Canadian content from 19.5% to 10% of broadcast year (but expected firm commitments > 20% going forward) expenditures from \$5.7 million in 1990/91, to \$2.375 million (91/92) and \$2.5 million (92/93) (but expected expenditures of > \$5 million going forward)

³² Consortium de Télévision Québec Canada, <u>Decision CRTC 91-675</u> (Ottawa, 28 August 1991) (no paragraph numbers).



Licensing period	CRTC decisions
	CRTC denied requests for
	 mandatory carriage ("the Commission considers that it does not have sufficient information to determine the nature of the TV5 service in the foreseeable future") increased subscriber rate: "the applicant stated that they were based on the trend in rates charged by other specialty services and that there had been no [TRANSLATION] "scientific reasoning" involved" and "the increased expenditures forecast by TV5 are related mainly to its plans for international expansion. For example, the applicant has planned to allocate between \$500,000 and \$800,000 per year over the next five years to the planned extension of its service in the United States. The Commission considers that subscribers should not have to pay for the costs of these service extension projects. In this context, the Commission notes that subscribers to TV5 Europe do not have to bear such costs, which are
	 borne entirely by participating governments." increase in advertising minutes per hour (from 3 to 5, as TV5 was not then using all of its advertising time) CRTC noted TV5
	"currently available in more than 2.7 million Canadian homes, including approximately 1.6 million homes in Québec"
	"[a]pproximately 80% of its programming originates with television networks in France, Belgium and Switzerland, while the remainder of the schedule consists of Canadian programs"
	"the applicant stated at the public hearing that any future financial surplus would be entirely reinvested in program production"
	CRTC required
	 10% of programs broadcast be "Canadian programs" (CoL 2) broadcast 134:30 hours of "original, first-run Canadian programs" (CoL 3) acquisition of/investment in Canadian programs \$2.375 million in 1991/1992 (Condition of licence 4(a)) \$2.5 million in 1992/93
Sep 1993 – Aug 1994	Decision CRTC 92-825: not listed by or available from CRTC search engine (see below) but located through the Canada Gazette, vol. 127, no. 2: Renewed – Licence for the French-language specialty programming network 'TV5 Québec Canada', from September 1, 1993 to August 31,1994, Decision CRTC 1992-825 (Ottawa, 23 December 1992); administrative renewal from 1 September 1993 to 31 August 1994







Licensing period	CRTC decisions
	The licensee referred to the interest that exists for its programming, as demonstrated by the fact that TV5 viewing time increased nearly 50% in Quebec and more than 100% in the rest of Canada between 1991 and 1993 The licensee made a commitment to increase, from 10% to 15%, the minimum Canadian content broadcast by TV5 in each broadcast year; this commitment must be adhered to by condition of licence. The licensee stated that, while this commitment does not fully meet the expectation expressed by the Commission in Decision CRTC 91-675, it considers the level to be appropriate considering the nature of this international service and the expectations of viewers. Taking into account the planned extension of the broadcast day, which will translate to more than 700 additional hours of broadcast time each year, the licensee noted that the proposed commitment will mean an actual increase of 70% in TV5's Canadian content over the previous commitment. The Commission also notes the commitment to broadcast an original 15-minute news magazine in the evening broadcast period seven days a week
	The licensee stated that its projected expenditures on Canadian programming are predicated on savings that would result from the introduction of digital video compression (DVC) on 1 September 1994, and assume as well, the Commission's approval of the rate increases proposed in its licence renewal application
	The licensee proposed an increase of \$0.02 in the monthly wholesale rate in Francophone markets beginning 1 January 1995 and an additional increase of \$0.02 beginning 1 January 1998, which would bring the current rate of \$0.28 to a maximum of \$0.32 per subscriber per month. The licensee considers that these increases are justified by the fact that its rate has not changed since 1989 and by its new commitments, particularly with respect to Canadian content. When it renewed the licences of certain specialty programming undertakings in 1992, the Commission indicated that it would review their proposed wholesale rates in light of the contribution of each undertaking to the Canadian
	broadcasting system and the Commission's concerns about the affordability of basic cable service. These concerns are especially strong in the case of a Frenchlanguage service like TV5, most of whose subscriber revenues come from Quebec. The Commission notes that specialty programming services are normally offered on basic cable in Quebec and that, as a result, basic cable rates are generally higher in that province than in the rest of Canada, where specialty services are usually offered on a high-penetration discretionary tier."
	"In reviewing applications for rate increases for specialty programming services, the Commission also considers the ability of those services to increase their revenue from other sources, advertising in particular. In the case of TV5, the Commission notes that, in addition to the financial support provided by Canada, the Province of Quebec and its European partners, the current conditions of licence, which are renewed by this decision, allow TV5 to generate revenue through limited advertising.



Licensing period	CRTC decisions
	In keeping with the general approach outlined above and having examined all of the evidence pertaining to this request, the Commission has decided to deny the licensee's rate increase application
	In renewing TV5's licence for a full term of 7 years, the Commission has considered the licensee's achievements over the past several years and its commitments for the future. It has also considered the special nature of this international French-language service, the government support it receives and its tangible and unique contribution to the Canadian broadcasting system
	 Conditions of licence for TV5
	 The programming provided by TV5 shall consist predominantly of French- language programming.
	2. Over the broadcast year, the licensee shall devote at least 15% of its programming to the distribution of Canadian programs during the broadcast day as well as during the evening broadcast period.
	For the purpose of this condition, "programming" shall not include the audio programming service broadcast prior to the commencement of the regular program schedule.
	3. (1) In accordance with the Commission's position on Canadian expenditures as set out in Public Notices CRTC 1993-93 and 1993-174, the licensee shall expend, at a minimum, the amounts indicated below on the investment in, or acquisition of, Canadian programs in each broadcast year:
	 from 1 September 1994 to 31 August 1995: \$3,292,000; from 1 September 1995 to 31 August 1996: \$4,684,000; from 1 September 1996 to 31 August 1997: \$4,805,000; from 1 September 1997 to 31 August 1998: \$4,869,000;
	- from 1 September 1997 to 31 August 1998: \$4,937,000; - from 1 September 1999 to 31 August 2000: \$5,075,000; - from 1 September 2000 to 31 August 2001: \$5,184,000;
	(2) In the broadcast year commencing 1 September 1994 and in any subsequent 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 set out in or 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; (3) In the broadcast year commencing 1 September 1994 and in any subsequent year of the licence term, including the final year, the licensee may expend an amount on Canadian programming that is greater than the minimum required
	expenditure for that year set out in or calculated in accordance with this condition; in such case, the licensee may deduct:



Licensing period	CRTC decisions
	(a) from the minimum required expenditure for the following year of the licence
	term, an amount not exceeding the amount of the previous year's overspending;
	and
	(b) from the minimum required expenditure for any subsequent year of the licence term, an amount not exceeding the difference between the overspending
	and any amount deducted under paragraph (a) above;
	(4) Notwithstanding the above, during the licence term, the licensee shall expend on Canadian programming, at a minimum, the total of the minimum required expenditures set out in or calculated in accordance with the licensee's condition of licence.
	4. The licensee shall not distribute any advertising material other than a maximum of 3 minutes during each clock hour of national sponsorship or institutional advertising, public service announcements and material promoting the service or one of its programs.
	Sponsorship advertising is not permitted in newscasts. The sponsorship messages shall only be placed at the beginning and/or end of programs. All sponsored programs must clearly identify the name of the sponsor.
Nov 1995	Licence amendment, Decision CRTC 95-832 (Ottawa, 10 November 1995) amends
	licence to reduce Canadian programming expenditures in 1995/96 by 20.7% (\$0.97
	million); grants TV5 request to reduce Canadian programming expenditures by 20.7% (\$0.97 million)
Sep/01 – Aug/02	Decision CRTC 2000-408 – administrative renewal
3,	"In Achieving a better balance: Report on French-language broadcasting services in a minority environment, Public Notice CRTC 2001-25, 12 February 2001, the
	Commission emphasized, among other things, that TV5 now has a licence authorizing the national distribution of its service and that TV5 Québec Canada remained the second most distributed analog specialty service outside Quebec. The Commission
	also noted that the level of satisfaction with specialty services once they were known
	to Francophones living in minority communities was significant. The Commission added that, following the implementation of the digital distribution policy, TV5 Québec Canada would benefit from increased distribution. The Commission was
	therefore of the opinion that an examination should be conducted of how this licensee could ensure that French-language minorities are reflected at the time of its
	licence renewal."
	TV5 Québec Canada - Licence amendment, <u>Broadcasting Decision CRTC 2004-476</u>
	(Ottawa, 25 October 2004), at ¶37.
June 2001	Conference of Ministers agrees on 22 June 2001 to restructure TV5 Monde international ³³
Sep 2001 – Aug 2002	One-year administrative renewal, Decision CRTC 2000-408 (Ottawa, 5 October 2000) –
·	administrative renewal

³³ Decision CRTC 2003-77, ¶24.



Licensing period	CRTC decisions
Mar 2002	Membership in Consortium de télévision Québec Canada inc. reorganized to centre
	on "Canadian public broadcasters and Canadian independent producers" 34
Sep 2002 – Feb 2003	Six-month administrative renewal, Decision CRTC 2002-197 (Ottawa, 19 July 2002) –
	administrative renewal
Mar 2003 – Aug 2009	Renewal of the licence for TV5 Québec Canada, Decision CRTC 2003-77 (Ottawa, 27
	February 2003) renews TV5 licence for 6 and (almost) a half years:
	maintains 15% Canadian content over broadcast day and evening for TV5
	International (CoL 2(b)(i))
	• requires
	75% Canadian content for UNIS (CoL 2(b)(ii))
	 broadcast of 104 hours of first-run original Canadian programs per year (CoL 2(b))
	 allocation of at least 40% of previous year's gross revenues to Canadian
	programming and production (CoL 3(a)) with 5% over/below provision
	 maximum of 3 minutes/hour of advertising but not in newscasts (CoL 4)
	 with 90% of Canadian expenditures going to independent productions
	Clarifies that TV5's "dual status means that, where carried, the service must be
	included as part of the basic service, unless the operator of the programming service
	agrees in writing to be carried on a discretionary tier" (¶54)
October 2004	TV5 Québec Canada - Licence amendment, Decision CRTC 2004-467 (Ottawa, 25
	October 2004) amends TV5/Unis licence to increase advertising from 3 mins/hr to 12
	mins/hr because "its subscription revenues are stagnant and it is seeking new
	revenue sources. In TV5's view, advertising revenues would be the best solution"
	(¶3); TV5 also said it "is having difficulty remaining on Canadian English-language
	basic analog cable service" (¶8)
	TV5 committed "to devote a minimum of 10% of its total expenditures for the
	acquisition of Canadian programs, including expenditures for investment and
	broadcasting rights, to the acquisition of original, French-language programs that
	reflect the realities, achievements or aspirations of Canada's French-language
	communities in a minority environment or in the regions" (¶4)

Decision CRTC 2003-77, ¶24; the list of members included:

- one representative from Société Radio-Canada [Decision CRTC 2022-165 renewed licences of "the public broadcaster's services" see ¶8];
- one representative from the Société de télédiffusion du Québec (Télé-Québec) [<u>Decision CRTC 2018-450</u> renewed licence issued to "the French-language educational television station CIVM-DT Montréal (known as Télé-Québec];
- one representative from TFO, the French network of the Ontario Educational Communications
 Authority [<u>Decision CRTC 2023-390</u> renewed licence issued to "the French-language satellite-to-cable
 educational television service TFO"];
- one representative from the APFTQ;
- two representatives appointed by the minister of Canadian Heritage;
- two representatives appointed by Quebec's minister responsible for culture and communications and its minister responsible for international relations.



Licensing period	CRTC decisions
	It also said that "it is administered on a break-even basis and is not required to make a profit. All of its revenue is used to carry out its activities. In the past, TV5 was required to rely on management savings, productivity gains and labour downsizing to make up for increases in the cost of living, production costs and fees for broadcasting rights. TV5 maintained that it has done as much as it can in this respect." (¶10)
July 2007	New digital specialty described video programming undertaking; Licence amendments; Issuance of various mandatory distribution orders, Decision CRTC 2007-246 (Ottawa, 24 July 2007) At this time the CRTC's "distribution and linkage rules require Class 1 cable BDUs to distribute specialty services having dual status as part of the analog basic service, unless the service agrees to be carried on a discretionary tier" (¶4); 8 were then licensed as dual status including TV5 Several services including TV5 requested mandatory distribution on digital basic; if approved "TV5 committed to increase its overall Canadian content to 20%" (¶84); CRTC denied the TV5 (and other) applications: "88. The Commission notes that several Canadian broadcasters offer programming from francophone countries outside of Canada. Furthermore, an array of programming originating from francophone countries is becoming increasingly available on foreign services authorized for distribution in Canada. As such, the Commission considers that TV5 is not of exceptional importance in fulfilling objectives of the Act and, consequently, should not be granted mandatory distribution on digital basic."
November 2008	TV5 - Licence amendment, Broadcasting Decision CRTC 2008-328 (Ottawa, 25 November 2008) amends TV5 to make available its service in HD format during the current licence term (¶6)
Aug 2009 – Aug 2010	Decision CRTC 2009-145 (administrative)
Aug 2010 – Aug 2012	Decision CRTC 2010-562 (administrative)
	Standard conditions of licence, expectations and encouragements for specialty and pay television Category A services, Broadcasting Regulatory Policy CRTC 2011-443 (Ottawa, 27 July 2011), Appendix 1, "Conditions of licence".
Sept 2012 – Aug 2013	Decision CRTC 2011-312 (administrative) Applications for mandatory distribution on cable and satellite under section 9(1)(h) of the Broadcasting Act, Broadcasting Regulatory Policy CRTC 2013-372 (Ottawa, 8 August 2013) CRTC criteria for determining if a programming service • makes an exceptional contribution to Canadian expression and reflects Canadian attitudes, opinions, ideas, values and artistic creativity; • contributes in an exceptional manner to achieving the overall objectives for the digital basic service and one or more objectives of the Act, such as: • Canadian identity and cultural sovereignty; • ethno-cultural diversity, including the special place of Aboriginal peoples in Canadian society;



Licensing period	CRTC decisions
	service to and reflection and portrayal of persons with disabilities;
	or
	 linguistic duality, including improved service to official language
	minority communities (OLMCs); and
	 makes exceptional commitments to original, first-run Canadian programming in terms of exhibition and expenditures (¶7)
	Grants TV5's request for 9(1)(h) mandatory distribution on digital basic (¶¶31-41)
	35. the Commission considers that the proposal to devote 75% of Nouveau
	TV5's programming expenditures on Canadian programming to original,
	first-run Canadian programming will contribute in an exceptional manner to
	the creation of new Canadian programs to the benefit of all Canadians and
	the Canadian broadcasting system
	36. The Commission further considers that the proposed programming for
	both feeds would be unique and complementary to existing programming
	in the broadcasting system
	37. Following an examination of TV5/UNIS's proposed programming
	schedules in light of the special nature of TV5 International, the Commission
	considers that this service should make predominant use of Canadian
Sept 2013 – Aug 2018	resources for the presentation of programming, as required by the Act TV5/UNIS TV – Licence renewal and renewal of mandatory distribution order,
3ept 2013 – Aug 2018	Decision CRTC 2013-384 (Ottawa, 8 August 2013) renews TV5/Unis licence
	Approves TV5/Unis' broadcast of two feeds ("Nouveau TV5") under same licence
	(¶34)
	TV5: "reflecting the diversity of the Canadian Francophonie" (¶2)
	UNIS: "reflecting the international Francophonie" (¶2)
	Sets exhibition requirement for Canadian content at
	• 15% for TV5 (¶15)
	• 75% for UNIS (¶16)
	Minimum combined level of 50% for both feeds (¶17)
	Sets expenditure requirements for Canadian content at
	55% of previous year's gross revenues 75% of CD5 for both considerate had deveted to "carining first year Considerate had been deveted to "carining first year
	• 75% of CPE for both services to be devoted to "original first-run Canadian
	programming" (¶19) Requires
	three regional offices in OLMCs
	 Consultative Committee for UNIS programming involving OLMCs representatives
	Denies requests for a single per-subscriber monthly wholesale rate of \$0.30 (¶31) but
	approves \$0.28 in Francophone markets and increase to \$0.24 across all anglophone
	markets (¶39)
Sept 2018 – Aug 2023	TV5/UNIS TV – Licence renewal and renewal of mandatory distribution order,
	Decision CRTC 2018-344 (Ottawa, 31 August 2018) renews TV5/Unis licence
	Approves licensee's request to renew 9(1)(h) mandatory distribution order
	Denies request
	for 25% credit towards its CPE requirements for expenditures beyond those
	required by condition of licence and made on programs produced by independent



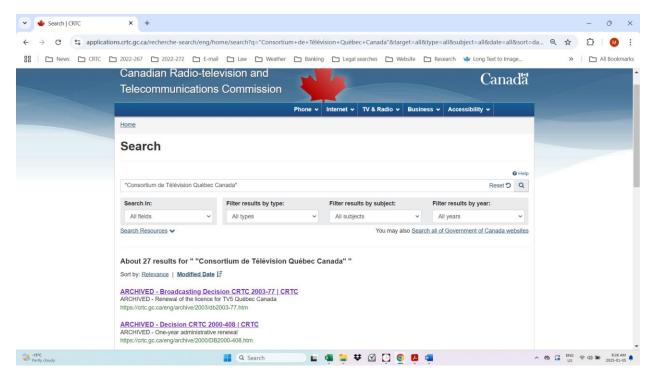
Licensing period	CRTC decisions
	OLMCs producers (¶¶39 and 45) but grants 50% credit forwards CPE for Canadian programs produced by Indigenous producers (to maximum of 10% of overall CPE requirement) (¶49)
Aug 2020	Decision CRTC 2020-317 corrects condition of licence to require TV5/Unis to devote 90% of each feed's programming to programs originally broadcast in French TV5/Unis explained that 3. Nous soumettons respectueusement que le pourcentage indiqué dans la condition de licence 2 c) se rapporte à la langue originale dans laquelle la production canadienne a été créée. C'est ce que permet de clarifier le libellé corrigé que nous avons proposé. À l'opposé, une interprétation littérale du libellé actuel ne serait pas simplement exigeante, mais serait tout simplement irréaliste puisqu'elle impliquerait que 90 % des heures de programmation canadienne diffusées à l'antenne de chacun des signaux soient des émissions originales de langue française, c'est-à-dire en première diffusion sur le service. Rappelons que notre licence comporte déjà d'autres conditions concernant la diffusion de contenu canadien en journée et en soirée de radiodiffusion (un minimum de 75 % sur Unis TV et de 15 % pour TV5), ainsi que des conditions de dépenses au titre des émissions canadiennes qui comportent un seuil élevé de dépenses consacrées à des émissions originales canadiennes en première diffusion. 4. Selon une interprétation littérale du libellé, combinée aux autres conditions de licence de la titulaire en contenu canadien, cela signifierait,
	pour la chaîne UnisTV par exemple, que plus du deux tiers (2/3) de sa grille de programmation devrait être composée d'émissions originales en première diffusion, donc en moyenne 85 heures d'émissions originales de langue française en première diffusion, et ce, à chaque semaine de radiodiffusion. Il s'agit de conditions tout à fait irréalistes dans le contexte du modèle économique des chaînes spécialisées, dont la programmation comporte un certain cycle de multidiffusions hebdomadaires et saisonnières. Il serait en outre impossible pour la titulaire de rediffuser de nombreuses productions originales de langue française des années antérieures, sur lesquelles elle détient pourtant encore des droits, parfois jusqu'à six ans après leur première diffusion. Ces nombreuses productions originales réalisées par des producteurs indépendants des CLOSM pour UnisTV depuis 2014 ne seraient plus disponibles ou découvrables par les auditoires francophones après seulement une diffusion, alors que les productions des CLOSM sont sous-représentées dans le système de radiodiffusion et qu'elles ajoutent à la diversité des voix et des points de vue offerts aux communautés francophones canadiennes. 5. Ce n'était pas la proposition de la titulaire, et nous soumettons respectueusement que ce n'était pas l'intention du Conseil, ni en 2013, ni
	au renouvellement de 2018 au cours duquel la performance de la titulaire en regard de toutes ses conditions de licence a été examinée sous toutes ses coutures. Il en découle qu'une interprétation littérale serait contraire à la preuve soumise au dossier public de l'audience et à la décision rendue



Licensing period	CRTC decisions
	subséquemment par le Conseil. Nous croyons qu'il s'agit plutôt d'une simple erreur de rédaction survenue en 2013, dans la transposition de la condition de licence de la Décision de radiodiffusion CRTC 2003-77, condition que la titulaire a proposé de maintenir dans le cadre de sa demande de renouvellement de licence en 2012.
Sept 2023 – Aug 2026	Various television programming services and networks, and broadcasting distribution undertakings – Administrative renewals, Broadcasting Decision CRTC 2023-245 (Ottawa, 8 August 2023) – 3-year administrative renewal 6. These administrative renewals will allow sufficient time for the Commission to modernize its regulatory frameworks in response to the new Broadcasting Act and implement the appropriate changes in the future.



Appendix 2 Gaps in CRTC search-engine results for "Consortium de Télévision Québec Canada"



About 27 results for " "Consortium de Télévision Québec Canada" "

https://crtc.gc.ca/eng/archive/2002/pb2002-36.htm

Sort by: Relevance | Modified Date [most recent first; green shading shows renewals]

ARCHIVED - Broadcasting Decision CRTC 2003-77 CRTC
ARCHIVED - Renewal of the licence for TV5 Québec Canada
https://crtc.gc.ca/eng/archive/2003/db2003-77.htm
ARCHIVED - Decision CRTC 2000-408 CRTC
ARCHIVED - One-year administrative renewal
https://crtc.gc.ca/eng/archive/2000/DB2000-408.htm
ARCHIVED - Broadcasting Decision CRTC 2002-197 CRTC
ARCHIVED - RENEWED - Six-month administrative renewal
https://crtc.gc.ca/eng/archive/2002/db2002-197.htm
ARCHIVED - Decision CRTC 99-548 CRTC
ARCHIVED - Authority to distribute a special program with foreign commercial breaks
https://crtc.gc.ca/eng/archive/1999/DB99-548.htm
ARCHIVED - Broadcasting Public Notice CRTC 2006-23 CRTC
ARCHIVED - Digital migration framework
https://crtc.gc.ca/eng/archive/2006/pb2006-23.htm
ARCHIVED - Broadcasting Public Notice CRTC 2002-36 CRTC
ARCHIVED - The Commission has received the following applications: Consortium de Télévision
Québec Canada, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) and Touch Canada Broadcasting Inc.



ARCHIVED - Public Notice CRTC 1999-192 | CRTC

ARCHIVED - Application by Consortium de Télévision Québec-Canada

https://crtc.gc.ca/eng/archive/1999/PB99-192.htm

ARCHIVED - Public Notice CRTC 1987-260 | CRTC

ARCHIVED - Introductory statement to decisions CRTC 87-895 to 87-906: Canadian specialty and pay television services

https://crtc.gc.ca/eng/archive/1987/PB87-260.htm

ARCHIVED - Decision CRTC 87-895 | CRTC

ARCHIVED - APPROVED - Licence application - Consortium de télévision Québec Canada - TV5 Québec Canada

https://crtc.gc.ca/eng/archive/1987/DB87-895.htm

ARCHIVED - Broadcasting Public Notice CRTC 2007-35 | CRTC

ARCHIVED - Addition of Planète Thalassa to the lists of eligible satellite services for distribution on a digital basis

https://crtc.gc.ca/eng/archive/2007/pb2007-35.htm

ARCHIVED - Public Notice CRTC 2001-25 | CRTC

ARCHIVED - Achieving a better balance: Report on French-language broadcasting services in a minority environment

https://crtc.gc.ca/eng/archive/2001/PB2001-25.htm

ARCHIVED - Decision CRTC 95-832 | CRTC

https://crtc.gc.ca/eng/archive/1995/DB95-832.htm

ARCHIVED - Public Notice CRTC 1995-148 | CRTC

https://crtc.gc.ca/eng/archive/1995/PB95-148.htm

ARCHIVED - Public Notice CRTC 1994-69 | CRTC

ARCHIVED - Consultations Regarding On-air Job Categories to be Included in the Employment Equity Plans of Broadcasters

https://crtc.gc.ca/eng/archive/1994/pb94-69.htm

ARCHIVED - Notice of Public Hearing CRTC 1992-13 | CRTC

https://crtc.gc.ca/eng/archive/1992/N92-13.htm

ARCHIVED - Decision CRTC 90-1064 | CRTC

ARCHIVED - APPROVED - Licence application - Quebec and Ontario Regions

https://crtc.gc.ca/eng/archive/1990/DB90-1064.htm

ARCHIVED - Public Notice CRTC 1989-42 | CRTC

ARCHIVED - Notice of consultation - Various applications

https://crtc.gc.ca/eng/archive/1989/PB89-42.htm

ARCHIVED - Broadcasting Decision CRTC 2003-77 | CRTC

ARCHIVED - Renewal of the licence for TV5 Québec Canada

https://crtc.gc.ca/eng/archive/2003/db2003-77.htm

ARCHIVED - Decision CRTC 2000-408 | CRTC

ARCHIVED - One-year administrative renewal

https://crtc.gc.ca/eng/archive/2000/DB2000-408.htm

ARCHIVED - Broadcasting Decision CRTC 2002-197 | CRTC

ARCHIVED - RENEWED - Six-month administrative renewal

https://crtc.gc.ca/eng/archive/2002/db2002-197.htm



ARCHIVED - Decision CRTC 99-548 | CRTC

ARCHIVED - Authority to distribute a special program with foreign commercial breaks

https://crtc.gc.ca/eng/archive/1999/DB99-548.htm

ARCHIVED - Broadcasting Public Notice CRTC 2006-23 | CRTC

ARCHIVED - Digital migration framework

https://crtc.gc.ca/eng/archive/2006/pb2006-23.htm

ARCHIVED - Broadcasting Public Notice CRTC 2002-36 | CRTC

ARCHIVED - The Commission has received the following applications: Consortium de Télévision

Québec Canada, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) and Touch Canada Broadcasting Inc.

https://crtc.gc.ca/eng/archive/2002/pb2002-36.htm

ARCHIVED - Public Notice CRTC 1999-192 | CRTC

ARCHIVED - Application by Consortium de Télévision Québec-Canada

https://crtc.gc.ca/eng/archive/1999/PB99-192.htm



Appendix 3 Consortium de Télévision Québec Canada, Decision CRTC 91-675 (Ottawa, 28 August 1991)

Ottawa, 28 August 1991 Decision CRTC 91-675 Consortium de Télévision Québec Canada Montréal, Quebec - 910612100 - 910102300

Following a Public Hearing in the National Capital Region beginning on 8 July 1991, the Commission approves the application by Consortium de Télévision Québec Canada (the Consortium), a company incorporated by letters patent issued under the provisions of Part II of the Canada Corporations Act, for authority to acquire the assets of the French-language specialty programming network "TV5 Québec Canada" (TV5), owned by the Consortium de Télévision Québec Canada (an association of broadcasters and producers linked by a partnership agreement), and for a licence to operate the specialty programming undertaking.

The Commission notes that the application for approval of the transfer of assets results from an internal reorganization of the Consortium designed to rationalize the undertaking's operations and ensure more balanced representation of each of the partners. With respect to its incorporation as a non-profit corporation, the applicant stated at the public hearing that any future financial surplus would be entirely reinvested in program production. In view of the continuity ensured by the presence on the board of directors of the majority of the founding members, and the fact that the restructuring does not change the Consortium's control over TV5's program schedule, the Commission considers that approval of the asset transfer application is in the public interest.

The application for renewal of TV5's licence, which expires on 31 August 1991, was also scheduled for consideration at the public hearing. Since the Commission will issue a new licence pursuant to the transfer of assets authorized by this decision, the current licence does not have to be renewed. However, the amendments proposed as part of the renewal application, and which were discussed at the public hearing, are dealt with in this decision. The Commission notes the applicant's statement at the hearing that it would assume the commitments and obligations made in the context of the renewal application.

The Commission will issue a licence to the Consortium, expiring 31 August 1993, subject to the terms outlined in this decision and the conditions of licence contained in the Appendix. The two-year licence term will allow the licensee sufficient time to decide on the orientation it intends to follow in the future and enable the Commission to follow closely the development of TV5's service. This term will also enable the Commission to consider the renewal of TV5's licence at the same time as those of other Canadian specialty programming services.

On 30 November 1987 (Decision CRTC 87-895), the Commission licensed the operation of TV5, along with other Canadian specialty programming and pay television services. TV5 is a French-language international specialty television service. Approximately 80% of its programming originates with television networks in France, Belgium and Switzerland, while the remainder of the schedule consists of Canadian programs. This satellite-to-cable service is available on an optional basis to cable television affiliates for distribution on the basic service, in accordance with the provisions outlined in Public Notices CRTC 1987-260 and 1987-261 published the same day. TV5 began operations on 1 September 1988. The service is currently available in more than 2.7 million Canadian homes, including approximately 1.6 million homes in Quebec.

In its renewal application, the Consortium asked the Commission to amend its status, as currently recognized, as well as certain of its conditions of licence relating to Canadian content, advertising and rates. The applicant indicated that, after a little over two years of operation, it must now take into account new factors that are affecting its initial objectives. These factors include the creation of a body for multilateral co-operation entitled the "Conférence des Ministres responsables de TV5", which is responsible for defining the overall orientation of TV5 both in Europe and in Canada, as well as the proposals relating to the future of TV5 contained in two official reports prepared in Canada and France (the Bureau and Decaux reports). Among the general directions that



participating governments have proposed for TV5 is an emphasis on extending the service internationally to include Africa, the Caribbean and South America, in addition to Europe and the United States.

The Consortium requested that the Commission grant it special status whereby TV5 would become a programming service serving the national public interest. Specifically it requested the Commission, pursuant to subsection 9(4) of the Cable Television Regulations, 1986 (the regulations), to make the distribution of TV5 mandatory on the basic service of all Class 1 and 2 cable distribution undertakings in Canada.

In support of its application, the applicant noted that TV5 is supported by the governments of Quebec and Canada and is the subject of international reciprocity commitments regarding its distribution. It therefore concluded that its service presents a special case and that it should be distributed as widely as possible and made available to all Francophones in Canada.

In its 1987 decisions, the Commission rejected all applications for the mandatory distribution of specialty programming services. The Commission was concerned that, over time, problems would arise with licensees' accountability to their audiences and to the broadcasting system. It also considered that the distribution of these services could not be deemed to be of national public interest pursuant to subsection 9(4) of the regulations. The Commission notes the numerous interventions it received opposing mandatory distribution for TV5, including those filed by the Canadian Cable Television Association (CCTA), the Canadian Association of Broadcasters (CAB) and the Ontario Ministry of Culture and Communications. CCTA pointed out that the applicant has not conducted any market surveys to demonstrate that cable subscribers throughout Canada would be prepared to pay for TV5 on the basic service. The two private French-language television services, Télé-Métropole and Télévision Quatre Saisons, were also opposed to this request. Télé-Métropole, which is a member of the Consortium, maintained that mandatory status must be granted to its programming service and to that of the TVA network before being granted to TV5. Moreover, many cable subscribers in non-Francophone markets feared that the mandatory distribution of TV5 would lead to the removal of English-language services currently available on the basic service.

Having studied the various aspects of the application before it, the Commission considers that the applicant has not provided it with sufficient grounds to justify a departure from the position taken in 1987. Specifically, given the emphasis placed on TV5's international role, along with the proposed substantial reduction in Canadian programming, the Commission considers that it does not have sufficient information to determine the nature of the TV5 service in the foreseeable future. Therefore, the Commission denies the application for special status filed by the applicant. TV5 must continue to be made available on an optional basis to cable television affiliates for distribution in accordance with the provisions set out in Public Notices CRTC 1987-260 and 1987-261. The Commission notes that, in general, during its first two years of operation, the licensee has significantly surpassed the commitments it made with respect to Canadian programming. According to the data in the renewal application, the level of Canadian content was 27.4% the first year and 21.4% the second year, while the promised level was 19.5%. Original, first-run Canadian programs amounted to 370 hours the first year, compared to a commitment of 357 hours, and 444 hours the second year, compared to a commitment of 365 hours. The amount devoted to Canadian programming totalled \$5.2 million the first year compared to a promise of \$4.9 million, and \$5.7 million the second year, which matches the amount promised. The above-noted amounts were to include \$100,000 for script development. The licensee indicated in its application that it expended \$316,366 and \$110,500 in its first and second years of operation, respectively, on script development. However, it was revealed at the hearing that the amounts spent did not comply with Commission guidelines on eligible expenditures in this category. In addition, the Commission notes that the applicant has not planned any expenditures for script development in the new licence term.

Overall, the applicant proposed a reduction of 50% in its level of Canadian programming. It explained at the public hearing that the proposed changes reflect TV5's international mandate. It added that, under the new



directions that TV5 is now pursuing, the objective is to give more exposure to Canadian programming abroad [TRANSLATION] "while still maintaining a minimum of Canadian content here".

The Commission notes that these requests run counter to Decision CRTC <u>87-895</u> in which it established for TV5, as a condition of licence, an already exceptionally low level of Canadian content of 19.5%, and expected that the level would be increased on licence renewal. However, in considering the proposed reduction in Canadian programming, the Commission has taken into consideration the uncertain situation that TV5 faces in the next licence term, as well as the funds that will be allocated to improve the quality and quantity of Canadian programming to be broadcast by TV5 Europe, and to extend the service internationally.

The proposals for Canadian programming included two possible scenarios, depending on whether or not the Commission granted TV5 special status. At the hearing, however, the applicant amended its application by committing to distribute 8% and 9% Canadian content during the first and second years of the new licence term, respectively, and 10% in subsequent years, regardless of the Commission's decision on its status. After reviewing the situation, the Commission has made it a condition of licence that the licensee devote at least 10% of the broadcast year to the distribution of Canadian programs throughout the new licence term, as set out in condition 2 in the Appendix. The licensee's compliance with this condition will be assessed on the basis of a broadcast day, which includes a period of up to 18 consecutive hours, beginning each day not earlier than six o'clock in the morning and ending not later than one o'clock in the morning of the following day, as stipulated in the Television Broadcasting Regulations, 1987 and specified in condition 12 of the Appendix to this decision.

As proposed by the applicant, it is also a condition of licence that the licensee devote not less than 2%, or not less than 134 hours 30 minutes, of the broadcast year to the distribution of original, first-run Canadian programs, as indicated in the Appendix under condition 3. The Commission notes that this commitment will take the form of a fifteen-minute magazine-type program, seven days a week.

In addition, as proposed by the applicant in the event that special status was not granted, it is a condition of licence that the licensee expend on investment in Canadian programs, during the first and second year of the new licence term, the amounts of \$2,375,000 and \$2,500,000, respectively, in accordance with condition 4 in the Appendix.

The Commission emphasizes that the above-mentioned conditions will only be in effect during the two years of the new licence term. At the time of next licence renewal, the Commission expects the licensee to have settled upon a clear direction with respect to its status and objectives. If it decides to maintain its current status as a Canadian specialty programming service, the Commission will expect firm commitments with respect to Canadian programs, including a Canadian content level of more than 20% and an expenditure of more than \$5 million each year devoted to investment in, or acquisition of, Canadian programs.

With respect to advertising, the applicant proposed an increase in the distribution of advertising material from three minutes to a maximum of five minutes per clock hour and a relaxation of current restrictions on the type of advertising it may broadcast. This request was opposed in interventions filed by CAB, Télé-Métropole, and CFCF Inc., on behalf of Télévision Quatre Saisons and CFCF 12.

At the hearing, the applicant sought to amend its proposal somewhat by committing to devote only two minutes per clock hour to institutional advertising, with the three remaining minutes to be devoted to the promotion of its service or programs and to public service announcements.

The Commission denies the proposal to increase the distribution of advertising material from three to five minutes. It considers that the applicant has not justified an increase in advertising content, given the acknowledgment at the hearing that it does not use the entire three minutes of advertising material for which it is currently authorized.

It is therefore a condition of licence that the licensee not distribute advertising material other than a maximum of three minutes per clock hour of national advertising material devoted exclusively to sponsorship advertising or



institutional advertising, public service announcements and material promoting the service or one of its programs as specified in condition 5 in the Appendix.

With respect to the clarification requested by the applicant regarding the type of advertising it may broadcast, the Commission notes that the definitions in condition 5 in the Appendix allow it to broadcast promotional slogans that include a simple mention of the goods or services offered, but do not promote the products in question.

In its renewal application, the applicant also proposed to increase the wholesale rate charged to affiliates in Quebec from \$0.28 to \$0.30 in the first year of the new licence term and by \$0.01 in each of the following years. It also proposed to charge affiliates outside Canada a standard rate of \$0.025 for the first three years of the new licence term, increasing thereafter to \$0.035.

When questioned at the hearing on the reasons for the proposed rate increases, the applicant stated that they were based on the trend in rates charged by other specialty services and that there had been no [TRANSLATION] "scientific reasoning" involved.

Following an analysis of the applicant's financial situation and its statements at the public hearing, the Commission considers that a rate increase is not justified under the circumstances and therefore denies the request. In accordance with condition 8(a) in the Appendix, the licensee shall charge each affiliated exhibitor in a Francophone market, as defined in Public Notice CRTC 1987-261, the wholesale rate of \$0.28 per subscriber per month during the new licence period.

The Commission also denies the proposal to standardize the rates charged to undertakings located elsewhere in Canada. The licensee shall therefore charge each affiliated exhibitor in a non-Francophone market a wholesale rate of between \$0.02 and \$0.08 per subscriber per month, depending on the percentage of Francophones in the service area, as indicated in condition 8(b) in the Appendix.

In denying the proposed rate increases, the Commission has taken into account the fact that the increased expenditures forecast by TV5 are related mainly to its plans for international expansion. For example, the applicant has planned to allocate between \$500,000 and \$800,000 per year over the next five years to the planned extension of its service in the United States. The Commission considers that subscribers should not have to pay for the costs of these service extension projects. In this context, the Commission notes that subscribers to TV5 Europe do not have to bear such costs, which are borne entirely by participating governments. Having denied these rate increases, the Commission is also of the opinion that there is no reason to change the rates currently authorized in non-Francophone markets during the new licence term.

The Commission notes that the TV5 service includes distribution of the Radio France Internationale signal as background audio for an alphanumeric service when regular programming is not being distributed.

Allan J Darling

Secretary General

ANNEXE

Conditions of licence/

Conditions de licence

Consortium de Télévision Québec

Canada (TV5 Québec Canada)

- 1. The programming provided by the licensee shall consist exclusively of French-language programming originating with broadcasters from various Francophone countries.
- 2. In each broadcast year, the licensee shall devote not less than 10% of the broadcast year to the distribution of Canadian programs.
- 3. In each broadcast year, the licensee shall devote not less than 2%, or not less than 134 hours 30 minutes, of the broadcast year to the distribution of original, first-run Canadian programs.



- 4. a) From 1 September 1991 to 31 August 1992, the licensee shall expend on the acquisition of and/or investment in Canadian programs not less than \$2,375,000.
- b) From 1 September 1992 to 31 August 1993, the licensee shall expend on the acquisition of and/or investment in Canadian programs not less than \$2,500,000.
- 5. The licensee shall not distribute any advertising material other than a maximum of 3 minutes during each clock hour of national sponsorship or institutional advertising, public service announcements and material promoting the service or one of its programs.

Sponsorship advertising is not permitted in newscasts. The sponsorship messages shall only be placed at the beginning and/or end of programs. All sponsored programs must clearly identify the name of the sponsor. Institutional advertising messages shall have no connection in terms of content with sponsored programs. Institutional advertising messages shall only be permitted to interrupt programs that last at least two hours, and have one or more natural breaks, for example an intermission in a play or concert.

Institutional advertising is not permitted on behalf of companies whose primary products are drugs, alcoholic beverages or tobacco products.

For the purpose of this condition, the following definitions apply:

(i) Sponsorship advertising: Sponsorship advertising consists, in exchange for a direct or indirect financial contribution, of the name and distinctive visual and sound signs or symbols of a firm and a sound accompaniment according to the following formulas:

"This program has been made (was made) possible through the co-operation of (name of company)"; or "This program has been made (was made) possible through the co-operation of (name of company), maker of (product)"; or "This program has been (was) presented to you by (name of product)."

Sponsorship advertising does not include the promotion of the features of the goods and services produced and/or offered by the sponsoring firm.

- (ii) Institutional advertising: Institutional advertising consists of an identification of the advertiser by name, corporate logo or distinguishing visual or sound symbol. While the accompanying text may include a musical background or an institutional slogan, institutional advertising does not include promotion of the range of products or services offered or the use of such products or services.
- 6. The licensee shall adhere to the guidelines on sex-role stereotyping prescribed in the Sex-Role Portrayal Code for Television and Radio Programming, published by the Canadian Association of Broadcasters (CAB), as amended from time to time and approved by the Commission.
- 7. The licensee shall adhere to the provisions of the CAB's Broadcast Code for Advertising to Children, as amended from time to time and approved by the Commission.
- 8. a) The licensee shall charge each exhibitor of this service in a Francophone market the wholesale rate of \$0.28 per subscriber per month.
- b) The licensee shall charge each exhibitor of this service in a non-Francophone market the following wholesale

Percentage of Francophone and other

French-speaking persons in the service

area/pourcentage de francophones et

d'autres personnes d'expression française dans la zone de desserte Coût mensuel par abonné

Monthly cost per subscriber/

between/entre 15% and/et 49.99% 8¢

between/entre 5% and/et 14.99% 6¢

between/entre 2% and/et 4.99% 4¢

between/entre 0% and/et 1.99% 2¢

The licensee may decrease the 2¢ wholesale rate to a minimum of 1¢ should the mark-up decrease accordingly.



- 9. The licensee shall keep separate accounts which set out, for each financial year or partial year ending 31 August,
- a) the gross revenues in respect of its operations under its licence;
- b) the amounts expended by it on the acquisition of and/or investment in Canadian programs intended for distribution on its undertaking; and
- c) the amounts expended by it on the acquisition of non-Canadian programs for distribution on its undertaking.
- 10. The licensee shall file a statement of the accounts referred to in condition 9 above with the Commission on or before 30 November of each year.
- 11. For purposes of these conditions, all time periods shall be calculated according to the eastern time zone.
- 12. The definitions of broadcast day, broadcast month, broadcast year, and clock hour set out in Section 2 of the Television Broadcasting Regulations, 1987 (SOR/87-49), as amended, shall apply to these conditions and to the licensee with the necessary changes.



Appendix 4 Comparison of TV5 with other 9(1)(h) services

CRTC, <u>Ensuring a Place for Canadian Services</u>, Mandatory Canadian Services [Accessed 4 January 2025]

The CRTC has identified Canadian television services that cable companies and direct-to-home satellite services must provide to their subscribers as part of their basic programming package. These channels are also part of the entry-level package that must be priced at no more than \$25 a month. For details read sections 17 to 19 of the Broadcasting Distribution Regulations.

AMI-audio [Since an audio service, no financial data available]

AMI-TV English

AMI-télé Français

APTN

[ICI] ARTV

Canal M [Since an audio service, no financial data available]

CBC News Network

Distribution of the Proceedings of the House of Commons on CPAC [most financial data missing]

Legislative assemblies of Nunavut and the Northwest Territories

Legislative assemblies of Nunavut and the Northwest Territorie OMNI Regional RDI [ICI RDI]
The Weather Network TV5/UNIS TV
TVA [LCN]

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