



## **Media release: Updating the CRTC for the 21<sup>st</sup> century**

(Ottawa, 7 August 2025) The Forum for Research and Policy in Communications (FRPC), a non-partisan, public-interest organization active in CRTC and other public proceedings since 2013, has published a report – [\*The CRTC's Performance, 1969-2025\*](#) – that examines the CRTC's role and performance from its establishment in 1968 to the present in terms of three strategic objectives established by Treasury Board in 2024: transparency, accountability and participation by the public in government decision-making.

FRPC's detailed report uses the CRTC's own information to describe decision-making processes that are secretive and slow. Its reams of short-term data do not measure whether Parliament's broadcasting and telecom policies are being implemented. Moreover, the gradual reduction in CRTC hearings that the public can actually attend – from dozens in the 1980s to a handful in the last decade, supplemented by private meetings with lobbyists – an average of 44 per year in the same period – raises concerns about whose interests are being heard. FRPC supports greater accountability and transparency to enable members of Parliament and the public to assess this important agency's performance.

At a time when all governments seek to control costs, FRPC also reviewed the CRTC's resources. From 1969 to 1988 it issued nearly 31,000 decisions with an average staff of 380 people, some 80 decisions per staffperson; the Commission issued just over 12,000 decisions from 2005 to 2024 with an average staff of 460 full-time or equivalent persons, or roughly 27 decisions per staffperson. The CRTC's [\*2025-26 Departmental Plan\*](#) indicates staffing from April 2025 to March 26 of 717 full-time or equivalent staff, a 56% increase over the 2005-24 average.

The CRTC's work matters to Canadians because broadcasting and telecommunications strengthen Canada's economy and are vital to its national sovereignty. The Forum believes that issues identified by the CRTC's statistics can be corrected by the Commission's replacing decades-old practices with 21<sup>st</sup> century principles of good administration: the CRTC should begin issuing decisions signed by the Commissioners that make them, publish the attendance and minutes of the meetings of its Committees and the full Commission, ensure that all decisions about broadcasters' and telcos' applications are made within four months of their receipt and – above all – invite interested parties to meet yearly to discuss improvements to the CRTC's data-collection practices.

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