



September 12, 2005

M. s. Diane Rhéaume
Secretary General
Canadian Radio-television and
Telecommunications Commission
Ottawa, Ontario K1A0N2

VIA Email procedure@crtc.gc.ca

Dear M. s. Rhéaume,

Re: Broadcasting Public Notice CRTC 2005-80; the Ontario Educational Communications Authority (CICA-TV)

1. This is the submission of the Alliance of Canadian Cinema Television and Radio Artists (ACTRA) in the matter of Broadcasting Public Notice CRTC Broadcasting Public Notice CRTC 2005-80 The Ontario Educational Communications Authority (CICA-TV)
2. ACTRA's principal function is looking after the collective bargaining needs of the more than 21,000 members and others, whose performances in movies, television programs, sound recordings and digital media entertain, educate and inform Canadian and global audiences. ACTRA and its predecessor organizations have represented the interests of professional performers working in the English language media in every region of Canada for over sixty years.
3. ACTRA members have a vital stake in Canada's cultural future and benefit professionally when work opportunities are strong. They also believe passionately that Canada needs a strong Canadian presence wherever entertainment and information services are created and however these are provided to Canadians. We believe in our own creativity; our capability to tell and perform our own stories. It is this belief that motivates ACTRA's participation in the public processes about the future of Canadian television, film and other media that make up the cultural industries.
4. In the past four years, ACTRA and its members have been in the forefront of the campaign to reverse the precipitous decline in the availability of domestically produced English language television drama. We have raised this issue publicly, with politicians and with the Commission. There is an ongoing crisis in English language television drama that requires urgent and immediate action and therefore redacting Canadian content particularly in respect of a public broadcaster would not set a precedent that would not benefit the broadcasting system as a whole or

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provide any measurable assistance to stem the crisis in English language television drama. To the contrary such a precedent could likely contribute to a further decline in English language Canadian television drama.

5. The Ontario Educational Communications Authority (TVO) has applied to amend its licence for English-language television programming and proposes to replace the condition of licence requiring it to broadcast a minimum overall level of 65% Canadian programming each broadcast day with a minimum overall level of 60% Canadian programming each broadcast day. TVO claims that a minimum of 60% Canadian content over the broadcast day will bring its obligation in line with most other broadcasters in Canada, including all other educational broadcasters.
6. TVO made a similar application four years ago and reduced its Canadian content obligation from 75% Canadian Content to 65%.
7. TVO states that the 5% reduction will provide the flexibility needed to invest more in new, high quality Canadian programs throughout the broadcast day specifically children's educational programming.
8. ACTRA is sympathetic to TVO's objective to invest more in high quality Canadian programs specifically children's programs however we do not believe that even this noble objective is cause to further reduce its Canadian content obligations. Further we consider that Canadian educational broadcasters should be obliged to meet a higher standard of content requirement and as such 60% is too low.
9. ACTRA requests that the Commission deny TVO's request. We believe that the objective of investing in more high quality Canadian programs, specifically children's programs can be accomplished through an increase in funding and not at the expense of Canadian content.

We thank you for this opportunity to provide you with our comments.



Stephen Waddell, National Executive Director, ACTRA

c.c.

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