



Sent by e-mail

Tuesday, January 10, 2006

Stephen A. Waddell
ACTRA
625 Church Street, 3rd floor,
Toronto, Ontario M4Y 2G1

Dear Mr. Wadell,

Please find attached the answers to the questionnaire you sent us in regard to the 2005-2006 federal elections.

We hope that these answers will give you a clearer understanding of our political platform.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Labrie".

Dominic Labrie
Office of the Leader of the Bloc Québécois
3750 Crémazie East, Room 307
Montreal, Quebec
H2A 1B6

ACTRA's three questions for election 2006:

1. Will your party issue an order to the CRTC to impose both content and spending requirements on private broadcasters?

The Bloc Québécois believes that the current Broadcasting Act gives the CRTC too much leeway in licensing and that French and Canadian content tend to be the main victims. The satellite radio issue is an eloquent example. It should be noted that in this file, as in many others, only the Bloc Québécois defended the broadcaster's interests throughout.

We also note that the Industry aspect is taking more and more precedence over the Heritage aspect in the CRTC's decisions. The Bloc Québécois intends to ensure that the broadcaster is returned to the heart of the CRTC's decisions.

2. Will your party commit to increased, stable support for the Canadian Television Fund, Telefilm and the CBC?

The Bloc Québécois has battled with the Heritage Committee over the recognition of Quebec cinema: a lost cause! In spite of the influx of "Good Cop, Bad Cop" films, Quebec accounts for 18.4% of box office returns, but nonetheless continues to be considered as a mere regional portion of the French-language Canadian cinema market. This lack of recognition, denounced in the report on the cinematography policy, hinders the development of programs adapted to the many challenges of Canadian and Quebec cinema.

The Bloc Québécois is therefore requesting stable funding for Telefilm and Société Radio-Canada, as well as the creation of a fund for feature documentaries and an increase in funding for feature films.

3. Will your party keep the current limits to foreign ownership of our airwaves to ensure that Canadians control our broadcasting industry?

The removal of limitations on foreign ownership in telecommunications and radio broadcasting represents a real threat to Quebec culture. In fact, faced with the technological changes which characterize activities in these fields, telecommunication companies have become content distributors. In such a context, it is illusionary to think that increasing the portion of foreign capital in telecommunication companies to over 46.7% will not have an impact on the content of our television, radio and newspapers. In short, removing the limitations on foreign ownership in the telecommunications field means selling off our culture! Determined to preserve, enrich and develop our cultural heritage, the Bloc Québécois is strongly opposed to this and intends to maintain its efforts in this regard.