



January 6, 2006

RE: ACTRA Questionnaire

Attached please find the response of the New Democratic Party to your 2006 Election Survey. It is the policy of our party to respond to surveys on behalf of all New Democratic candidates.

Please note that our election platform has yet to be released. We invite you to consult our platform after it is released for more information on the issues you raise in your questionnaire.

Thank you for your interest in the views of the New Democratic Party on the critical issues facing Canadians.

We appreciate your efforts to help voters make an informed decision on voting day.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jack'. The signature is stylized with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Jack Layton
Leader of Canada's NDP

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

Yes. Canadian content requirements for all broadcasters were originally introduced as an effort to develop Canadian TV production capacity, and to address the overwhelming dominance of U.S. programming during prime time. The changes in 1999, that redefined the content requirements for prime time, created an influx of U.S. content, and caused a serious decline in Canadian English language television drama production.

The NDP thinks a review of these changes is long overdue. We agree that the CRTC should be directed to review the 1999 television policy for the exhibition of priority programming in prime time and set firm content and spending requirements for broadcasters.

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

Yes. The NDP believes that our arts, culture and media are vital to preserving our cultural sovereignty and independence as a nation. We will continue to fight for the development of arts and culture policies that nurture this sector as a vital economic engine for Canada, our cities and communities. The NDP is committed to increasing and stabilizing federal funding for the CTF, Telefilm and the CBC.

We recognize that both the CTF and Telefilm play a critical role in the development and promotion of quality Canadian programming and feature films. The NDP is committed to ensuring that both receive the stable, long-term funding they need to maintain and strengthen a vibrant Canadian film and television production sector.

The NDP is committed to increasing and stabilizing funding for the CBC and Radio-Canada, recognizing the importance of public broadcasting in a large country in a larger world. The NDP recognizes and supports the CBC's capacity to connect Canadians to each other through news, regional programming, drama and comedy. We believe that the CBC plays a crucial role to building our identity as a nation, and that a strong public broadcaster is essential in connecting a large and diverse country, and maintaining our distinct identity.

The NDP has fought hard for increased and stabilized funding for the CBC to off-set the years of Liberal cuts to CBC's budget and lack of

commitment from Paul Martin's government to protect and promote public broadcasting.

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

Yes. The NDP wants to maintain current restrictions to foreign ownership in this sector. We want a Canada written about by Canadians, portrayed in productions by Canadians, encouraging Canadian artists, presenting Canadian news – made possible by a vast array of Canadian workers and technicians.

It is essential that we keep Canadian control of one of our most important cultural industries and through it foster the development of Canadian identities that are distinctly recognizable to ourselves and to others.

We will oppose any attempt by other parties to ease foreign ownership restrictions.