

Liberal Party of Canada
81 Metcalfe Street, Suite 400
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6M8

September 28, 2008

Stephen Waddell
National Executive Director
Actra
625 Church Street, 3rd floor
Toronto, ON M4Y 2G1

Dear Mr. Waddell,

Enclosed, please find the Liberal Party response to your questionnaire.

For more information on the Liberal Party of Canada's vision for Canada, please take a moment to review our platform online at www.liberal.ca. This document provides details on Liberal goals and priorities.

On behalf of our Leader, Stéphane Dion, and the entire Liberal team, thank you for writing to identify the major concerns of your membership. We appreciate your interest in the Liberal Party's policies as they relate to the issues which affect you.

Sincerely,

Doug Ferguson, President
Liberal Party of Canada



A Liberal Response to the Actra

1. Will your party commit to reversing the recent cuts to cultural programs?

Yes

2. Will your party direct the CRTC to impose both content and spending requirements on Canada's private broadcasters?

A Liberal government will support Canadian content, directing the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission to continue its requirement of Canadian production and content as a condition of broadcast licensing.

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

The Liberal Party is committed to provide stability for the Canadian Television Fund (CTF) by giving it long-term funding. A Liberal government will also help the cinematographic industry by increasing to 30 percent the Canadian Film or Video Production Tax Credit, a program that encourages Canadian programming and develops an active domestic production sector.

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

The Liberal Party has been clear that it supports Canadian ownership of broadcasting, cable and satellite companies and that a Liberal government does not intend to modify foreign limits on ownership in the sectors of media and communications or other sectors.

5. Will your party institute a system of income averaging over a 5-year period, as a method of providing fair and equitable tax treatment for artists?

A Liberal government will provide income averaging for artists drawing on the inspiration of Quebec's income-averaging provisions. This will ensure that the tax system will better reflect the peaks and valleys of artists' income.

6. Will your party oppose giving government arbitrary powers to censor film and TV productions in Canada?

Yes. Indeed, in response to controversy surrounding the Conservative government's Bill C-10, Liberal senators Francis Fox and Wilfred Moore proposed to:

- remove the power for the Minister of Heritage to refuse tax credits based on "public policy" or to issue guidelines about film content, while at the same time safeguarding the right to deny funds when the production itself is contrary to the Criminal Code;
- give producers an efficient judicial appeal mechanism if the Minister blocks or delays funding; and,
- continue to prevent government funding of pornography, child pornography, and hate propaganda.

7. Will your party introduce and support copyright legislation to ensure performers and other artists are fairly paid for their work and that they have rights to protect the integrity of their work and their image?

The Liberal Party intends to propose amendments to the existing copyright legislation and agrees that performers and artists have to be fairly compensated for their work. That is why we intend to hold open and transparent consultations with all interested stakeholders before crafting our amendments.

8. Will your party commit to increased, stable funding for the CBC?

The Liberal Party is committed to stable, long term funding for the CBC.

9. Will your party ensure that Canadians who currently receive over-the-air TV continue to receive free TV after the switch to digital and provide funding for this purpose?

The Liberal Party wants to make sure that quality programming is accessible in all Canadian markets big and small. We understand that the transition between analog and digital will involve costs and that smaller communities might be disadvantaged. A Liberal government would continue to monitor the situation and seek measures to ensure smaller communities are not in an unfavourable position.