



RESPONSE TO PETITION

Prepare in English and French marking 'Original Text' or 'Translation'

PETITION No.: **421-01743**

BY: **Ms. DABRUSIN (TORONTO-DANFORTH)**

DATE: **OCTOBER 23, 2017**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **SEAN CASEY**

Response by the Minister of Canadian Heritage

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

SUBJECT

Radio and television programming

ORIGINAL TEXT

REPLY

The Government would like to thank the petitioners for expressing their views regarding the importance of a strong Canadian cultural sector and a thriving screen-based industry that supports compelling, original productions in Canada.

The Government of Canada recognizes the significant investments Canadian broadcasters make in Canadian content. At the same time, the entire industry is in transition and the next few years will be critical to establishing the conditions for Canadians to be able to compete with the best in the world.

That is why the Governor in Council asked the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) to reconsider the decisions for the group-based licences renewal (CRTC 2017-143 to 2017-147 and 2017-148 to 2017-151) in order to ensure that we achieve the right balance of investment in content and in the ability to compete.

It is important to highlight the CRTC's vital role in building strong telecommunications and broadcasting systems and in encouraging the expression of a vibrant Canadian culture. The Government has adopted a more rigorous approach to Governor in Council appointments. This approach supports an open, transparent, and merit-based selection process which is resulting in the recommendation of highly-qualified candidates while also achieving gender parity and reflecting Canada's diversity. Selection processes for the positions of Vice-Chair (Telecommunications), and Regional Members for Ontario and Manitoba/Saskatchewan are currently underway.

Furthermore, on September 28, 2017, the Minister of Canadian Heritage announced a new vision for a “Creative Canada”. It sets a path for growing and strengthening Canada’s culture and creative industries. The Government will take action along three pillars to achieve this vision: investing in our creators and cultural entrepreneurs and their stories; promoting discovery and distribution of content at home and globally; and strengthening public broadcasting and supporting local news.

Additionally, beginning in 2018, the Government will increase its contribution to the Canada Media Fund (CMF) to stabilize funding for this important public-private partnership, which has been affected by declining revenues from the cable, satellite television and Internet Protocol Television (IPTV) companies that contribute to the CMF. This is an important commitment that will support the further evolution of television and interactive media production in Canada.

Canada’s creative sector helps grow our country’s economy. The Government is a champion for Canadian creators and cultural entrepreneurs and is committed to strengthening Canada’s culture and creative industries.