

I strongly suggest that your consultation review the presentations provided by the Ontario Library Association last January - April, 2016 at the CRTC 2015-421; when it responded to the CRTC's review of Community Television program. The comments made at that time are still relevant, especially as it seems they were largely ignored by the CRTC's Commissioners in designing the current policy that supported a largely status quo position for Community TV, minus any funding for an alternative model that could stimulate Canadian creative content production.

As a spokesperson for the OLA who presented their case as a consultant, I fear that the great amount of work that went into that failed process was largely ignored. It would be to the benefit of this current consultation to review what the submissions made by the Ontario Library Association at that time, as they relate to how public libraries provide an existing national infrastructure that can support cultural industries and provide an convenient way to exploit an existing national institution.

Quite simply, public libraries have the capacity and mandate, if properly funded, to train and support media production across the country. The reach of our national public library network is extensive, in all sized communities, providing convenient access points to stimulate grassroots multi-media production. Public libraries are currently places where authors, film makers and other content creators go to learn and develop their skills. And, public libraries have been good partners with the Federal government on many fronts for providing content creators the opportunity to take part in the digital age (e.g. Connecting Canadians, the Community Access Program that were run by Canadian Heritage and Industry Canada in the 1990s and 2000s trained people to use the internet and create content). In our presentations and other submissions related to CRTC 2015-421 consultation rounds, we presented a vision of the future where citizens could go to their local public library to gain training and production support to create audio-visual content for dissemination on multi-platforms (television, internet, DVD, etc.) and in partnership with other community stakeholders (e.g. the Canadian Association of Community Television Users and Stations). Public libraries are currently running Makerspace programs that include audio-visual training and production support. And, public libraries are one of the best public institutions that can deliver creative programs uniformly across our nation, if provided the funding to do so. It's a no brainer. Librarians have been trained to serve the needs of their communities by working closely with all kinds of stakeholder organizations and individuals, extensively surveying and connecting with community groups to identify community needs - e.g. the Vancouver Public Library connects with hundreds of community organizations to identify community needs.

I have provided a link to some of those documents that I submitted on behalf of OLA at the CRTC 2015-421 consultation. I strongly recommend that you review each of the five documents that are linked from this page. It will provide you an overview of how public libraries are ready to take on a role to stimulate the grassroots to a new Canadian multi-media cultural revolution.

Link together public libraries, the National Film Board, schools that teach film and content creation, and the Library and Archives Canada. Involve people who have a big picture overview and engage key actors in its design, not just the bureaucrats or political appointees who have their own agendas. We need a new system that could stimulate grassroots multi-media content creation that is innovative and culturally valuable could be hosted in all communities across Canada where there is a public library or community centre. Based on the Canadian Association of Community Television Users & Stations model for Community Media Centres (CMCs), these institutions would be a partnership of public libraries with other community stakeholder groups (film coops, schools, and instructors). The National Film Board could lend resources to help develop capacity in these CMCs. And, the Library & Archives could assist in helping to manage the archives of new content, which they currently are not doing. In fact, across the country, Community Television archives are not legally protected, so that the billions of dollars spent on developing content that sits on cable and satellite companies' shelves are frequently disposed of in dumpsters without any archival process that would guide them on what to keep or toss. If the Library & Archives Canada were made responsible for administering the review of such content, we wouldn't miss out on the destruction of early works, such as those by Dan Ackroyd, Mike Myers, or Guy Madden. It is a shameful destruction of our Canadian content that must be stopped by better integrated efforts, leadership from our national institutions, and legislation to protect archived content of enduring value. Why is it that when I have approached Library & Archives Canada's upper management in the past on this issue, they don't even want to discuss such concerns? Leadership is lacking in that organization and we need a more effective management approach that can address the loss of our culture at the hands of the cable and satellite companies that seem to dictate to the CRTC how Community Television on behalf of the public interest should be delivered.

In addition, community organizations that stimulate local news, such as non-profits that represent local concerns (eg. environment, children, seniors, sports) should be integrated into the new model via Community Media Centres (CMCs). These are often the key actors in society that push new ideas and are a source for new content. If a CMC or public library that acts as a CMC were to engage these organizations, they could assist them develop content to promote new ideas that could benefit our local regions, country, and globe. Arts groups too could be supported in CMCs where their interests could be represented in the creation of new multi-media content.

Because the CRTC does not want to remove cable and satellite companies from their traditional role as stewards of the public interest in regards to administering Community Television programming, it is time we establish a new channel. In the U.S., there are three Community channels representing Public interests, Education, and Government concerns. We need the same in Canada. Cable and satellite companies can keep their existing channels, but let's divert the remaining unused funds to the establishment of new channels to broaden access to Community Television production. Is the current system right that I have to wait a full year to see that I may propose to Videotron in Gatineau possibly hit the air? Canadians deserve a Community Television system that can allow them quick access to the airwaves when they have good concepts they want to produce. When designing a new system that integrates various public institutions, we need to make it responsive to Canadians' needs. We will need

better oversight than what the CRTC has provided the past 40 years, where they infrequently review an unmanaged system that has been quite neglected system that was designed to fail from the start.

My final reference is a link to a presentation of public library panelists that provides a glimpse into how public libraries can provide multi-media training and production support. I would also recommend that you review the presentations made at the Community Media Convergence Conference that was Federally funded to bring together leaders on new media production. This conference covered many of the same concerns that this consultation is raising, so it would be a good practice to review the presentations that are linked to at: <http://www.commediaconverge.ca/program-sked>