

1. Despite the international success of such Canadian primetime television series as Flashpoint and Orphan Black, and the long-running Heartland, I am quite concerned about the recent lack of homegrown Canadian productions for children and families - there are none that even remotely come close to matching the incredible standards set by Road to Avonlea, Wind at My Back, The Adventures of the Black Stallion, Lassie, Mr Dressup, Polka Dot Door, or even The Zack Files ... I don't know why there isn't much of that style of programming anymore, but I do think the government ought to consider, to what extent did Canadian content regulations and government funding help foster that level of quality homegrown programming? Is there anything the government could do to recreate that creative climate?

2.

I also believe the government should do everything it can to promote access to classic programming such as old episodes of Mr Dressup and Polka Dot Door - so that new generations of Canadians can continue to benefit from the timeless educational material they provide. Hardly any of the content of those shows is specific to any particular time period - it is a disservice to younger generations not to have the opportunity to learn from them (and to enjoy the original music, much of it by Canadian composers)!

In other words, there ought to be a way to foster and encourage the existence of re-run platforms dedicated to the permanent rebroadcasting of such Canadian family classics as the shows listed above. New generations of Canadians ought not to be deprived of the educational benefit of these old yet timeless shows, which are, by the way, so distinctly Canadian. They are not just a proud part of our heritage - they have the capacity to continue doing a great deal of good for generation after generation.

To that end, Heritage Canada and Library & Archives Canada worked closely with an organization called the Audio-Visual Preservation Trust, which, however, was specifically de-funded by the HARPER GOVERNMENT in 2008! (as I read in <http://tenthousandyearblog.blogspot.com/2010/03/audio-visual-preservation-trust-of.html>; I am not the author of that blog.)

The Trust's Masterworks Award honoured a different children's production every year, and that award came with a COMMITMENT to preserving the tapes of those remarkable, outstanding, excellent programmes and making arrangements for expanding access to them!

THEREFORE, as my contribution to this major consultation, I strongly urge you to either undo this casualty of the Stephen Harper years or find some way to fully restore the ability of the arts community to pursue the noble aims of the Audio-Visual Preservation Trust, which I don't think has been happening over the past decade!

I hope you will see this as a crucial part of your mandate to preserve and protect Canadian heritage for the generations to come. Thank you.