



February 1, 1999

FEB 11 RECI

Mr. Ron Cohen
National Chair
Canadian Broadcast Standards Council
P.O. Box 3265, Station D
Ottawa, ON K1P 6H8

Dear Mr. Cohen:

The Commission has now had an opportunity to review the CBSC's annual reports from 1996-97 and 1997-98. The reports are thorough and informative and clearly, the CBSC has met all of the requirements outlined in Public Notice 1991-90. The Commission would like to congratulate you and your colleagues for all of your accomplishments over the last two years. At the same time, please accept our apologies for the lengthy delay in responding to you.

We've also had an opportunity to review the CBSC's formal request that the Commission extend its entitlement to administer the Radio and Television News Directors' Association's (RTNDA) Code of Ethics. We are pleased to grant such an extension until October 31, 2001 to coincide with the renewal arrangements between the CBSC and the RTNDA.

From the annual reports, we've noted that the CBSC has made great strides in areas that have concerned the Commission in the past. Most notable, perhaps, is the timeliness of both reports. This is significant for a number of reasons, including the volume and profile of complaints handled by the Council during the years reported on. You and your team's success in reporting to your membership, as well as the public, on the CBSC's activities so quickly after the end of its reporting years has helped to enhance the Council's profile and credibility with all of its clientele.

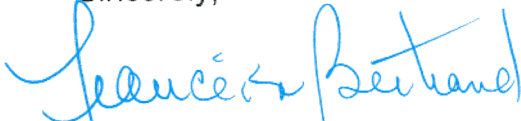
Equally important is the timeliness of the Council's determinations. The Council's decisions are articulate and thoughtful and have played an important role in raising its public profile and establishing greater credibility with its membership and the public. For these reasons, the Commission feels it is important that the necessary funding be available for the CBSC to provide the quality of service presently offered to its members and the public in a consistently timely fashion.

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Naturally, the Council's efforts to increase public awareness through its web-site along with its delivery of detailed determinations on complaints, and particularly high profile and contentious complaints, have also helped to establish the Council's role for the public and the broadcasting industry. The Council's initiative in producing an annotated version of the codes it administers will be appreciated by all those interested in broadcasting. At the same time, the CBSC's continuing emphasis on educational activities for broadcasters remains important, especially as its membership expands to include Canadian specialty programming services and it takes on the responsibilities associated with programme classification.

The CBSC has firmly established itself as a thorough and credible administrator of codes developed by the broadcasting industry to ensure high programming standards in Canada. My colleagues and I would like to commend you and all of the board members of the CBSC for your commitment and obvious dedication to this process. For our part, the Council's annual reporting process reinforces the Commission's appreciation of the seriousness and efficiency of self-regulation and we will continue to foster and encourage it wherever it is appropriate.

Sincerely,



Françoise Bertrand