



Conseil de la radiodiffusion et des
télécommunications canadiennes

Canadian Radio-television and
Telecommunications Commission

Les Terrasses de la Chaudière
1, Promenade du Portage
Hull (Québec)
K1A 0N2

Président / Chairman

27 July 2005

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

Dear Mr. Cohen,

I am writing with regard to the 2003/2004 Annual Report of the CBSC filed with the Commission on 22 April 2005. The report, filed annually in accordance with the expectation set out in Public Notice CRTC 1991-90 *Canadian Broadcast Standards Council*, demonstrates that the CBSC continues to meet its objective of encouraging excellence in broadcasting as well as the specific requirements outlined in Public Notice CRTC 1991-90.

The CBSC's extensive membership as well as the substantial increase over the years in the number of complaints with which it deals and the decisions it renders are a testament to the strong and credible system of self-regulation that has been created by the Council and its member broadcasters.

The CBSC's detailed decisions on complaints, and particularly on high profile and contentious issues, clearly demonstrate the important role the Council plays in the Canadian broadcasting system. Specifically, the CBSC's application and interpretation of the broadcast codes it administers provide valuable guidance to broadcasters and the public on content standards reflective of Canadian values.

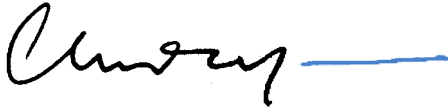
I would especially like to commend the CBSC on its Ethnocultural Outreach and Positive Portrayal Initiative. As set out in section 3(1)(d)(iii) of the *Broadcasting Act*, all broadcasting licensees have a responsibility to reflect and respect Canada's diversity, including its ethnocultural communities and Aboriginal peoples. The Commission is also calling upon broadcasters to improve the representation and portrayal of persons with disabilities. The CBSC's outreach initiatives go a long way to increasing awareness and understanding of broadcast standards and the Council among Canada's diverse communities and no doubt will contribute to furthering the participation of all Canadians in the system.

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As you are aware, the July 2004 report of the Task Force for Cultural Diversity on Television entitled *Reflecting Canadians*, identified concerns regarding the reflection and portrayal of visible minorities and Aboriginal persons in television programming. In Public Notice CRTC 2005-24, *Commission's response to the report of the Task Force for Cultural Diversity on Television*, the Commission asked the CAB to review its industry codes and standards in light of these concerns. The Commission considers such a review to be an important step towards ensuring that the self-regulatory system is in tune with, and effective in responding to, concerns of Canada's diverse communities regarding their portrayal on Canadian television. The Commission would encourage the CBSC to share its expertise with the CAB in this important review process.

Finally, I would like to commend the industry and public representatives who sit on the CBSC's regional and national councils for their hard work and for their dedication and commitment to the Council and to the fulfillment of its mandate.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Charles Dalfen", followed by a horizontal line.

Charles Dalfen