
**CANADIAN BROADCAST STANDARDS COUNCIL
BRITISH COLUMBIA REGIONAL PANEL**

CKNW-AM re Dawson College Shooting Coverage

(CBSC File 06/07-0061)

Decided March 26, 2007

S. Warren (Chair), H. Mack (Vice-Chair), O. Mowatt, F. Riahi

THE FACTS

Between 11:00 am and noon Pacific time on September 13, 2006, during the daily Bill Good morning show on Corus Radio's CKNW-AM (Vancouver), the Vancouver station ran a live feed from AM940, CINW-AM, the Corus sister station in Montreal. The reason for the interruption of the Bill Good show was the dramatic breaking news about a shooting crisis at Dawson College in Montreal. That feed was introduced at the 11:00 am news break by CKNW news reader Terry Schintz. About 1-1/4 hours before the beginning of the live feed (at 12:41 pm Eastern time), an (at that time) unidentified individual entered Dawson College and began shooting at students in the College cafeteria. The fact that it was a single assailant was unknown at 11:00 am Pacific time. Indeed, as is frequently and understandably the case with breaking news stories, little accurate detail about the unfolding events was known at that hour.

Early news reports had indicated, for example, that as many as three shooters had entered Dawson College. At one point, the police had told local media outlets that *two* gunmen were dead and a *third* was still at large. The issue is that there was, as noted above, considerable confusion and uncertainty at the hour of the live Montreal and Vancouver broadcasts. At the outset, as well, Montreal police were concerned that the Dawson College shooting was part of a co-ordinated terrorist attack on their city. According to the Montreal police commander on the scene (as disclosed at a media briefing on the following day), there had also been false reports of gunfire at *four* different downtown locations.

In the end, it took the police more than three hours to secure the building, going floor by floor and room by room; furthermore, it took fully eight hours before Montreal police were able to sort out the correct and the incorrect reports and conclude that there had been but a single gunman.

The rampant confusion and reporting contradictions are reflected in the opening statement from Michael Dean, the Montreal anchor covering the story on CINW-AM (emphasis added here and in all other broadcast quotations that follow; the full transcription of the Bill Good show, including the Vancouver news reports and the live feed from Montreal can be found in Appendix A).

We can tell you that there are reports of at least two people shot and injured. Reports unconfirmed that a *Montreal police officer has been shot*. Shots continue to ring out within Dawson College. Police saying that there are *several armed suspects* in the school, currently barricaded there. We continue to get reports that there are still students and teachers barricaded within certain sections of the school. We await the arrival of the Montreal police tact-, uh, tactical squad, the SWAT team. But we can tell you that hundreds of students, if not thousands, have been evacuated already from the school. And that a police operation obviously underway in, in order to apprehend *these suspects*. Earlier we got a call, *unconfirmed reports that a suspect was seen fleeing through Plaza Alexis Nihon, firing wildly*. No confirmation on that report. We're working on getting details.

Confirming the confusion of the moment, news reader Schintz added: "Eye-witness Michel Boyer saw *one of the shooters*. He was speaking on CBC Newsworld." He also said that "a man dressed in *military fatigues* stormed into the cafeteria of the college today and opened fire," the dress issue being yet another element of confusion (as will become clear from comments made by one of the student eye-witnesses who is quoted below).

Following that interview, the morning show host Bill Good returned to air and sent the coverage back to CINW-AM, the Corus sister station in Montreal. That coverage continued with a back-and-forth dialogue between Montreal-based anchor Michael Dean and Montreal reporter Lisa Fiset. The exchange understandably continued to reflect unconfirmed reports of what was thought to be the most current state of on-the-ground events. Among other things, matters were in such a state of uncertainty that Michael Dean said the following:

Uh, again, unconfirmed reports that one of the assailants took his own life. Uh, *another assailant, unconfirmed, has been shot and killed by police*. Perhaps, as Lisa reported, we also have an innocent individual, um, that has been shot and killed outside the school, a student. We're working on clarifying all of this.

The host then interviewed Chloë, one of the students who had fled the school, and she referred to "a man all bl-, *all dressed in black*, with a black cape, with black boots, all in black with a huge rifle ..." Later in her interview, she said, "I think there was two guys [*sic*]." Host Michael Dean pushed her on the issue, saying, "Chloë, you, Chloë, you saw one suspect, one individual? You didn't see

any other people? Because police are telling us that there may be as many as *four suspects* involved in this.” After concluding the interviews with Chloë and another student, Evan, Michael Dean spoke to Steve, who described himself as having received “training as an emergency medical technician.” Among other comments, Steve said:

Outside the perimeter is chaos. People are yelling, crying, parents looking for their children, children looking for their parents, crying on the phone. Uh, very reminiscent of, of nine-eleven. You know, kind of sends chills down my spine, only two days after the anniversary [of the World Trade Center destruction].

Following that dialogue, host Michael Dean spoke to callers on their cell phones, who revealed where students were holed up in various parts of the Dawson College building.

Dean: All right, we've got Sannah who is on the, on the line inside the building. Sannah, what can you tell us?

Sannah: Yeah, hi. I'm inside the building. And, uh, I'm inside the lab. I'm on the seventh floor.

Dean: Okay.

Sannah: And there's, there's police everywhere and we're still stuck.

Dean: You, there are police in the building? You're in the building and there are police in the building?

Sannah: Yes. The police is in the building. And, apparently, the g-, the killer is on the second floor, floor, the cafeteria.

Dean: Okay. So –

Sannah: And we're in the lab, which is on seventh floor [*sic*]. And we're still waiting for the police to come and get us.

Dean: You gotta, you gotta, you gotta sit tight. They still have a situation they're dealing with. Perhaps several suspects that are involved. We've got varying reports as to what's taking place. The best bet for you is just to sit tight, be patient and let the police do their job and get you out of there safe.

Sannah: Yeah, we've locked the doors and we've sealed it with, uh, with cables. But we're still really, really scared, you know?

Dean: Understandably so.

Sannah: Because every-, everyone is evacuated except for us. And we're stuck on the seventh floor.

Dean: How many students or teachers are with you?

Sannah: We're thirty to forty students here and there's, there's just one teacher with us.

Dean: Okay, and, and, and, so, how are all of you dealing with this? Understandably a very scary situation.

Sannah: Yes. Like, we don't know what's happening. Uh, there's no one here to tell us what to do. And we're just waiting here. We've locked the doors. And we're just waiting for the police to come and, uh, take us outside.

Dean: Well, as I said, Sannah, the best bet for you is to just stay low, stay seated, stay calm, as calm as you possibly can. And wait for police to do their jobs and, and do their job and clear out the suspects and, and bring this horrible situation to an end.

Sannah: Yeah. There're three, there're two other classes here who are stuck as well.

Dean: Okay.

Sannah: Yeah.

Dean: Well, S-, Sannah, you can tell everyone that we're pulling for them to get through. Our hearts and our prayers are there with you. And, uh, we will, uh, do the best that we can to, uh, keep everyone updated on this.

Sannah: Yes, please.

Dean: Thank you.

Sannah: Thank you. Bye.

Dean: We've got Dahlia on the line as well. Lots of students on the third floor as well. You just heard Sannah report that, uh, that police are, are saying that the gunmen, or one gunman is in the atrium cafeteria. Dahlia, what can you tell us?

Dahlia: Um, I don't know, not really much. I just got off the phone with my brother and he's, uh, on the third floor. Uh, he's in there with a couple other students and I think two, uh, teachers.

Dean: Okay.

Dahlia: And, uh, they're very, they're barri-, they've barricaded the doors.

Dean: Okay, with desks and tables?

Dahlia: And, uh, I'm not sure exactly what they've put in front of the door. I think there might be locks on it because he's, he's in a program where they have, like, a conference room adjoin-, adj-, adjacent to the classroom.

Dean: Okay.

Dahlia: So they pretty much just locked the doors.

Dean: All right, so, uh, how is he holding up?

Dahlia: He seems to be a little bit shaken up, but, uh, I don't know. There seemed to be a lot of chatter in the background, so I think they're just, just all worried, on the whole.

Dean: Well, absolutely.

Dahlia: Yeah.

Dean: Understandably. And did you have it, did he call you or did you call him?

Dahlia: He called me.

Dean: Okay. Because, as, we're being told that the cell phone network is, uh, c-, extremely congested, uh, congested rather.

Dahlia: Yeah. 'Cause he called me when it first happened and then I, I kept trying to call him back and I kept getting his answering machine. So he ended up calling me back again.

Dean: All right, Dahlia. Well, our prayers are with you.

Dahlia: Thank you very much.

Dean: You're welcome.

Dahlia: Have a good day.

Dean: So, as you hear it there, there's, there are still students that are barricaded within the school. Some on the seventh floor, some on the third floor. And at least one suspect, perha-, perhaps more are holding, uh, some students, perhaps, in the atrium cafeteria or they may be holed up there by themselves. Um, that is a detail we are working on.

After other interviews, Montreal host Michael Dean provided the following summary of matters:

Again, working on flushing out and confirming these details at this point. We are being told that, uh, one of the gunmen involved in this, uh, in this incident, this shooting incident down at Dawson College has taken his own life. There's also a report that a police officer has ended the life of one of those individuals. As many as four suspects involved. Reports that we're getting that, uh, two individuals involved were carrying semi-automatic or what resembled semi-automatic weapons. Gunshots first rang out at about twelve forty-five this afternoon. *We still have students that are barricaded within classrooms on various floors, the third and the seventh floor.* Those are first-hand, uh, witness accounts that are coming in. Uh, students concerned, afraid, panicked perhaps, uh, waiting for police to wrap up this police situation and take the remaining suspects into custody so that they can, they can leave the school.

After speaking to another reporter, Sabrina Marandola, in Montreal, CINW anchor Michael Dean provided another summary in which he again referred to the location of the students still barricaded within Dawson College:

That is the latest from the scene. Uh, that, uh, we were also getting reports that there are other students, there were other students, uh, on the third floor and on the seventh floor. Sabrina just saying that the most recent evacuees from that, uh, from the school were on the sixth floor and that, uh, authorities were not even aware that they were there holed up.

Michael Dean then reconnected with reporter Lisa Fiset. Their dialogue was in part as follows:

Dean: Uh, Lisa, we heard reports about, uh, I'd say roughly fifteen to twenty minutes ago at most, that police were surprised to learn that there were still students holed up in a classroom, along with presumably a teacher or two on the sixth floor. Are you hearing anything further? We're getting witness reports that there may be students still holed up on the seventh floor and on the third floor. And, if I'm not mistaken, the atrium cafeteria is on the second floor.

Fiset: Um, I've heard that there are still students inside the building as well. I'm hearing this from other kids who've been in contact, uh, with friends who are in, uh, still in the building. Uh, one girl said her friend was, uh, in the bathroom and had no intention of leaving until she was given the all clear. A few other students, uh, apparently barricaded in classrooms. Again, this is what I'm hearing from students who are on the scene.

Following the exchange with Lisa Fiset, the anchor again referred to the students confined in the College:

As you can see, it continues to be a very fluid situation. [...] We're getting reports that there are still possibly students that are trapped in classrooms, barricaded within classrooms, fearing for their lives. Uh, this on the seventh floor. And we also spoke with someone on the third floor.

The Complaint

On the day of the Dawson College rampage, a British Columbia listener sent a complaint to the CRTC, which forwarded it to the CBSC in due course. The pertinent part of the complaint was as follows (the full text of all of the relevant correspondence can be found in Appendix B):

During the shooting incident at the Montreal College, the talk show host actually took a call of a student by cell phone who was held up with 24 others on the seventh floor while the gunman possibly was still in the building.

This, in a situation like this or in a terrorist situation, could have tipped the gunman to the whereabouts of the trapped people. This has to be stopped and regulations put in place in this type of situation as lives were put in jeopardy.

Since it was unclear from the initial complaint which radio station the complainant was listening to, the CBSC asked for clarification. On September 18, the complainant sent four explanatory e-mails, which not only identified CKNW as

the station on which he had heard the live news report, but also added a further gloss on his concerns about the substance of the live broadcast.

I appreciate the protocol on how this might be handled; however, on issues like this, lives were potentially put into jeopardy.

Gunmen, like at Dawson College, and terrorists are very much publicity-driven and this radio host, by disclosing over the airwaves where the location of 24 students barracked [sic] on the 7th floor by a caller who was trapped with the others, was irresponsible. The gunman could have been listening as is [sic] if the worst happened the station would have been sued for criminal wrong-doing with little help to those who might have died.

I feel it is up to all those concerned to address these serious issues, as within a democracy freedom of speech is one thing, but even in a democratic country, having a freedom and potentially causing death by negligence are two different matters.

I beg you to take a pro-active stance in this issue, as this could develop to a tragedy [sic] in the future.

[...]

The gunman at this time had not yet been reported as being shot and killed, and there was still suspect [sic] that there were possibly a few gunmen, their motive unknown.

[...]

The caller stated there were 30-40 students in the "lab" on the 7th floor, several suspected gunners still at large.

Very upsetting how this was handled.

The Broadcaster's Reply

On October 27, the Program Director at CKNW responded to the complainant, in principal part as follows:

When this tragic event occurred, CKNW Vancouver began airing a live feed from our sister station 940 CINW Montreal. Within that coverage, as the station worked to provide the community with the latest information about the situation, many live calls were aired. One such call came from a student who, with her class, was barricaded inside a lab within the school. The student was calling for help, making sure the authorities knew of their whereabouts and that they were coming to their rescue.

Specifically, your concern is that by broadcasting this call, the lives of the students in the lab were put in danger as the gunman could have been listening and been alerted to their location.

We have reviewed the broadcast and we respectfully disagree that the students were put in further danger through the airing of this call and would make the

assertion that the students' ability to communicate their whereabouts from within the school would have helped expedite their rescue.

Covering live news events and emergencies for our communities is a role that we consider vital and take very seriously at Corus Radio. We consider it a privilege that our communities depend on us for important information in times of emergency. Please rest assured that this is a responsibility that we do not take lightly. Our managers, producers and hosts spend many hours on training and preparation for live news events to ensure that when news happens we broadcast to our community instantly, effectively and responsibly.

The Ruling Request and Additional Correspondence

The complainant was not satisfied with the response and filed a Ruling Request with accompanying letter on November 2. In the letter, he added the following arguments:

From the recent events that happened at Dawson College, one could argue that radio listeners might have been better informed in this type of crisis situation from more factual reporting than fielding live calls from people crying and family members wanting to know the whereabouts of their children who were there and possibly in danger however dramatic the broadcasting was to the radio audience.

It could also be said that it is no leap of the imagination to suspect that gunmen and terrorists might actually thrive on this publicity to promote their cause by attracting attention to their plight, as terrorist acts are often designed as theatre – as spectacular events with a dramatic content that spellbinds an audience, precisely the kind of story that attracts the media.

All that said, my main concern and objection to Corus Network's response is that they actually see no wrong-doing by broadcasting live the whereabouts of the trapped students and actually perversely state that it might have expedited their escape. It must be remembered that at the time of the call from one of the trapped 40 students in the lab room that it was not known if this was a terrorist attack or an attack by several gunmen such as at Columbine School. It is reasonable to say that if there was any concern for the trapped students, the radio station might have stopped the call being broadcast and contacted the police and rescue forces off air with the location of the students to assist in their release. What if several gunmen or terrorists were actually listening to this broadcast and used it to their advantage for locating trapped people to kill or hold hostage; or possibly the gunman or terrorist organisations might have used the radio station to divert police or anti-terrorist forces away from their activities?

I am troubled that Corus Radio admits no responsibility in their broadcasting of the whereabouts of the barricaded students hiding from danger, but if the events unfolded differently in loss of lives would their response be the same? [...]

I therefore ask that this type of broadcasting be regulated in events such as gunmen and terrorist attacks, as these are serious and have dangerous outcomes for all individuals involved. I feel it is not enough for the Corus group or other media networks to apologize publicly, as these are very disturbing and serious matters in our current times.

I urgently recommend to the governing body that this response by the Corus Group be reviewed and acted upon by implementing policy with clear guidelines with substantial fines levied when violated. It is only this type of regulation that will keep broadcasters from acting irresponsible [*sic*] in similar tragic situations that might happen in the future. [...]

THE DECISION

The British Columbia Regional Panel examined the complaint under the following provision of the *RTNDA Code of (Journalistic) Ethics*.

RTNDA Code of (Journalistic) Ethics, Article 10 (Covering Violent Situations)

Reporting on criminal activities such as hostage-takings, prison uprisings or terrorist acts will be done in a fashion that does not knowingly endanger lives, offer comfort and support or provide vital information to the perpetrator(s). RTNDA members will contact neither victims nor perpetrators of a criminal activity during the course of the event for the purpose of conducting an interview that would interfere with a peaceful resolution.

The British Columbia Regional Panel Adjudicators read all of the correspondence and listened to the challenged segment. The Panel concludes that the broadcast violated the aforementioned Code provision.

Breaking News Coverage

Technology has facilitated the coverage of news events in the 21st century, both as to speed and scope. It is perhaps an irony of that benefit that the coverage frequently overtakes the ability to draw accurate conclusions about events at a corresponding pace. Thus, in the Dawson College incident that is the subject of this decision, there was uncertainty as to the number of assailants, the number of the wounded and dead, the locations at which the shootings occurred, the clothes worn by the one shooter identified by a number of the interviewers and interviewees, the motivation for the rampage, and so on. In the result, some if not much of the information reported was described as “unconfirmed”. That was to be expected; despite that absence of unverifiable hard fact, reporters appeared to be careful in their description of events, whether by tone or word choice. Their goal was, after all, to provide up-to-the-instant *information*, as accurately as time and circumstance permitted.

Thus, although the Panel noted the chaos, confusion and inaccuracy of information at the start of this decision, it did so *not* to criticize the broadcaster, but in order to re-establish for readers the context for the issue that *is* of concern to it.

The Applicable Article

The Panel has two technical difficulties with the wording of Article 10 of the *RTNDA Code of (Journalistic) Ethics*. The first relates to the title of the article, “Covering Violent Activities”, which does not seem to gibe with the wording of the article. The substance of its text is clearly *limited* to “reporting on *criminal* activities”. Violent activities could include a broad range of natural calamities, such as the tsunami of December 2004 or accidental occurrences, such as airline or railroad crashes; those are not, however, the anticipated target of the article. The wording makes it clear that the article is meant to apply to the coverage of *criminal* activities, and that is what the B.C. Regional Panel is facing in the challenged broadcast. In any event, it is fair to say that the Panel would not see the errant title as having any bearing on its *interpretation* of the article itself; however, the Panel does find it useful, if not interpretively critical, to make this observation.

The second concern is of greater moment, since it could have a bearing on the meaning of the article. This relates to the use of the term “peaceful resolution” at the end of the second paragraph. The Panel considers that the codifiers of the amended Code in 2000 intended that the concern of the RTNDA was with journalists taking any measures that could interfere with the successful, but not necessarily peaceful, resolution of a criminal activity or enterprise. A peaceful resolution suggests a negotiated or agreed conclusion, which would seem to be the antithesis of, for example, an assault by law enforcement authorities. The Panel concludes that the RTNDA codifiers were at least as concerned by the prospect of a journalistic step or intrusion that could interfere with a police effort to end a hostage-taking or other criminal activity as they were with an interference with a negotiated conclusion. It is on the basis of this interpretation of that codified standard that the present decision is rendered.

The Revelation of Dangerous Detail

In the 21st century, technology has shrunk the global village. Technology has so expanded communication possibilities and compressed distances that the tasks of perpetrators of violent acts have been greatly facilitated. For example, their criminal acts can be planned from far away. They can even be executed remotely. Criminals can also co-ordinate their actions when separated by thousands of kilometres, continents or oceans, both at the planning and execution stages. With small, if not tiny, digital cameras, as well as cell phones with still and video camera functions, they can monitor events as they occur. In short, criminals have extended the importance of Article 10 in the unfolding dramas of all sorts of modern nefarious activities. In the result, technology has created new risks for the public in the reporting of criminal activities such as hostage-takings, prison uprisings or terrorist acts. Broadcasters must be scrupulously thoughtful about the information they air, in order to ensure that they

do not either knowingly or carelessly endanger the lives of innocents or provide vital information to the perpetrator(s).

In the context of the Dawson College shooting, as noted above, it was a good *eight hours* after the first shots before even the police knew that they had been dealing with a *single* assailant (who, as things turned out, had died fairly early in the shooting spree). In fact, during much of the period of terror, neither the police nor the media knew how many perpetrators were present in the College, much less whether they had any colleagues on the outside co-ordinating activities or whether the on-the-spot perpetrators were themselves tracking electronically accessible information.

On this issue, the BC Panel finds it instructive to look at Guidelines created by the American equivalent of the RTNDA, namely, the Radio-Television News Directors Association (RTNDA International). While their *Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct* differs in presentation and enforcement from the Canadian RTNDA's Code, the principles established in both are similar. RTNDA International does, however, have a set of *Ethics Guidelines*, which are meant to be supplementary to their Code and illustratively pertinent. The BC Panel finds them useful and pertinent references.

By way of example, RTNDA International states in its *Ethics Guidelines* (in the section on "Covering Hostage-Taking Crises, Police Raids, Prison Uprisings, Terrorist Actions"), "Always assume that the hostage taker, gunman or terrorist has access to the reporting." Those Guidelines also counsel broadcast journalists to "[a]void describing with words or showing with still photography and video any information that could divulge the tactics or positions of SWAT team members." The BC Regional Panel considers it at least as serious to avoid describing any information that could divulge the positions of potential victims, who are, needless to say, far less able to protect themselves against gunmen than SWAT teams would be. If the danger to law enforcement tactics and positions is problematic, so too is the danger to the security and lives of members of the public.

The Panel notes that the broadcaster not only aired *live* telephone calls with trapped students but that it also repeated, no less than *four* times, the locations of those students in the building. The Panel is not suggesting that the station ought not to have either taken or broadcast those cell phone calls from the frightened trapped students. Indeed, it is fortunate that the students were able to access the broadcasters as a potential lifeline. The broadcaster ought *never*, however, to have permitted that part of those calls (the students' locations) to go to air. They should have funnelled such information to the police but they ought never to have revealed to the world at large the third and seventh floor locations, the number of students there, and their method of barricading or protecting themselves. Nor should they have revealed those details on air in summaries by the anchor or the reporters thereafter. The consequences might, as the

complainant validly assumed, have been lethal. Broadcasters must always assume that the perpetrators have access to the information they report.

In slightly different, but analogous, circumstances, dealt with in *Global Television re Global National (Kidnapping Report)* (CBSC Decision 03/04-0324, December 15, 2004), Wilf Dinnick reported on the case of Amanda Stamp, who had gone missing from her home in Toronto. Dinnick reported that the woman had allegedly been kidnapped by her estranged boyfriend, who had abducted their child a few months before. After a brief interview with Ontario's Corrections Services Minister, the reporter presented a new twist to the story, which was the sighting of Stamp at a convenience store, which he had picked up by the monitoring of a police scanner. Accompanying that part of the report was a video clip showing police officers at the convenience store in question which was described as being in Brampton, Ontario. A voice-over informed viewers that "Just this morning, a woman walked into this convenience store, bought hygiene products, and on her way out tells the cashier she's Amanda Stamp. She [the cashier] should call 911." The broadcaster included shots of the store's interior and exterior while the reporter commented that a surveillance video had also captured pictures of the vehicle. As in the matter at hand, a viewer complained that this report put Stamp's life in danger. The National Conventional Television Panel agreed:

In the matter at hand, the report that Amanda Stamp had been in a quite specific location and had advised a cashier at a store who she was and that the cashier should call 911 was, it seems clear to the Panel, an endangering bit of news. Had the abductor been watching television at the moment of the newscast and learned of what Stamp had said, he may well have taken retributive action. That would have been a tragic outcome, which is clearly what the Code article sought to avoid. It goes without saying it would be no defence to say that "other media outlets had already reported it." It is surely the obligation of each news medium to determine what does, or does not, reflect their industry's standards. It is clear that each broadcaster would have to arrive at such a determination for itself. In the present instance, Global Television has breached the codified standard established in Article 10 of the *RTNDA Code of (Journalistic) Ethics*.

In the Dawson College situation, the BC Panel concludes that the live broadcast of details relating to the location of the students in the building in the midst of the unresolved shooting crisis constituted a breach of Article 10 of the *RTNDA Code of (Journalistic) Ethics*.

It also observes that it would have been pertinent to apply its conclusions to CINW-AM, the Corus sister station in Montreal, as well as to any other Corus stations running the challenged portion of the live feed. The CBSC's procedures do not, however, permit such a conclusion. In the circumstances, no complaint having been received from a Montreal listener, the Panel confines the requirements of its conclusions to the Corus Vancouver station, with respect to which it did receive the complaint with which this decision has dealt. Moreover, since all CBSC members are bound by the principles established in all CBSC

decisions, the Panel recognizes that the reach of the conclusions will mandate the application of the principles established here in all Corus and other broadcaster newsrooms.

Broadcaster Responsiveness

The CBSC always assesses the broadcaster's responsiveness to the complainant, which is a responsibility of membership in the Council. It expects that response to be thoughtful and focussed on the substance of the complaint. In the matter at hand, while the Panel disagrees with the conclusions reached by the Program Director, it considers that his response constitutes a sufficient reply to fulfill CKNW's obligation of responsiveness on this occasion.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DECISION

CKNW-AM is required to: 1) announce the decision, in the following terms, once during peak listening hours within three days following the release of this decision and once more within seven days following the release of this decision during the time period in which the breaking news story was broadcast; 2) within the fourteen days following the broadcasts of the announcements, to provide written confirmation of the airing of the statement to the complainant who filed the Ruling Request; and 3) at that time, to provide the CBSC with a copy of that written confirmation and with air check copies of the broadcasts of the two announcements which must be made by CKNW-AM.

The Canadian Broadcast Standards Council has found that CKNW-AM breached Article 10 of the Radio-Television News Directors Association of Canada *Code of (Journalistic) Ethics* in its broadcast of a live news feed from Montreal on September 13, 2006. During the Dawson College shooting on that day, CKNW broadcast live cell phone interviews with individuals who revealed where students had barricaded themselves in the College and repeated that information while the rampage was continuing. Consequently, the CBSC has concluded that the broadcaster breached the Code article that requires that news reporting ought not to endanger lives, provide vital information to the perpetrators or potentially interfere with the successful resolution of the matter being reported.

This decision is a public document upon its release by the Canadian Broadcast Standards Council.

APPENDIX A

CBSC Decision 06/07-0061 CKNW-AM re Dawson College Shooting Coverage

The following is a transcript of the CKNW broadcast from 11:00 am to 12:00 noon on September 13, 2006.

intro: It's eleven o'clock. Live, local and late-breaking. This is CKNW news.

Terry Schintz: Good morning. I'm Terry Schintz with the news for Laporte Moving and Storage. Here is the latest from the CKNW newsroom. Chaos at Dawson College in Montreal.

Michael Dean (at CINW AM940 Montreal): We can tell you that there are reports of at least two people shot and injured. Reports unconfirmed that a Montreal police officer has been shot. Shots continue to ring out within Dawson College. Police saying that there are several armed suspects in the school, currently barricaded there. We continue to get reports that there are still students and teachers barricaded within certain sections of the school. We await the arrival of the Montreal police tact-, uh, tactical squad, the SWAT team. But we can tell you that hundreds of students, if not thousands, have been evacuated already from the school. And that a police operation obviously underway in, in order to apprehend these suspects. Earlier we got a call, unconfirmed reports that a suspect was seen fleeing through Plaza Alexis Nihon, firing wildly. No confirmation on that report. We're working on getting details.

Schintz: Now, that report from our affiliate in Montreal, AM 940 and we will be re-joining our affiliate there momentarily. Reports a gunman involved in today's college shooting in Montreal has shot himself. The information flooding in on this story from Montreal. That word comes from one student who ran for his life from Dawson College a short time ago after the shots started ringing out. Another student, Devansh Vastava, says a man dressed in military fatigues stormed into the cafeteria of the college today and opened fire. He says he saw the man in the fatigues and he heard about twenty shots. Some students say at least four people have been shot. Ambulance officials say at least three are in critical condition. Between four and five people have been seen being brought out of that building injured. Eye-witness Michel Boyer saw one of the shooters. He was speaking on CBC Newsworld.

CBC reporter: Now, what, uh, what kind of weapon was he carrying? Uh, did that strike you?

Boyer: Um, I'm no gun expert.

CBC reporter: Right.

Boyer: I can at least say that. But I think it was like, it was kind of like a sniper, but it was bigger than one and it wasn't automatic so he had to press the button each time to shoot.

CBC Reporter: And how many shots did you hear or see, uh, before you got out?

Boyer: I heard at least twenty. I heard at least twenty.

CBC reporter: At least twenty.

Boyer: At least twenty. And then when I was in Nickel's, I think I heard another one. I don't know if it was just the sound resonating in my head. But it was, it was probably the most, again, frightening moment of my life.

CBC reporter: Yeah.

Boyer: I'm thankful that I'm alive and I hope that everybody is okay.

CBC reporter: Michel –

Boyer: And I, I don't know if anybody knows what the motive is, but it was out of the blue, and, seriously, something from a movie. Words cannot even describe.

Schintz: So, again, at least one of the shooters said to be wearing military-style fatigues. Today's shooting at Dawson College brings back the horrifying memories of the massacre at L'École polytechnique on December 6th of 1989. Marc Lepine walked into that school, gunned down fourteen female engineering students and then took his own life. We'll rejoin Montreal momentarily. Outside Pacific Centre, fifteen degrees. The news for Laporte Moving and Storage. Fifty years of world-class moving. Call today, 1-800-867-2088. At the NW news desk, I'm Terry Schintz.

Now, Corus Radio Network breaking news.

Bill Good: You're with Bill Good on the Corus Radio Network. Reports of a gunman involved in today's college shooting in Montreal, uh, has shot himself. That's one report out of Dawson College today. There are reports that, uh, between four and five people have been brought out of the building injured. We are going to continue our coverage live from our sister station in Montreal, AM 940.

Dean: Apparently at least one suspect has, unconfirmed, taken their own life. Another suspect is believed to have been shot and killed by police.

Montreal reporter Lisa Fiset: Uh, that's what, that's possibly what we're hearing. We do have unconfirmed reports of a student having been shot, a student having been killed. Again, *unconfirmed* reports. We also have reports of a police officer having been shot. These are all things that I'm trying to confirm for you. Very difficult to get the information. The rampage started at about quarter to one this afternoon in the atrium, second floor atrium at Dawson College. We do have reports of at least four students having been shot. Michael.

Dean: And now as this police operation continues, as you mentioned when you first arrived on the scene, uh, Plaza Alexis Nihon was business as usual, but since, uh, we have seen that, uh, the Westmount Towers, uh, Westmount Square and Alexis Nihon as well as other buildings surrounding the Dawson campus, they have been evacuated as well.

Fiset: That's right. We've seen, uh, police officers running out of buildings with people. Uh, running out in military formation as we've seen countless times on television when things like this have happened in the United States. That was the evacuation procedure here this afternoon, Michael, and there are still people being evacuated.

Dean: All right, thank you, Lisa. And, Lisa, we're getting reports that the injured, uh, to, have been taken to the Montreal General Hospital. So, uh, we can encourage friends and loved ones of those, uh, at, that have been injured, uh, or, or they're, those that are concerned to perhaps direct their, their calls to the Montreal General. Thank you, Lisa.

Fiset: You're very welcome, Michael.

Dean: That is the New 940 Montreal's Lisa Fiset reporting, uh, from the scene, uh, outside Dawson College, working to get more information from us [*sic*]. Uh, again, unconfirmed reports that one of the assailants took his own life. Uh, another assailant, unconfirmed, has been shot and killed by police. Perhaps, as Lisa reported, we also have an innocent individual, um, that has been shot and killed outside the school, a student. We're working on clarifying all of this. We have a, a pair of students, uh, from the area that are, uh, joining us now, Evan and Chloë. Evan, Chloë, what can you tell us?

Evan: Well, what I saw, um, I was on the third floor above, uh, the cafeteria where, um, this man came in. And I, I was down and saw people crawling away, trying to get out. And I heard shots. And at that point, I, along with the rest of the crowd, ran out of the school. Uh, I circled the school and I ran into Chloë who was on the sidewalk very stressed out and I'm going to pass you over to her now and she's going to tell you what she saw.

Dean: Okay, thank you.

Chloë: Hi?

Dean: Hello, Chloë.

Chloë: Hi. Um, yeah, I was on the phone at, um, the entrance of the school on, uh, on, uh, Maisonneuve.

Dean: Yeah.

Chloë: And, um, I heard five gunshot [*sic*] and a window broke. And then people started running. And then I, I, I put down the phone and a girl was just, like, running and crying and she wasn't able to walk, so I took her in my arms and we started walking and we, we, I didn't know what was going on. All of a sudden we turned around and there's, um, a man all bl-, all dressed in black, with a black cape, with black boots, all in black with a huge rifle, huge rifle and lucky enough he just turned around and started shooting, but we just ran down. I don't know about the girl, but I was running down, um, to the downstairs. And how Dawson is made is that the cafeteria is like a atrium [*sic*], so –

Dean: Yeah.

Chloë: – it's like a balcony, so people weren't, people in the lockers didn't know what was going on and they thought it was a joke. And I started screaming that, to everyone to get in the lockers and then all of a sudden, a fl-, like a flow of other people started getting out the stairs and screaming. And then everyone ran out of the met-, uh, everyone ran out of the school in direction of [*sic*] the metro and there was gun, gunshots again. And.

Dean: So, so, Chloë, what time did this all start for you?

Chloë: I don't know, maybe thirty [call gets cut off].

Dean: Are you still there, Chloë?

Chloë: Â-, âllo?

Dean: Yeah, you're cut out there for a second.

Chloë: Sorry.

Dean: What time did this all start for you?

Chloë: Maybe forty, forty minutes. Forty minutes at least.

Dean: Okay.

Chloë: Or more, a bit more.

Dean: And this, this all began outside the entrance, –

Chloë: Outside.

Dean: – the principal, the main entrance to the school?

Chloë: The main entrance. I think there was two guys [*sic*]. One of the guys [?] at the main entrance. Five gunshots, one window broke. All of a sudden, people that [*sic*] were outside probably smoking cigarettes or just talking ran inside. I was on the phone, just at the entrance in front of those doors. I put down the phone and I took a girl in my arms. I didn't know what was going on. And then all of a sudden we, we went, she wasn't able to walk and so we went really running outside maybe, not even five seconds. I saw this, this dude with his rifle, but we couldn't, I didn't see his face 'cause he turned around and started pointing the gun to [*sic*] other people.

Dean: Chloë, you, Chloë, you saw one suspect, one individual? You didn't see any other people? Because police are telling us that there may be as many as four suspects involved in this.

Chloë: Yeah, four suspects. No, I saw one.

Dean: Okay, you saw one.

Chloë: Dressed all in black with a cape. Black boots, black pants. Tall, tall. Six foot two, six foot, six foot two.

Dean: About how old?

Chloë: I didn't see his face. That's the thing, he turned around and pointed the rifle to other people and I was like, enough. He was thirty centimetres, he was right behind me, right there.

Dean: My god.

Chloë: But, the thing is, I think he turned around and went in the corner of the cafeteria because police came afterwards. So he was trying to hide too. And I think this is the guy that has now, um, he, he, he's holding students from the cafeteria still.

Dean: Okay, Chloë, you take care.

Chloë: Okay, thank you.

Dean: Thank *you*.

Chloë: Good-bye.

Dean: A chilling account by two students, Evan and Chloë. A close-call for her, just centimetres away from one of the individuals, one of the assailants involved in this. We've got, uh, Steve Merlantz from Urgence Santé on the phone. Steve, what can you tell us?

Merlantz: Okay, so, I'm not from Urgence Santé, but I have received, uh, training as an emergency medical technician.

Dean: Okay.

Merlantz: And, uh, you guys put out a call for anybody who has medical training to go over there. So I went over there.

Dean: Yeah.

Merlantz: Uh, I was right at the command post, the scene itself is very, very safe. The police are doing a very, very good job. It's relatively calm. And they're saying they have more than enough medical help on scene. If there are any doctors, however, that would go over there, *that's* what they're looking for.

Dean: Okay.

Merlantz: If you have training in first aid or emergency medi-, medical technician or anything like that, they're *not* looking for that type of assistance right now. Um, everything there seems relatively calm. I mean, the, the, the police are doing a very, very good job of securing the area, it seems. Uh, Urgence Santé, uh, they have a entire squad on, on location there, as I'm sure you can imagine.

Dean: Yeah.

Merlantz: And, uh, just, that's what's going on, like, behind the scenes kind of. Outside the perimeter is chaos. People are yelling, crying, parents looking for their children, children looking for their parents, crying on the phone. Uh, very reminiscent of, of nine-eleven. You know, kind of sends chills down my spine, only two days after the anniversary.

Dean: Indeed. Steve, thanks for the call.

Merlantz: My pleasure.

Dean: All right, we've got Sannah who is on the, on the line inside the building. Sannah, what can you tell us?

Sannah: Yeah, hi. I'm inside the building. And, uh, I'm inside the lab. I'm on the seventh floor.

Dean: Okay.

Sannah: And there's, there's police everywhere and we're still stuck.

Dean: You, there are police in the building? You're in the building and there are police in the building?

Sannah: Yes. The police is in the building. And, apparently, the g-, the killer is on the second floor, floor, the cafeteria.

Dean: Okay. So –

Sannah: And we're in the lab, which is on seventh floor [*sic*]. And we're still waiting for the police to come and get us.

Dean: You gotta, you gotta, you gotta sit tight. They still have a situation they're dealing with. Perhaps several suspects that are involved. We've got varying reports as to what's taking place. The best bet for you is just to sit tight, be patient and let the police do their job and get you out of there safe.

Sannah: Yeah, we've locked the doors and we've sealed it with, uh, with cables. But we're still really, really scared, you know?

Dean: Understandably so.

Sannah: Because every-, everyone is evacuated except for us. And we're stuck on the seventh floor.

Dean: How many students or teachers are with you?

Sannah: We're thirty to forty students here and there's, there's just one teacher with us.

Dean: Okay, and, and, and, so, how are all of you dealing with this? Understandably a very scary situation.

Sannah: Yes. Like, we don't know what's happening. Uh, there's no one here to tell us what to do. And we're just waiting here. We've locked the doors. And we're just waiting for the police to come and, uh, take us outside.

Dean: Well, as I said, Sannah, the best bet for you is to just stay low, stay seated, stay calm, as calm as you possibly can. And wait for police to do their jobs and, and do their job and clear out the suspects and, and bring this horrible situation to an end.

Sannah: Yeah. There're three, there're two other classes here who are stuck as well.

Dean: Okay.

Sannah: Yeah.

Dean: Well, S-, Sannah, you can tell everyone that we're pulling for them to get through. Our hearts and our prayers are there with you. And, uh, we will, uh, do the best that we can to, uh, keep everyone updated on this.

Sannah: Yes, please.

Dean: Thank you.

Sannah: Thank you. Bye.

Dean: We've got Dahlia on the line as well. Lots of students on the third floor as well. You just heard Sannah report that, uh, that police are, are saying that the gunmen, or one gunman is in the atrium cafeteria. Dahlia, what can you tell us?

Dahlia: Um, I don't know, not really much. I just got off the phone with my brother and he's,

uh, on the third floor. Uh, he's in there with a couple other students and I think two, uh, teachers.

Dean: Okay.

Dahlia: And, uh, they're very, they're barri-, they've barricaded the doors.

Dean: Okay, with desks and tables?

Dahlia: And, uh, I'm not sure exactly what they've put in front of the door. I think there might be locks on it because he's, he's in a program where they have, like, a conference room adjoin-, adj-, adjacent to the classroom.

Dean: Okay.

Dahlia: So they pretty much just locked the doors.

Dean: All right, so, uh, how is he holding up?

Dahlia: He seems to be a little bit shaken up, but, uh, I don't know. There seemed to be a lot of chatter in the background, so I think they're just, just all worried, on the whole.

Dean: Well, absolutely.

Dahlia: Yeah.

Dean: Understandably. And did you have it, did he call you or did you call him?

Dahlia: He called me.

Dean: Okay. Because, as, we're being told that the cell phone network is, uh, c-, extremely congested, uh, congested rather.

Dahlia: Yeah. 'Cause he called me when it first happened and then I, I kept trying to call him back and I kept getting his answering machine. So he ended up calling me back again.

Dean: All right, Dahlia. Well, our prayers are with you.

Dahlia: Thank you very much.

Dean: You're welcome.

Dahlia: Have a good day.

Dean: So, as you hear it there, there's, there are still students that are barricaded within the school. Some on the seventh floor, some on the third floor. And at least one suspect, perhaps, perhaps more are holding, uh, some students, perhaps, in the atrium cafeteria or they may be holed up there by themselves. Um, that is a detail we are working on. Right now, what can we tell you? We can tell you that, uh, as many as four people have been shot. Uh, a police officer included in those numbers. One person is dead. The, there are reports that the, one of the gunmen committed suicide. Then there's also a report that police have shot and killed another of the gunmen at this point. Uh, uh, a maximum of four suspects, we are being told it is possible as many as four suspects are in this school. But an eye-witness earlier, Chloë, saying she only saw one gunman. A tall man dressed in black garb, uh, and big boots carrying a g-, a long rifle, entering the school. Again, first reports of shots rang,

rang out at about twelve forty-five today. We've got Ivana who is still at Dawson. Ivana, what can you tell us? Where are you?

Ivana: I'm standing in front of AMC. They have evacuated all of the buildings. Um, they made us stand in a circle. Like, we're all piled up on Sainte-Catherine. And, uh, they basically made, just like, a huge circle. We can't get out. Uh, there *are* four suspects. One of them is tall with, uh, with a black coat. Um, I know one committed suicide. Like, students are coming out of the school; they're crying. Now they evacuated all of the buildings, like, in the perimeters. So, we can't get out. Everything's blocked. Like, I'm standing here and I just can't get out.

Dean: Okay, do you have any friends that perhaps are still in the school or is everyone with you?

Ivana: Um, my brother was in LaSalle College which has nothing to do with Dawson. He's out. Um, there's people still inside of the school. I have no friends. Thank god, like, they got all out [*sic*]. But, um, I have nobody in the school right now.

Dean: Now, um, can you tell me, you say indeed there were four or are four suspects. Did you see these suspects?

Ivana: No, I didn't see the suspects. Uh, the girl that was with me, she saw the suspect. She saw one of them. He's tall and he has a black coat on.

Dean: Okay, what about the other suspects?

Ivana: I, no, nobody knows about the other. I know one committed suicide. The girl told me that one committed suicide.

Dean: All right. Thank you. Be safe.

Ivana: Thank you.

Dean: Again, working on flushing out and confirming these details at this point. We are being told that, uh, one of the gunmen involved in this, uh, in this incident, this shooting incident down at Dawson College has taken his own life. There's also a report that a police officer has ended the life of one of those individuals. As many as four suspects involved. Reports that we're getting that, uh, two individuals involved were carrying semi-automatic or what resembled semi-automatic weapons. Gunshots first rang out at about twelve forty-five this afternoon. We still have students that are barricaded within classrooms on various floors, the third and the seventh floor. Those are first-hand, uh, witness accounts that are coming in. Uh, students concerned, afraid, panicked perhaps, uh, waiting for police to wrap up this police situation and take the remaining suspects into custody so that they can, they can leave the school.

Now, CKNW breaking news.

Good: You're with Bill Good on the Corus Radio Network as we continue our live coverage of the shooting incident at Dawson College in Montreal. It's a chaotic situation. Witnesses say there are police everywhere with drawn weapons. They have been evacuating people from the area. Ten thousand students attend the college. We'll be back with more live coverage of this breaking news story after this.

- commercial break

[...]

Now, CKNW breaking news.

Good: Multiple shots fired at a college campus in Montreal, Dawson College. Ambulance officials tell us at least three people are in critical condition. We continue with our live coverage from our sister station 940 in Montreal.

Fiset: We've heard that there are possibly, there are one [sic], possibly two people who have been killed. We heard that police managed to open fire on one of the shooters. Uh, I did hear from one student that a student, uh, had been killed as well, has yet to be unconfirmed [sic]. A few moments ago, I spoke to, uh, a student who saw his, his friend being shot in the stomach by one of the shooters. He described the shooter as, uh, being tall, possibly twenty-eight, twenty-nine years old, black spiky hair, wearing a long black trenchcoat, black leather boots up to the knee, carrying a shotgun. He said, uh, that's what he saw and then suddenly he said, he said this man started opening fire on students. Michael.

Dean: So we cannot confirm as to the body that was outside the main entrance a little while ago that was being covered by police. Whether that was an innocent victim, a student or whether that was one of the assailants.

Fiset: Really too hard to tell right now, Michael. Information is, is really just filtering in. Very hard to get a line out. Cell phone lines are still jammed. Everything is very, very difficult right now.

Dean: Can you further the details for us on the suspect or suspects that are presumed, uh, holed up within the atrium cafeteria?

Fiset: [coughs] I cannot, uh, give you more description than, uh, what I have given you. It seems that all the suspects were dressed similarly. All of them looked alike. Uh, we heard conflicting reports that this did begin outside the school and that, uh, police were on the heels of at least two of the shooters when they entered the school. Those details have yet to be confirmed. Michael.

Dean: All right, thank you, Lisa.

Fiset: You're welcome.

Dean: That is the New 940 Montreal's Lisa Fiset. Continuing, uh, unfolding situation. We are seeing footage now on LCN of, uh, uh, a woman being b-, placed on a stretcher and, uh, taken into an ambulance. Uh, she is conscious, she is crying. Uh, we cannot tell if she is injured or merely in shock and panicked. Uh, we'll have to, uh, continue following this story for you. Government officials now confirming to LCN that, indeed, two people are dead at Dawson College. And, as you heard Lisa report, uh, the reports are that, uh, one of those individuals is one of the suspects and that that suspect took his own life. Another report is that, uh, a suspect was gunned down, killed by Montreal police responding, uh, to this incredibly disturbing and horrifying tragedy, uh, down at Dawson College this afternoon. We're going to take quick break and, uh, we're going to, perhaps, uh, check in with the, uh, the, the scene outside the perimeter. Uh, but first we have Sabrina Marandola who is down at Dawson College as well. Sabrina, what do you have for us?

Marandola: Well, Michael, I've just been speaking to a few more students now. Uh, I spoke to a few students who are, uh, very visibly shaken up and, uh, crying. Now these are the last bunch of students who, uh, just got out of the school a few moments ago. Uh,

apparently no one knew that they were still in the building and they were on the sixth floor. And, uh, the dean of the school, of the faculty advised the police that there were still students on the sixth floor of the school. So, uh, this group of students, maybe about a hundred or so, just got out a few moments ago. Uh, very shaken up, crying. Everyone's calling their parents on their cell phone, letting them know they are okay. And, uh, students are telling me that the inside of the school was just broken glass and puddles of blood everywhere, especially on the atrium, on the second floor, uh, which is, uh, allegedly where the shooting happened, which is what we're hearing. Uh, also spoke to a teacher of, uh, Dawson College. He was telling me, uh, he heard, uh, the shots. He said that when he heard the first shot, police were already on the scene. Uh, and he said that police and, uh, the, uh, gunman, uh, were firing, uh, back and forth for maybe about twenty minutes to half an hour. He heard gunshots going back and forth. Uh, and, uh, finally, now it's probably about an hour, an hour and a half later. The final, uh, count of the students have just all been evacuated. Michael.

Dean: Sabrina, we are seeing footage on LCN of several injured students being taken away, bloodied by the combat. You commented on the, the scene of carnage inside the school from the, the stand-point of the visible damage to the school. The broken windows, the blood on the, on the, on the floor in the school. I'm im-, I'm imagining now, uh, and I don't want to panic anyone, but we could see the number of injured rise in this incident as it unfolds. Could we not?

Marandola: Well, I spoke to, uh, a teacher. He said he alone saw three injured and that was just, uh, in the moment in the corridor. He was actually in his office and then walking down through the corridors. And he saw three people injured. Uh, so I have no status at this, uh, point of, uh, their injuries and how they're doing. Uh, but he said they were in pretty bad shape. Uh, you know, bleeding and blood everywhere, gunshot wounds. Uh, so could it possibly go up? Well, we don't know yet at this point. Uh, and also, uh, spoke to a few students; they said, yeah, broken glass inside the schools [*sic*] and knapsacks left behind, everything left behind. And, uh, the students really were just running out. Michael.

Dean: All right. Pardon me. Thank you, Sabrina. That is, uh, Sabrina Marandola at the, at Dawson College. Thank you. So, as we've been reporting, uh, there you have it. That is the latest from the scene. Uh, that, uh, we were also getting reports that there are other students, there were other students, uh, on the third floor and on the seventh floor. Sabrina just saying that the most recent evacuees from that, uh, from the school were on the sixth floor and that, uh, authorities were not even aware that they were there holed up. Uh, again, we're seeing footage of a body covered up outside, uh, next to a police cruiser, outside the main entrance, uh, to that school. But, uh, the number of dead and injured at this point, uh, remains a little unclear. So far, government officials saying two people have been confirmed dead. Who they are exactly, we need to confirm. Uh, we have been getting reports that, uh, one of them was a, was a, was one of the gunmen that took his own life. Another report is that, um, that, uh, one of the dead was a suspect that was shot by police. Uh, continues, uh, disturbing scene that continues to unfold down at Dawson College. We continue to follow this for you. We're going to, uh, check in, perhaps, with the news centre in a few minutes. We just heard reports from Lisa Fiset on the scene. In the meantime, if you are a witness to this, if you have anything to relate to this story, uh, you can give us a call at 514-790-0006. We encourage to hear [*sic*] what you can tell us about what you know. Were you a witness to this incident? Uh, if you can fill in any more information, bring us any more information that parents, brothers and sisters of loved ones there, uh, can tell, can, we can relate to, uh, friends and loved ones of anyone that may have been affected by this, uh, this, uh, this incredibly incomprehensible act of violence down at Dawson College. We got, uh, phones ringing now, right now in the control centre. And, uh, we are looking at, uh, pictures as well down on, uh, down on Atwater Street at the corner of, uh, Sainte-Catherine. And, uh, this is the cordoned-off area bordering on the crime scene. We're being told as well that three people are in critical condition. Three people in critical condition among the injured at this

point. The casualties, as we're being told, being taken to, pardon me, being taken to the Montreal General Hospital at this time. Again, a scene that began at about twelve forty-five and as we're being told started outside the school. And continued into the school, flooded into the school. Several injured. And at least two dead this afternoon. We're going to take a quick break and we're going to take you to the news centre and Lauren Schwartz. Stay with us.

The station you turn to in an emergency. This is CKNW, NewsTalk 980.

- commercial break

[...]

Now, CKNW breaking news.

Good: You're with Bill Good on the Corus Radio Network. Chaos on campus in Montreal today. Dawson College. A student says a man dressed in military fatigues stormed into the cafeteria of the Montreal College today and began shooting. This student witnessed the entire thing and is obviously very emotional.

female student: Um, we were sitting having a cigarette and then there was a guy walking with a huge black trenchcoat and huge black boots with this retarded haircut, 'kay? And he had a huge machine gun. He's walking down in broad daylight with a gun. No one says anything to him. And then he started shooting at Alexis Nihon. It was a machine gun. And he shot the people right next to us. We were all running, we were hiding in the bushes. And there was debris flying from the bullet shots right next to us. Like, we saw all kinds of people getting shot outside and then he walked in the school and started shooting everyone else. I don't know. He looked like, it's sounds bad, but, like, the typical people, you know, this stereotype, like with the long black trenchcoat and all the studs and piercings and stuff like that. And he started shooting everyone. I, I, I've never seen him before. I don't understand what ten thousand people could've done wrong to him, but whatever. He was white, like, nineteen years old and so were his friends. He was tall, his friends were shorter; they were all white. Uh, one guy was shot in the leg, another guy was shot here almost in the chest, in the stomach, uh. It was bad.

Good: This student at the college says he saw the whole thing take place.

Boyer: I was actually in the school when it did happen. Um, I was waiting for class and basically I heard people running through the hallways saying people are being shot. Um, I thought this was fake and, you know, just an excuse to get out of class. I went to the atrium, which is the open centre part of the school. And I heard gunshots. Immediately I hit the floor. Um, there was one, I only saw one of the gentlemen. I didn't see anybody get shot, but I did see him fire several times. Um, at that point, I did run away after I did see that it was real, you know, um, made sure it wasn't a guy, uh, with a, with a cap gun or something stupid like that. And, um, I ran out, I went, ran into a classroom. I kind of broke down because it was, it was seriously something from a movie. One of the most, it was *the* most scary thing that has ever happened to me.

Good: Sixteen-year-old Jennifer Henning tells Broadcast News people were running everywhere, frantic to get out of the building. She says once she got out, she saw people running down the street and screaming and she saw people with blood on their clothes. She said there are police cars and ambulances everywhere. Another student said he saw at least one victim who had been shot in the stomach. He says police are everywhere with drawn weapons. People have been evacuated from the area. Ten thousand students attend the college. You're with Bill Good on the Corus Radio Network and we will rejoin our colleagues

at, uh, 940 News in Montreal after this.

- commercial break

[...]

Now, CKNW breaking news.

Good: Armed police are surrounding, uh, Dawson College in Montreal today. The French network RDI has reported that four people have been killed and sixteen injured in the shooting at the, uh, Montreal campus today, as we continue our coverage on the Corus Radio Network. Live coverage from Radio 940 News in Montreal.

Dean: You're, you're telling me, and I'm trying to just make sure I understood you correctly, this started in the metro?

Laura: This started outside of the metro and –

Dean: Just outside?

Laura: – they ran inside the school.

Dean: Okay. So just outside the metro?

Laura: Yeah.

Dean: Did you see any police officers in pursuit of these suspects at that time?

Laura: No. I ran out of the Atwater metro on the other side.

Dean: Okay.

Laura: And there were police cars everywhere. There were people on the ground shaking. People were running everywhere.

Dean: Absolutely.

Laura: It was completely crazy.

Dean: All right, Laura, thanks a lot.

Laura: And my cell phone's in my locker and I don't have any of my stuff. I couldn't get anything. My parents were trying to reach me.

Dean: Well, head to a pay-phone and call your parents.

Laura: Yeah.

Dean: And –

Laura: I'm, I'm at home now. I'm fine.

Dean: You're, okay, well, that, it's good to hear. Thanks, Laura.

Laura: Okay, thank you.

Dean: We've got the New 940 Montreal's Lisa Fiset who is, uh, joining us again. Uh, what do you, what do you have, uh, of new for us?

Fiset: Well, Michael, I've, uh, ma-, managed to make my way to the triage area where, uh, there're dozens of ambulances that have, that have arrived on scene. Uh, they're being set up, various areas. Doctors have been brought in. I saw one doctor arrive with, uh, ambulance technicians, uh, armed, they're equipped with medical bags, they're equipped with defibrillators. Um, these are people that, uh, are being brought in to help assist with the scene. As I said earlier there was, uh, doctors [*sic*] who arrived on the scene willing to lend a hand and everybody was being directed to the scene. They, police were saying they needed all the help they could get for the moment. No ambulance as far as I've been able to tell have left, uh, recently. Uh, we have had more ambulances coming in. As I said, triage areas are being set up. And, uh, from what I understand, perhaps that, uh, the injured will be brought to the area where I am now. I'm at the corner of, uh, Breslay and Atwater. Another ambulance, ambulance is just pulling up now. Michael.

Dean: Now you said you're at the triage centre. Can you give us an informal account of, uh, further wounded, uh, involved in this?

Fiset: They haven't been bringing any, uh, they haven't brought any wounded here yet. Really, they're in the early stages, setting this up. The doctors are just arriving. The, uh, Urgence Santé command post is here. The ambulance technicians are here. When they arrive, they're getting out of their buses, uh, their trucks with, uh, with their gloves on and this is how they're proceeding to the scene, with their emergency equipment in hand.

Dean: Uh, Lisa, we heard reports about, uh, I'd say roughly fifteen to twenty minutes ago at most, that police were surprised to learn that there were still students holed up in a classroom, along with presumably a teacher or two on the sixth floor. Are you hearing anything further? We're getting witness reports that there may be students still holed up on the seventh floor and on the third floor. And, if I'm not mistaken, the atrium cafeteria is on the second floor.

Fiset: Um, I've heard that there are still students inside the building as well. I'm hearing this from other kids who've been in contact, uh, with friends who are in, uh, still in the building. Uh, one girl said her friend was, uh, in the bathroom and had no intention of leaving until she was given the all clear. A few other students, uh, apparently barricaded in classrooms. Again, this is what I'm hearing from students who are on the scene. Uh, this is what I've heard. Of course, things might have changed. As we've been saying all afternoon, it is very difficult to get a cell phone line out. And these are the last bits of information that I had, possibly, um, maybe fifteen, twenty minutes ago.

Dean: A very fluid situation. Anything more from the police on possible suspects that remain armed in the school, barricaded within the school?

Fiset: No.

Dean: Possibly hostages?

Fiset: We haven't heard any updates. We haven't had any updates on that. Uh, to be quite honest, Michael, police, uh, aren't, uh, in the position to give out any information right now. They haven't been, uh, telling reporters very much.

Dean: Okay. We're seeing Ian Lafrenière on R, RDI right now. You might want to check in with our good friend Ian and see if he can give us something.

Fiset: Will do.

Dean: Thank you. That is the New 940 Montreal's Lisa Fiset. As you can see, it continues to be a very fluid situation. A triage centre being set up and authorities, emergency management people, uh, down at the scene. Uh, uh, calling out to, uh, physicians to come and lend a hand. Uh, first responders is not the need. It is, uh, really a need for physicians. Doctors, MDs, uh, to head down there and help out, uh, presumably with triage of the wounded. Um, perhaps authorities preparing for the worst, that there're perhaps more wounded within the school. We're getting reports that there are still possibly students that are trapped in classrooms, barricaded within classrooms, fearing for their lives. Uh, this on the seventh floor. And we also spoke with someone on the third floor. Brave enough in the midst of all this panic to call us here at the New 940 Montreal and fill us in as to what is transpiring, what is being felt and what is being experienced in that school. A horrifying day, to say the least, that will not soon be forgotten. Uh, reports are confirmed that two dead. Uh, reports on the injured varying between two and three seriously and up to four or five injured. Again, we're confirming, working to confirm all of these details and, uh, we have this, uh, team coverage of this story that is, uh, continuing for us, uh, for you that is, this afternoon. Lauren Schwartz in the news centre, Lisa Fiset at the scene and Sabrina Marandola down at the scene as wa-, as well. Being joined by our esteemed colleague Jim Duff who, uh, takes the, uh, takes the show over usually at four in the afternoon. Jim, what's running through your mind at this time?

Duff: Well, Michael, I was listening to this as I was coming in and, uh, realizing that this is as serious, uh, an occurrence as anything. And I can, we, we can, we, those of us that are veterans of this can remember the Fabrikant affair at Concordia.

Dean: Yeah.

Duff: We can remember the, uh, École polytechnique massacre. And, uh, it's absolutely reminiscent of all of that. And, uh, the questions that kept running through my mind is wh-, where's the tactical squad? Why are they not in there? Because that was one of the major criticisms. The Montreal tactical squad did not get in there fast enough.

Dean: Right.

Duff: Uh, but they laid back because they thought there might be a hostage incident. Exactly the same thing we're seeing today. So I'm asking myself exactly who is in charge here? Is there a command post yet? And, uh, I'm not hearing or seeing any of that. This has me concerned.

Dean: Well, I don't know if the Montreal police, uh, operate in, in a similar fashion to other, uh, police departments. Some police departments, their tactical squad is actually made up of patrol officers who may be on duty. Who need to be called in from the sector that they're working, need to suit up, get their gear, uh, get coordinated, get up to speed on the details and then get in their trucks and, and make their approach to the scene of, of the crime. So, but, plenty of valid questions that are, that are going to emerge from this.

Duff: Yeah. And the confusion and I, I think, uh, as I was listening to our coverage coming in, uh, trying to separate that which we know from that which is –

Dean: Absolutely.

Duff: – maybe bouncing around in the rumour mill –

Dean: Yeah, absolutely.

Duff: – before it's spewed out.

Dean: We know how that works.

Duff: We know that, uh, we, we have officially confirmed that two are dead now.

Dean: Yeah.

Duff: We believe that they're two shooters dead. Three critically injured. We believe those are three students. Uh, there may or may not be a police officer killed. Correct?

Dean: Uh, no, what we've heard is a police officer –

Duff: Uh, sorry, injured.

Dean: -- injured.

Duff: Injured.

Dean: Injured, yes.

Duff: Injured. A police officer injured.

Dean: That's right.

Duff: Uh, we, and, uh, that may or may not have been a police officer that was shot outside of Dawson. Correct?

Dean: Indeed. What we do see by the camerage, camera footage is that there is a victim, uh, a dead victim covered by a ta-, a police tarp right next to a police vehicle outside the principal entrance to Dawson College on, on the, uh, on, uh, on University. Not University. Pardon me, De Maisonneuve.

Duff: On De Maisonneuve.

Dean: On De Maisonneuve. And we've been getting reports, uh, from eye-witnesses that this began outside the school and then spilled into the school.

Duff: Now, at one point, you suggested that it might have been an incident that started in the, uh, in the a-, in the metro station in Alexis Nihon.

Dean: In Alexis Nihon. In the shopping centre.

Duff: Wh-, in the shopping con-, uh, concourse and came across the street.

Dean: That is a report that we got from a witness who got that from a witness who. As you say, um, these things from word to ear, word, er, mouth to ear, mouth to ear, uh, do morph sometimes. That's why we always qualify it as being unconfirmed, unsubstantiated reports. But one of the unconfirmed reports was that this began with an incident inside Alexis Nihon and spilled out into the street and then into the school and that there were police officers involved almost from the initial get-go of shots being fired.

Now, CKNW breaking news.

Good: A chaotic scene at Dawson College in Montreal. I'm Bill Good. You're listening on the Corus Radio Network as we listen in on live coverage from 940, our sister station in Montreal. CBC's French network is reporting four people killed and sixteen injured. This still to be confirmed as the day goes on, but, uh, police are still escorting people out of the, uh, campus area. Ambulances are being loaded as people are being taken to hospital. We are told that three are in critical condition. And, uh, police are still with drawn guns around the campus trying to keep things contained as much as possible. We'll continue our live coverage right after this.

- commercial break

[...]

Now, CKNW breaking news.

Good: We continue our live coverage of the shooting in Montreal today at, uh, Dawson College. Students say they heard at least twenty shots fired inside the building. Two people are reported dead. CBC's French network is saying four are dead. Uh, those are not confirmed, but that's the report out of Montreal so far. At least sixteen people reported to be injured as we continue our live coverage with our sister station 940 News in Montreal.

Marandola: ... a group of people in an isolated part of Dawson College and, uh, nobody knew, uh, they were there, but police got word, uh, that those people were inside the school. Possibly about a hundred people or so left in the school and they have been evacuated. So, latest word I have is that everyone, teachers and students, have now been evacuated from the building. Michael.

Dean: All right, thank you, Sabrina.

Marandola: Thanks, Michael.

Dean: That is, uh, Sabrina Marandola, the New 940 Montreal reporter on the scene. Lisa Fiset is down there as well. But first let's head over to the, uh, news centre where our business editor Luciano Pipia joins us. Lucio, what do you have for us?

Pipia: Uh, Michael, I just spoke to a student at Dawson, Tanya Lancha. She spoke to us just a few minutes ago and this is how the interview started. I asked her basically what she saw.

Tanya: We were on the third floor and, uh, I was in class and, uh, all of a sudden we just see students coming out of, uh, we, we looked out the window and we saw students coming out, but my teacher, my teacher didn't make a big deal out of it 'cause we didn't hear any, uh, alarm, uh, bells. So we waited and then, uh, I was in class and all of a sudden we just heard three gunshots, as if it was, like, right beside our door. And, uh, our teacher opened the door and that's all we heard a guy say was [*sic*] there's a shooter in the school, evacuate the building, evacuate the building. I ran outside and when I ran outside I saw a kid on the floor bleeding, blood all over his face, that got shot in the stomach. We were, uh, we were waiting in front of the bank or, like, Alexis Nihon and the shooter came out from under, from Alexis Nihon into the streets with the gun and everyone started running and I, I ended up in an old folks home where they let us out and, and that's, uh. One of my friends, my friends were playing cards in the, in the atrium and the guy just walked in and started shooting and they, they ducked down and, uh, they were right beside him and I think he grabbed my friend and put a gun to his head.

Pipia: Did he shoot?

Tanya: Did he shoot? I don't know if he shot, but my friends are calling him and they can't, they can't contact him, they can't find him, they don't know where he is.

Pipia: Describe the suspect, describe the gunman.

Tanya: I, I didn't see him. I just, I just heard the shots.

Pipia: You must've been awfully scared.

Tanya: Very.

Pipia: Can you tell us how you felt?

Tanya: I, I started panicking. I didn't know what to do. I couldn't believe it was happening in, uh, in a school. I, I didn't know, I didn't understand it, why all of a sudden. And, uh, I was really scared. I didn't, I didn't know how to react to it.

Pipia: Do you know anything about what may have prompted this attack? What may have prompted this shooting?

Tanya: I, I, I don't even understand it, why it would happen. I have no idea.

Pipia: When you saw everybody running around you, and you saw people obviously fleeing and, and, and, and obviously, uh, you know, scattering for cover, um, what were you, describe the scene as, as, as that was happening.

Tanya: We were, we were right in front of, um, it was an old folks home and there was, like, a bank, I think it was a bank. And we just, I just see [sic] everyone running and the cops are, are right in back of us saying "Go, go, go. The shooter's here, the shooter's here." And then everyone just scattered and everyone, we, some people went into a Bureau en gros, some people were in, uh, the old folks home. Everyone was just running, scared. People lost shoes, were losing cell phones, uh, no one had their stuff. It was, it was really scary.

Pipia: Basically people are running for their lives.

Tanya: Yeah. Exactly.

Pipia: Um, now, my understanding is that because of what's happened you claim that you don't ever want to go back into that building?

Tanya: I'm, I'm, I don't even want to s-, I want to switch schools. It's so scary that it could happen to a school in Montr-, I never thought it would happen, that this would be happening to a school and I, I don't even want to go back.

Pipia: Do you think that maybe time might change your mind?

Tanya: Maybe, but I think they should make the school more secure. For this, that this can happen, that means the school is not secure enough. If someone can just walk in with a gun and start shooting, I think that the, the school should take, uh, action and make it more secure.

Pipia: Michael, that's Tanya Lancha. She is a student at Dawson College speaking to the New 940 Montreal just a few minutes ago. I take it, uh, if you speak to different, or, a

hundred different students, you'll get a hundred different, uh, stories about what they saw and what, uh, they felt, what they experienced.

Dean: Absolutely, Luciano. But a chilling account.

Pipia: Oh boy.

Dean: It just, it just, a chilling account of what –

Pipia: You can only imagine, for those of us who were not there, uh, you can only imagine the fear, the panic, the pandemonium, uh, that, that, that struck that area, that school, uh, that, that district of the city, uh, when, when this happened, uh, this afternoon.

Dean: Absolutely. And we continue to watch it unfold at this time. Thank you, Luciano.

Pipia: Okay.

Dean: That is, uh, Luciano Pipia reporting from the news centre. He is our business editor, of course. We have the entire team here at the New 940 Montreal working to bring you the latest information, the best information we can for you from the scene. As I've been telling you, that, uh, the two suspects, at least two suspects – there may be more – two suspects are confirmed dead at this point. One is believed to have taken his own life, the other shot and killed by police at Dawson College. Uh, as many as six people injured, three of them seriously. Again, shots initially rang out at twelve forty-five this afternoon. Uh, reports are that this began as an incident outside the school. One police officer is reported to have been injured as well. We've got, uh, Lisa Fiset who's down at the scene; Sabrina Marandola working this story for you; Luciano Pipia, as you just heard; Lauren Schwartz is in the news centre; and with me here in studio is Jim Duff. He's, uh, fielding a call as we speak. Uh, we continue to follow this for you. If you are a witness to this, uh, and could bring us more information, confirm any of the details for us, uh, give us a call at 514-790-0006. I'm Michael Dean here in studio, here at the New 940 Montreal working hard to get you all the details we can. Uh, we've got Jim Duff, as I mentioned, who's here with me in studio. Jim, it is disturbing that some of the reports, and unconfirmed up until this point, that, uh, two of the individuals involved in this, perhaps there are more suspects, as many as four we've been told, but two of them carrying automatic weapons into this school.

Duff: Yes, and, uh, this is unconfirmed. Uh, but this would appear to be from, indirectly from police sources. Could be, the police are now talking about as many as four dead and sixteen injured.

Dean: Horrifying.

Duff: So, uh, we can't confirm. Again, again, this is unconfirmed.

Dean: Absolutely.

Duff: But this is, uh, this is the, this is the highest toll so far that I've heard.

Dean: It, it would, uh, again, we're dealing with unconfirmed figures. But with the fact that a triage centre has been set up outside the school, it is easy to imagine that many of these injured have not been yet evacuated from the school and that police are working on that right now.

Duff: We don't know the, uh, the identities of any, but we've heard, any of the, of the dead, but we've heard, anecdotally, again, –

Dean: Yeah.

Duff: – unconfirmed, that two of the dead were shooters.

Dean: Exactly. One presumed to have his own life.

Duff: Taken his own life. And the other downed by police. But, uh, --

Dean: Yeah.

Duff: -- again, those are unconfirmed.

Dean: Yeah. Exactly. So, uh, listen, folks, uh, those of us here at the New 940 in Montreal are working to get as much information as we can for you. You heard those unconfirmed figures from an indirect police source, uh, that Jim just quoted. Uh, four dead, sixteen injured. We'll be working hard to confirm those numbers for you. Uh, RDI reporting six injured, three of them seriously. They have been taken, as I understand it, to the Montreal General Hospital. Any inquiries, uh, regarding those individuals, uh, should be directed to the Montreal General Hospital. But, again, if you have any information, eye-witness information that you can provide us that might help, uh, believe [*sic*] some concern among some parents, friends, loved ones, relatives of those that attend the school, that were there at the time of this incident, uh, give us a call at 514-790-0006. We'll spread the word for you. As we understand it, the cell phone network is overburdened with calls from friends and loved ones trying to find out what's going on, uh, with, uh, those that are so near and dear to them. Uh, we're going to take, uh, a brief break and then we will, uh, and then we'll update you from the news centre. Jim Duff is here and Sabrina Marandola, Lisa Fiset as well. And Luciano Pipia in the news centre. We'll be back right after this.

Now, CKNW breaking news.

Good: You've been listening to on-going live coverage of the breaking news story, a shooting in Montreal. Chaos on campus at Dawson College today. We've been following the coverage of, uh, AM 940 News in Montreal. I'm Bill Good, thank you for listening today on the Corus Radio Network. Susan Kleiderman and Carly Nicol produce this program and already they, they're working on tomorrow. Susan, what are we looking at tomorrow besides whatever fall-out there is to *this* story that's on-going?

Kleiderman: Well absolutely, Bill. I mean, the entire newsroom at this point is trying to bring us the latest information on this shooting. Um, we'll have to see tomorrow morning. I mean, it's, everything seems so unclear at this point. Of course, we can only guess at motives and, uh, what's actually happened. So, we'll be following that closely and, uh, you know, uh, trying to bring people the latest information on, on, uh, perhaps why it happened and how it's affecting people in that area. Very scary situation for, for everyone listening. Um, we'll also try to bring, uh, our listeners some of the segments that we weren't able to do today. Um, for instance, John Geddes is, uh, reporting from Ottawa. Uh, interesting development, uh, in Parliament. Uh, perhaps we're going to see the issue around same-sex marriage come back, um, again. Is this really the right time? Do we need to re-open this debate? Is it simply the prime minister fulfilling a, a campaign promise? And, um, talking to some people today finding that, uh, uh, people who actually are hoping to protect the definition of marriage are still not really happy with ha-, with what's happening because they feel like it's a token, uh, a token move by the prime minister rather than any meaningful change to the legislation. Um, we'll also, uh, bring back Project Comeback. Uh, this is a successful small program in Surrey that's helping people, homeless people get off the street and find gainful employment. Um, they're having some great success there and, and, uh,

we'll hear a little bit more about their program. And we're going to talk about funeral services in British Columbia. Um, the Memorial Society of BC has always helped British Columbians obtain, uh, kind of a no-frills, affordable funeral services. And anybody who's been involved in that process, and I think at some point we all are, um, realize how expensive it can be. And so, the Memorial Society has been able to keep those costs low, but we're going to find out, um, some, some changes there and it appears that the Mem-, Memorial Society is only working, uh, on Vancouver Island now. So what's happening with that. And then, of course, Doctor Rhonda Low will bring us her health update.

Good: Thank you, Susan. Stay tuned for the *Noon News* on CKNW NewsTalk 980.

APPENDIX B

CBSC Decision 06/07-0061 CKNW-AM re Dawson College Shooting Coverage

The Complaint

The CBSC received the following complaint via the CRTC:

This was an affiliate of CKNW in Vancouver, a talk show station in Montreal Sept 13.

During the shooting incident at the Montreal College, the talk show host actually took a call of a student by cell phone who was held up with 24 others on the seventh floor while the gunman possibly was still in the building.

This, in a situation like this or in a terrorist situation, could have tipped the gunman to the whereabouts of the trapped people. This has to be stopped and regulations put in place in this type of situation as lives were put in jeopardy.

Given the complainant's first sentence above, it was initially unclear to the CBSC Secretariat on which station the complainant had heard the broadcast. It therefore requested additional information from him. He sent that additional information in four separate e-mails on September 18:

Thanks for your reply. The station call letters are 940 (Montreal) (CINW).

I appreciate the protocol on how this might be handled; however, on issues like this, lives were potentially put into jeopardy.

Gunmen, like at Dawson College, and terrorists are very much publicity-driven and this radio host, by disclosing over the airwaves where the location of 24 students barracked [*sic*] on the 7th floor by a caller who was trapped with the others, was irresponsible. The gunman could have been listening as is [*sic*] if the worst happened the station would have been sued for criminal wrong-doing with little help to those who might have died.

I feel it is up to all those concerned to address these serious issues, as within a democracy freedom of speech is one thing, but even in a democratic country, having a freedom and potentially causing death by negligence are two different matters.

I beg you to take a pro-active stance in this issue, as this could develop to a tragedy [*sic*] in the future.

I believe it was around 12:00 pm PST. This also was about 45 minutes into the time from the CINW broadcast from Vancouver.

The gunman at this time had not yet been reported as being shot and killed, and there was still suspect [*sic*] that there were possibly a few gunmen, their motive unknown.

The radio station here that broadcast the Montreal station is CKNW 980, *Bill Good* talk show. I have contacted them for more specific times.

I have just listened to the section from the vault archive of CKNW 980 who broadcast the live happening on Sept 13th. The time was just after 11:09 am Pacific Standard Time. The caller stated there were 30-40 students in the "lab" on the 7th floor, several suspected gunners still at large.

Very upsetting how this was handled.

Broadcaster's Response

CKNW responded to the complainant on October 27:

The Canadian Broadcast Standards Council (the CBSC) has asked us to respond to your email of September 18th in which you raise concerns about content aired on CKNW during live coverage of the shooting at Dawson College in Montreal on Wednesday, September 13, 2006.

When this tragic event occurred, CKNW Vancouver began airing a live feed from our sister station 940 CINW Montreal. Within that coverage, as the station worked to provide the community with the latest information about the situation, many live calls were aired. One such call came from a student who, with her class, was barricaded inside a lab within the school. The student was calling for help, making sure the authorities knew of their whereabouts and that they were coming to their rescue.

Specifically, your concern is that by broadcasting this call, the lives of the students in the lab were put in danger as the gunman could have been listening and been alerted to their location.

We have reviewed the broadcast and we respectfully disagree that the students were put in further danger through the airing of this call and would make the assertion that the students' ability to communicate their whereabouts from within the school would have helped expedite their rescue.

Covering live news events and emergencies for our communities is a role that we consider vital and take very seriously at Corus Radio. We consider it a privilege that our communities depend on us for important information in times of emergency. Please rest assured that this is a responsibility that we do not take lightly. Our managers, producers and hosts spend many hours on training and preparation for live news events to ensure that when news happens we broadcast to our community instantly, effectively and responsibly.

Please be assured that our programming producers are sensitive to everything that is broadcast on the station, while still ensuring that the station does present controversial topics of public interest.

We hope that we have addressed your concerns. At CKNW we recognize the importance of

listener feedback and appreciate all comments. Thank you for taking the time and initiative to share your concerns with us.

Additional Correspondence

The complainant submitted his Ruling Request on November 2 with the following letter:

It is of some regret that CKNW and Corus Entertainment Inc. did not admit any wrong-doing of their broadcast of the tragic events that happened at Dawson College on Wednesday September 13, 2006.

I, however, had anticipated from the broadcaster such a response; as in any business, they might see rules and regulation as an impediment for them to compete in the market place, and restrictions to broadcast as they see appropriate might result in lost market share, and in turn lost advertising revenue. Why would the media admit to such a mistake?

From the recent events that happened at Dawson College, one could argue that radio listeners might have been better informed in this type of crisis situation from more factual reporting than fielding live calls from people crying and family members wanting to know the whereabouts of their children who were there and possibly in danger however dramatic the broadcasting was to the radio audience.

It could also be said that it is no leap of the imagination to suspect that gunmen and terrorists might actually thrive on this publicity to promote their cause by attracting attention to their plight, as terrorist acts are often designed as theatre – as spectacular events with a dramatic content that spellbinds an audience, precisely the kind of story that attracts the media.

All that said, my main concern and objection to Corus Network's response is that they actually see no wrong-doing by broadcasting live the whereabouts of the trapped students and actually perversely state that it might have expedited their escape. It must be remembered that at the time of the call from one of the trapped 40 students in the lab room that it was not known if this was a terrorist attack or an attack by several gunmen such as at Columbine School. It is reasonable to say that if there was any concern for the trapped students, the radio station might have stopped the call being broadcast and contacted the police and rescue forces off air with the location of the students to assist in their release. What if several gunmen or terrorists were actually listening to this broadcast and used it to their advantage for locating trapped people to kill or hold hostage; or possibly the gunman or terrorist organisations might have used the radio station to divert police or anti-terrorist forces away from their activities?

I am troubled that Corus Radio admits no responsibility in their broadcasting of the whereabouts of the barricaded students hiding from danger, but if the events unfolded differently in loss of lives would their response be the same? It's not hard to suspect that family members of the deceased would have sued them for gross negligence by disclosure of where the students were.

I therefore ask that this type of broadcasting be regulated in events such as gunmen and terrorist attacks, as these are serious and have dangerous outcomes for all individuals involved. I feel it is not enough for the Corus group or other media networks to apologize publicly, as these are very disturbing and serious matters in our current times.

I urgently recommend to the governing body that this response by the Corus Group be reviewed and acted upon by implementing policy with clear guidelines with substantial fines

levied when violated. It is only this type of regulation that will keep broadcasters from acting irresponsible [*sic*] in similar tragic situations that might happen in the future. If and when any death transpires in future as a result of this type of broadcasting, my concerns are on record and had been reviewed, acted on or ignored.