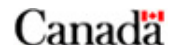


Canadian Radio-television and
Telecommunications CommissionConseil de la radiodiffusion et des
télécommunications canadiennes[Home](#) > [Access to local programming in a digital environment](#)

Access to local programming in a digital environment

The CRTC is looking at whether it should provide the television industry with more flexibility so that it can adapt to changes in the communications environment, which include digital technologies. The ultimate goal is to ensure that Canadians can benefit from the broadcasting system. One option we are studying is whether local TV stations should be able to charge cable and satellite companies for distributing their programs.

As of August 31, 2011, over-the-air broadcasters must turn off their analog transmitters in order to make way for digital television. Digital television enables the broadcast of high-definition (HD) programming, which means sharper pictures and better sound. A converter box (for older TV sets) or a new antenna may be necessary to receive digital programming.

Broadcasters must upgrade their current transmission equipment in order to be ready for digital television. However, new transmitters are expensive to build and the majority of Canadians already receive their television programming through cable or satellite. Free local over-the-air television (received using rabbit ears or an antenna) may only be available in major Canadian cities after the digital transition. As a result, some viewers outside major markets may no longer receive their local TV stations after the transition.

Access to local programming may be available outside major markets through satellite distributors, such as Bell TV and a proposed FreeHD Canada service. These distributors are looking at the possibility of offering a small number of local TV stations at no charge provided that consumers purchase the necessary equipment to receive them, such as a satellite dish and a set top box. They have said that they would discontinue this service or charge a monthly fee if they are required to pay local broadcasters for distributing their programs.

Your opinion matters to us. You are invited to share your views on the following discussion questions.

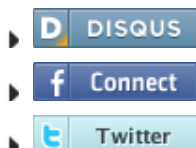
Discussion Questions:

1. Do you think allowing local stations to negotiate for the value of their signals would have an impact on the industry's current or future business plans, especially as it prepares for the transition to digital television?
2. Does the industry require any support or incentives to implement the transition? If so, what type?

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[Roland](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) 119 people liked this.

I am opposed to supporting local TV stations with an extra fee collected by the cable company from it's customers. These TV stations are businesses. If they can't make money with their present business models they need to change their models so they are profitable.

Collecting a fee from customers, administered by the cable companies, is wrong on many

levels. First, why should I pay if I don't watch those channels? How do you collect from customers who watch those channels over the air, and hence are not customers of cable companies? Technology is going to change and we will soon watch "TV" over the internet. How will the local channels collect from those viewers then?

Changes in technology put virtually 100% of the businesses that made wooden wagon wheels out of business. The ones that adapted to the new technology of automobiles from horse and buggies survived and those that refused to change with the new technology failed.

If the local TV stations can not make money in the face of change they should be allowed to fail and should not be saved by what amounts to a tax on consumers to prop up an antiquated industry unwilling to adapt.

Flag

Like



Carl B ★ 1 month ago in reply to Roland 81 people liked this.

The financial problems of conventional broadcast networks are of their own making. Part of the problem is that the owners of the networks have been siphoning content and advertising away from their terrestrial channels to feed their overpriced speciality-TV offerings. Another huge part of the problem is the cost of servicing debt incurred through ill-advised merger and acquisition activity. CTV buying CHUM (which in turn bought Craig) is bad enough for taking competitive options away from consumers, but a look at Global (which bought most of the Hollinger newspapers and the Alliance Atlantis speciality channels) shows that this debt, not the cable TV companies, is to blame for the company's sorry state.

Concentrating control of huge amounts of media in such very few corporate hands runs directly contrary to the public interest, depriving Canadians of alternative voices. Ordinary Canadians should not be the ones to foot the bill, whether directly or through higher cable prices.

The US Federal Communications Commission would never have allowed the main networks to control enough stations to directly reach the majority of the population; they are instead forced to rely largely on separately-owned affiliate stations. Odd that no similar protections exist in Canada.

The public may well be better served by letting companies like Canwest fail so that the assets may be broken up and put into a larger number of hands, ensuring a more competitive domestic media marketplace. The decision of a company to reduce consumer choice by buying competitors using borrowed money is an expense which has little or nothing to do with the DTV transition and not one that should be passed onto viewers.

Flag

Like



Gary ★ 1 month ago in reply to Carl B 22 people liked this.

I totally concur with both Roland and Carl B. As for Roland's comment about watching TV over the internet ... don't worry, I'm sure the CRTC will make sure that we will be paying for that somehow as well or restricting us in some manner as they currently do. Terrible that in the world wide web I can't go to ABC's web site and view a program that I may have missed all in the name of Canadian content ie. Canadian commercials. And with online services like Skype I can't purchase an online telephone number. Canada is the only "industrialized" country where you can't get this type of service. Thanks CRTC.

Flag

Like



DaveA ★ 1 month ago in reply to Gary 9 people liked this.

Keeping the CRTC on the straight and narrow to keep the Internet open is where it is at. Local broadcasting and cable TV in general is an inefficient and annoying for the consumers. Local cable TV is dying and in a few short years be obsolete as a service.

If the locals want to compete, they had better get on the Internet PDQ. With on-demand and real time. If they pack too much adverts, people will move on. If they provide better services people will come. CRTC can't really force us to subscribe, only control us if we do subscribe.

Best to proactively support net neutrality. So we have the choice on the Internet.

<http://saveournet.ca/>

Rogers/Shaw/Bell/Telus already practice rate and packet shaping and are gearing up for it. Put QOS on services. But fortunately the uncontrolled nature of Internet, and what it offers to everyone makes it politically and technically difficult. But it will not stop them from trying to control it at our expense. This way we get 2^32 media stations unfiltered and uncontrolled.

The real fight is for the Internet, this local TV station stuff is flack for the goose. Allows CRTC to sidestep what is going on with the Interenet.

The only reason Shaw/Rogers advertise against a local TV tax is they know many will simply outright cancel their TV services than to pay more. Slap \$10/month corporate welfare tax on us, and say 15% unsubscribe they loose money. It is that simple. And many likely will. I likely will.

I like the way the Jananese have it, \$20 gets you 160mbs download. They watch on demand-real time as a rule, not the exception. But they have a much more competative framework.

Flag

Like



Marc N ★ [1 month ago in reply to DaveA](#)

I agree, the future is with the internet that offers choice, even if there is a price attached to it. I am looking forward to the day when I can ditch cable and select high quality programming through the net.

Flag

Like



Fat Albert ★ [3 weeks ago in reply to Gary](#) 1 person liked this.

Dude, have you heard of proxies... use one to access tons of content on Hulu.

Sign up for DirecTV... escape this simsub mess.

You do have choices... don't let the CRTC mafia dictate your ways!!!

Flag

Like



Anon ★ [1 month ago in reply to Gary](#) 1 person liked this.

Goody for you - you have access to high speed internet, still unavailable to millions of people in Canada. Industrialized - yes. But there are vast areas in this great land where TV is only available via satellite and none of the content is remotely relative to their community.

It reminds me of Russia in the early 80s - watching dubbed over episodes of As the World Turns. It was their ONLY view of the outside world and what a warped view it was. Is that what TV should be for millions of us in Canada?

Flag

Like



DaveA ★ [1 month ago in reply to Carl B](#) 10 people liked this.

This deserves repeating:

"Concentrating control of huge amounts of media in such very few corporate hands runs directly contrary to the public interest, depriving Canadians of alternative voices. Ordinary Canadians should not be the ones to foot the bill, whether directly or through higher cable prices."

Insightful. Lets hope they listen.

Maybe a solution is a NAFTA amendment to allow Canadian channels to do USA, and USA to Canada. In fact extend this to include over priced services like cell and Internet. Let the whole industry right from the local channels on up to CBC taste some real competition. Let people on a block group together and setup their own cable services.... and make it illegal for Telus, Bell, Rogers/Shaw to pounce them into court.

Sort of like iCraveTV.com, Canadian effort run out of business by a consortium of cable companys from all over. Study that story, interesting read on how this media business really works.

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[Rick](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to Roland](#) 43 people liked this.

TV stations are a business, and they should be paid for their product. Cable and satellite companies are taking the signals and programming, and chargin you for them, and not remitting anything back. This is the problem Local TV stations are among the most popular channels on TV, with the most popular programming. It is not about failing, its about fairness and their right to charge for their product.

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[NecessaryEvil](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to Rick](#) 22 people liked this.

You're missing the point Rick. We are FORCED to pay for local programming already with basic cable packages. Don't tell me I should pay twice for the same thing when I don't even watch it in the first place! GET REAL!!!!

[Flag](#)

Like



[geraldinemitchell](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to NecessaryEvil](#) 20 people liked this.

You are missing the point, NecessaryEvil. TV stations should be paid for their product by the Cable and satellite companies who are taking the signals and programming, and chargin you for them, and not remitting anything back.

[Flag](#)

Like



[NecessaryEvil](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to geraldinemitchell](#)

9 people liked this.

Look Geraldine, I'm gonna spell it out for you again cuz it obviously went over your head the first time. I don't care whose fault it is that local stations don't get paid for their (below par) content by cable providers - I do NOT think I should have to pay twice for something I'm not going to watch anyway!!!!. Would you feel comfortable paying for sardines every week when you go grocery shopping, even though you never eat them? Neither would I, and I sure don't care what happens to the sardine company. Get it?

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[coxhorton](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to NecessaryEvil](#) 4 people liked this.

You miss the point, Thinking about yourself is O'K but get the bigger picture. Many people need to know what is going on in their area. For some it keeps them in the loop & they look forward to local news

[Flag](#)[Like](#)[NecessaryEvil](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to](#)
[coxhorton](#)4 people liked
this.

Well, if you feel you need this 'local' content, then order it à la carte as it should be and leave me out of it. Notice the only positive thing you've mentioned is local news. Do local stations do anything more than this? Absolutely not. In the history of Canadian television, there are only about a half-dozen shows that were worth watching - and don't tell me that's not true because the ratings speak for themselves. Local news? I'm not convinced.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)[barbarahudson](#) ★ [3 weeks ago in reply to](#)
[coxhorton](#)1 person liked
this.

If you need TV to find out what's going on in your local area, you're behind the times, and behind the news cycle. The Internet already has that same news, in more detail, with more exhaustive analysis and links to more background material, than local TV can ever provide.

Case in point - remember that local billionaire (dubbed "Eric" and "Lola" by the media because they can't identify them by law)? The Internet had all the details, including their true identities, lots of background material, a copy of the complete court judgment, discussions of how a common-law relationship is legally different in Quebec compared to anywhere else in Canada, etc.

Did your local TV have any more than a small fraction of that?

Remember all the fuss a decade or so ago about "interactive TV"? Gee, it got obsoleted by the Internet. You're using today's version of Interactive TV right now to read this comment. Local TV will either adapt or die. My money is on dying. I don't watch it any more because it's almost all either US shows that I can already get in HD with a cheap indoor antenna, or rereads of US shows that I wouldn't watch anyway.

Netcraft confirms it - local TV is dying.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)[coxhorton](#) ★ [3 weeks ago in reply to](#)
[barbarahudson](#)1 person liked
this.

I am not interested in finding out about Eric & Lola In reply to your response to your response on local T.V.

There is so much going on in B.C. that I have enough to fulfill my day with

out taking on extra baggage. Case in point, The Olympics, Environment

concerns, the homeless The economic situations, The lost sockeye salmon,

pollution, unemployment etc. We all have our problems so look at the big

picture & try and remember you are living in a free society Write what you

will & have your say at least you won't end up in prison Local programming

coupled with the news gives me as much info as I need & digest

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 [anhaga](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to NecessaryEvil](#) 4 people liked this.
 they are not getting paid twice - right now they are not being paid at all
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[Like](#)

 [NecessaryEvil](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to anhaga](#) 1 person liked this.
 I know they're not getting paid twice. Read my post again.
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 [stanfockner](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to anhaga](#)
 anhaga
 If you pay for cable/satellite you ARE paying for the convenience of having local TV in the basic package that you would otherwise receive with an antenna with less convenience. The choice of antenna, satellite or cable is yours.
[Flag](#)
[Like](#)

 [George Kamps](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to geraldinemitchell](#) 8 people liked this.
 I would agree with you geraldinemitchell, except for the fact that cable companies are REQUIRED to carry local stations in their line up. So long as that requirement exists, I do not agree with fee for carriage.
[Flag](#)
[Like](#)

 [DaveA](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to George Kamps](#) 3 people liked this.
 Yes, they no doubt want it both ways which makes it a tax. If I can opt out without penalty or other twist, even reduce my basic cable charge go for it. I will opt out.
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[Like](#)

 [elliott](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to geraldinemitchell](#) 4 people liked this.
 How come the broadcasters waited 30 years before they made a point about being paid for local TV. Cable companies have been providing most local stations, (not all) since cable started over 30 years ago. The broadcasters never made a fuss until now, it is partly their fault. if they wanted compensation, they should have stepped up decades ago.

It wasn't until they got themselves in trouble by being greedy and buying up all of the smaller broadcasters in the last number of years. Look at Canwest right now and their troubles, it's not because they weren't paid for their local stations.

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 [DaveA](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to geraldinemitchell](#) 1 person liked this.
 But are you going to give me a no penalty opt out of paying them if I don't want their service?

Or is this a CRTC/Bell/Rogers/Shaw troll?

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 **barbarahudson** ★ [3 weeks ago in reply to DaveA](#) 1 person liked this.

It's a troll. 100% troll. Local broadcasters advertise that their signals are "now available in HD" - but only if you subscribe to them through your satellite or cable provider.

I won't pay my cable Internet provider for "basic television service" even though I can get it bundled with Internet home phone service for \$15 more than I'm paying now. Cell phones obsoleted home phones for me and both my daughters long ago, and why should I pay for lousy "basic television" when a sub-\$50 indoor antenna lets me get 9 higher-quality crystal-clear digital signal signals from CBS, NBC, PBS ... you get the picture.

Most people don't know that their hi-def TV can use ordinary rabbit-ears/uhf loop antennas, and they're surprised that the over-the-air signal is actually of higher-quality than what's rebroadcast by their local provider.

If the local tv stations want to make some money out of me, they'll have to do it by:

- (1) providing compelling programming,
- (2) broadcasting it over the air, and
- (3) finding a way to support it through advertising or some other revenue model.

Otherwise, between the competition (who are already there) and the Internet, I have no use for them.

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 **Mike** ★ [1 month ago in reply to Rick](#) 11 people liked this.

Local TV stations generate their revenue by selling advertising during television broadcasts. Their advertising costs are associated with the prospected volume of programming viewers, especially during prime time hours. For them to cry poor after 20+ years is a sham.

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 **ScottO** ★ [1 month ago in reply to Mike](#) 5 people liked this.

And given the number of commercials on during any one show, they must be making something from ad revenue. That's why I PVR all my shows, the sheer number of ads is enough to drive me insane.

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 **DaveA** ★ [1 month ago in reply to ScottO](#) 1 person liked this.

I do too PVR all my shows. I watch very little real time TV. Ads make it worth seting up Media Center or MythTV and scoot over the ads in 3 or 4 seconds.

Also, I find only 4 channels of a three tier package that I record/watch anything. It is also why I don't go digital as digital is designed to force ad watching. Want the kind of \$\$ I pay for cable, I expect ad free.

Or pay \$1 to \$3 and download it.

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 **Moose57** ★ [1 month ago in reply to Rick](#) 10 people liked this.

Under the terms of their license, they create a product, funded by advertising so that it

may be broadcast FREE to consumers.

They ARE being paid for their product, therefore it must be FREE to consumers, else they violate their terms of operation.

Be VERY careful what you wish for as the overwhelming sentiment seems to be that Canadians will resurrect their rabbit ears in lieu and both the broadcasters and distributors WILL loose out.

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[mitchellbrogan](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to Moose57](#) 4 people liked this.

The only problem I see is: Have you ever notice when you move and your TV service is not yet hooked up and you do put up the Rabbit Ears the image is 'ghosted'. That is because of all the cable connections in urban area which are transmitting an interference making it impossible to get a clear picture with antennae. Other than that up with the ears.

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[soldierboy](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to mitchellbrogan](#) 2 people liked this.

Are you sure it's not because of the tinfoil hat you are wearing.

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[NecessaryEvil](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to soldierboy](#) 1 person liked this.

That was pretty funny.

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[barbarahudson](#) ★ [3 weeks ago in reply to mitchellbrogan](#)

I noticed that too.

Fortunately, digital TV doesn't have that problem. I use a cheap indoor antenna to get CBS (3.1 in 1080 and 3.2 in 480), NBC (5.1 in 1080 and 5.2 - ThisTV - think old movies network - in 480), and PTZ (57.1 in 1080, 57.2 and 57.3 in 480). I'll be buying a second indoor antenna to get ABC and Fox.

Canadian TV? When they finally get around to broadcasting in digital (instead of advertising "now in hi definition" but only if you subscribe to it) I'll check back. Maybe. If they don't continue to insult my intelligence with their stupid tv shows and lobbying efforts.

Of course, since my laptop also "broadcasts" to my TV at full 1920x1080 resolution, they're probably going to be too late. I already get all my news off the net anyway, so no big loss there.

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[vandrbest](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to Rick](#) 8 people liked this.

Hang on a second Rick, I agree that broadcasters should be paid, but the issue is that these channels are mandated to be carried and packaged in basic cable. That means that a consumer cannot choose these channels - they must be paid for by all subscribers. That I cannot agree with, as I don't watch them. If the CRTC were to make it optional, I would agree with paying them, ie. you get fee for carriage, but you don't get mandated into basic cable or certain channel placement.

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Pat ★ [1 month ago in reply to vandrbest](#) 2 people liked this.

I agree with Vandrbest. Currently I have no choice I have to take the cable companies package.

I want the choice to select and pay for what I want to watch.

Nothing is for free and cable companies should pay for the local tv content much the same as they do for the US content channels.

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Susan ★ [1 month ago in reply to Rick](#) 7 people liked this.

I agree with Rick...it is about fairness..not management issues....would you like to offer a service to someone who profited from it and paid you nothing in return ? Same principle here I think....too many uninformed comments argue for the cable companies saying local tv already makes enough...and is mismanaged, it is the cable companies who are trying to pull one over, not the local tv stations. Local Tv stations bind the community together through information and make it just that...a community, let's support our communities!!!

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Ray B ★ [1 month ago in reply to Susan](#) 8 people liked this.

What if you have no local service now and haven;t had for many years before all this crap started. It is corporate greed like Global who cannot balance their books or the CBC who are already getting hundreds of millions the taxpayer and CTV would not need this if they hadn't broken the bank on the Olympics to keep CBC from getting them. This tax is wrong as we will not get any better service from them nor will we have service restored those cities that has lost it like Saint John, NB, has years ago.

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nowoolinis ★ [1 month ago in reply to Rick](#) 7 people liked this.

Sorry, but the business model of non pay tv programs includes 25%+ space for advertising that is supposed to pay for the product. The cable companies are a distributor and really should be paid by the broadcasters for the audience they provide. If this model were mandated by the CRTC we might expect the CRTC to mandate a rate reduction for the viewer also. This is the model we should be lobbying for, not having the CRTC impose fees to line corporate pockets. Don't ever think we are obliged to pay for anything that is filled with advertising.

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walther ★ [1 month ago in reply to nowoolinis](#) 2 people liked this.

I don't have cable service, but would want to have their cable service if they paid ME to look at all their ADVERTISING.

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Susan ★ [1 month ago in reply to Rick](#) 6 people liked this.

I agree with Rick...it is about fairness..not management issues....would you like to offer a service to someone who profited from it and paid you nothing in return ? Same principle here I think....too many uninformed comments argue for the cable companies saying local tv already makes enough...and is mismanaged, it is the cable companies who are trying to pull one over, not the local tv stations. Local Tv stations bind the community together through information and make it just that...a community, let's support our communities!!!

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 [Carl B](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to Susan](#) 4 people liked this.

It's not fair to force cable companies to carry your station if it's not worth your asking price, nor is it fair to tamper with the signals of distant or US stations in order to steal their advertising revenue through signal substitution schemes. As for local TV stations binding anything together? The closest CTV and Global studios to me are (respectively) Ottawa and Toronto, neither is within a hundred miles and neither is "local TV" in anything but name... yet their signals are substituted in place of US stations which are in-region to me.

I'm all for supporting local TV if by local TV you mean WPBS-TV. CTV and Global simply aren't locally produced.

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 [jeffreystephen](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to Rick](#) 5 people liked this.

Rick they are paid, the advertisers that want our eyes on there ads pay for viewers. If I have to pay for the programming I want it with out ads. Cable and Satellite are also charging us and don't want to share, they gouge customers at every turn, when they add something they jack up the cost to consumers weather we want what they are adding or not, but when they take away services, there is no reduction in fees, we need the CRTC to force a pay per channel feature on them.

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 [mj25](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to Rick](#) 4 people liked this.

Then shouldn't that said cable and satellite companies have the ability to not carry them? They are currently mandated by the CRTC that they must carry them.

I also have to disagree that they are the most popular channels on TV.

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 [Greg H](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to mj25](#)

Good point.

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 [ljsmith13](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to Rick](#) 3 people liked this.

Bang on. I totally agree with Rick on this. I'm already paying for the service, why should I be paying again? It's up to the cable/satellite companies to compensate the stations for fair use, but it should not be passed on to the consumer, since we're already paying for access.

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 [dustyMoe](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to ljsmith13](#) 1 person liked this.

ljsmith, you say it very succscintly. Straightforward.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)

 [Rob](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to Rick](#) 2 people liked this.

Yes, Tv stations are a business, and if they want to charge for their services, then let

the Cable/Satellite companies CHOOSE whether they want to pay, and distribute that service and not force them to do so. THAT is fairness, and free enterprise.

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[patbowie](#) ★ [3 weeks ago in reply to Rick](#)

Rick, I absolutely agree with you. The cable companies have been feeding off the regular TV channels for a long time, as well as charging cable customers huge fees. Another issue -- cable companies are basically a monopoly -- deregulate the same way as was done with telephone use, and we'll have more competition. Canadians pay more for cable/internet (and cell phones) than anywhere else. Why, CRTC??

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[Eugene Leger](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to Roland](#) 20 people liked this.

Roland, I don't know where you live, but if I want to know what's going on locally through my television, it's a small sliver of the pie that I have to choose from. Forcing me to subscribe to 500 channels of crap so that I can find some local programming isn't the answer. Where I come from, if the local (broadcast) programming was blacked out during the supper news hour, you can believe that cable companies would be receiving complaints, this is programming that the cable companies don't pay for now. If the cable companies don't want to budge an inch on their enormous profits and decide to pass their operating expenses on to their customers, I guess as consumers we should all vote with our feet, or pocket books. New technology is bringing us more choice - and local/international content - maybe it's cable tv that really is anachronistic.

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[nowoolinis](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to Eugene Leger](#) 5 people liked this.

Since when are the distributors responsible for paying for content? In normal business, the product is provided and the distribution network gets paid for what they do by the producer. who profits on the product they provide. The broadcasters of non pay tv make huge profits via advertising and should really subsidize the distributor to have access to the audience provided. We the viewers should not have to subsidize any programming if it contains advertising, especially when it is often 25%+ of the program.

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[Joel](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to Eugene Leger](#) 2 people liked this.

This is a perfect example of someone who wants access to Canadian, local content, but is forced to go through a BDU because the signal is unavailable. The amount of people forced to subscribe will only keep increasing unless we do something to support OTA.

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[calmzone1](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to Eugene Leger](#) 1 person liked this.

I agree

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



[Betty](#) ★ [3 weeks ago in reply to Eugene Leger](#)

I agree Eugene, enough said already, I love my C.J.O.H. and Max Keeping

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



timw ★ [1 month ago in reply to Roland](#) 18 people liked this.

While I share your anger over the antiquated industry model - I don't think you are directing it at the real culprit. The culprit is a lack of competition in the industry (especially in the cable industry) AND a lack of local content requirements. CTV and Global should never be allowed to shirk their responsibility to create quality programming.

[Flag](#)

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NecessaryEvil ★ [1 month ago in reply to timw](#) 5 people liked this.

I disagree with your second culprit. I couldn't care less about local programming, so I really doubt local content requirements would help their cause. If a local station happens to make a good show for once, like Degrassi or something to that effect, then they'll do well in the marketplace. That's how a market economy works. Besides, who are you to say that CTV and Global MUST create quality programming? Your definition of 'quality' is no doubt different than mine, and shouldn't they be allowed to show whatever they feel like as long as its not illegal?

I do, however, agree that there isn't enough competition in the cable industry. I only have once choice when it comes to cable, and as far as I know that's considered a monopoly.

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luddwig ★ [3 weeks ago in reply to NecessaryEvil](#)

If you think with all the regulation and unavoidable cable/satellite monopoly that the Canadian Television market can somehow be made to work by the normal rules of the market economy. I'm all for competition, real competition, but you can't have competition under these circumstances.

I am not asking for much. Keep the 499 channels of homogenous American crap and political propaganda - just give me one channel with a Canadian and local viewpoint (or maybe 2 to have some competition), which I admit the CBC is doing less and less of a job doing. Every government that comes in further cuts their funding and then we wonder they don't produce such substance. The BBC does a great job, so there is no reason why we can't do it.

[Flag](#)

Like



douglaslangley ★ [1 month ago in reply to Roland](#) 9 people liked this.

Roland, you are absolutely right. However, for my perspective, the issue is not the private broadcasters and cable firms..... it is the CRTC that is trying to "protect" consumers and the TV industry. CRTC must open its eyes to the new generation of instant internet video access. Bundling and content regulation is obsolete. CRTC knows this. This open CRTC comment forum process will support the case for cheaper media access by all Canadians.

[Flag](#)

Like



Jennifer ★ [1 month ago in reply to douglaslangley](#) 4 people liked this.

I agree with you Douglas, get the CRTC out of my living room. I am big enough and smart enough to make my own informed decisions. I neither need or want the CRTC to "protect" me. We, the consumers, are the market and what we want and demand through our choices, will determine the future (hopefully). I say hopefully, because the stuffed shirt bureaucrats at the CRTC have been around for a very long time and will be hard to boot out.

[Flag](#)

Like



EJ ★ 1 month ago in reply to Jennifer 3 people liked this.

I concur with Jennifer; the CRTC as useful as it may have been in the past is in the present digital/HD/internet world ...not relevant... (present day monarchy?).

I'm old enough to recall coming home from school watching Family Theatre on the local CHCH TV on an OTA (over the air) antenna. I later subscribed to cable for the weather free stable pictures and for the additional programming...it was reasonable...it was the thing to do...

However I have recently cancelled my cable refusing to pay \$70-\$100/monthly.

I'm presently receiving 42 free OTA channels (Canadian and American) all in High definition. I watch commercial free movies and videos that I want on the internet streamed to my TV...these are choices we can all make....

The CRTC should modify its strategic plan to accomplish its stated goal..." The ultimate goal is to ensure that Canadians can benefit from the broadcasting system. "I may add ...NOT to get fleeced by the Cable /Satellite Companies.

It's about freedom of choice and reasonable remuneration for the products. My price for free OTA commercial/local/network HD programming is watching the commercials and supporting the sponsors. Cable/satellite companies should not be charging its customers for OTA programming.

My Recommendations:

1. CRTC to have less control. Allow for more choice and more competition...allow American Satellite companies to compete....This will benefit Canadians..

2. Allow more over the air channels ...the UHF band has many more sub channels and with HD....better picture than Cable/Satellite that compress signals.

3. OTA makes it affordable to all Canadians...If you want premium commercial free than pay for Affordable Cable/Satellite services...Choices...choices...choices...

4. The Canadian all news channel/weather channels should be OVER the AIR as free as Radio....this ensures that all Canadians have the opportunity to be equally informed...How does radio survive?...good programming...

5. I support free local over the air networks and channels...They have been part of the Canadian Tradition and culture ...Cable companies should pay the local channels if they charge consumers for these services...If not...then reduce their fees...Why should cable/satellite consumers pay for these channels when the rest of us receive them for free. with a simple 1.5X 2ft.flat UHF antenna (however you have to watch the commercials)

Flag

Like



ray_s ★ 1 month ago in reply to Jennifer 2 people liked this.

It is naive to look at the problem through market coloured glasses. If you are smart enough to make your own informed decisions you are the exception; there are still many otherwise informed people that regularly fall for the likes of the Nigerian bank scam. The individual who must confront large institutions is in an unequal fight. It is very difficult for one person alone to maintain a meaningful fight against such practices as negative option billing. At best he can receive a quiet refund that does not serve as a precedent for the many more who continue to pay without complaint because they feel powerless. Most individuals approach an issue with a spirit and presumption of fundamental honesty and fair play; this is in sharp contrast to a corporate spirit that depends solely upon the rules as they are written.

We need a regulatory agency, perhaps not in the form of the present CRTC, but at least something that can narrow the gap between individual and corporate thinking.

Flag

Like



Carl B ★ 1 month ago in reply to ray_s 1 person liked this.

The CRTC is not a consumer protection agency. It is no longer in the business of limiting monopoly or duopoly price gouging; it is no longer in the business of providing any meaningful response to consumer complaints. It exists solely to protect existing oligopoly players from new entrants and from foreign competition, while forcing space-filler quantities of "Canadian content" onto stations where the bulk of the non-news programming budget still goes to duplicative American content. Like most federal agencies, it is not immune to being used as a dumping ground for political patronage appointments nor as a "revolving door" where those who used to work for CRTC are now in regulatory affairs departments of the very corporations being regulated (or vice versa).

Fortunately, most of the channels on my OTA digital TV are regulated not by the CRTC but by the FCC.

[Flag](#)

Like



DaveA ★ 1 month ago in reply to douglaslangley 1 person liked this.

Protect us from what? The whole concept is a fraud.

But certainly agree about instant access. You say watch TV to kids, and they retort, can I go to YouTube?

Give us cheap high speed access and let us decide.

Maybe let the Japanese compete here, \$20/month for 160mb download is HDTV real time.

<http://bits.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/04/03/the-co...>

[Flag](#)

Like



John Wesley Chisholm ★ 1 month ago in reply to Roland 7 people liked this.

But you're not paying the fee to watch TV you're paying the fee so that you have the opportunity to watch TV. I've seen this agreement a lot on this forum. It's like saying you shouldn't have to pay for your raincoat because it doesn't often rain in... well name a place in Canada it doesn't often rain... but you get my point.

I suppose the broadcaster are taking your advice exactly. They are trying to work out a new business model that does not depend so much on advertising. Most people would agree that there is some value to having the opportunity to watch interesting TV. And in spite of some negativity, I think we would all agree that if we are going to have a Canada we should have some places to express our stories, POV, perspective, interests, creative outlets and ideas. It seems like the minimum bar if we are going to say we are a separate country regardless of the interest and respect we have for the music, characters, stories and general goings and doings of other nations.

It really is about stories. TV is not like a wagon wheel. TV is a way of telling a story. We've been telling stories to each other in the same basic way for about 40,000 years with little or no noticeable change in form, content or message except sporadic changes in the medium. Like colours on a story-teller's palette, new medium don't cancel each other out, they add to the vibrancy of story-telling. A trend toward people liking yellow doesn't undermine the importance of blue. Radio didn't kill the book and TV didn't kill the movies and in-spite of the song video didn't kill the radio star. they are all parts of the entertainment pyramid.

The argument about local TV is a divisive and dissembling argument made up by broadcasters to obscure the fact that they have failed miserably at providing a basic quality of service. don't be distracted.

[Flag](#)

Like

*Carl B* ★ 1 month ago in reply to John Wesley Chisholm 5 people liked this.

Shouldn't that be "The argument about local TV is a divisive and dissembling argument made up by broadcasters to obscure the fact that there largely is no such thing as local TV in this country, with big-city newscasts as the sole remaining local programming"?

There's a reason why, as CJOH-TV-8, the former CJSS-TV Cornwall can't manage to keep a spot on Vidéotron, and it's not for want of an A-grade OTA signal into "le West Island" in Montréal. The reality is that, with most stations network-owned, there's nothing of note on that station that isn't on CFCF-TV. Remember the days of "You Can't Do That on Television"? Well, you can't do that on television anymore... because local TV is already dead.

Most of these stations are controlled primarily through computers and broadcast automation. A computerised playlist is used, much like a jukebox or MP3 player, to bring up every ad, every programme, every station ID in pre-programmed sequence. In many cases, master control has been removed from local stations and centralised. The stations send their local ads and newscast to one central point, where they are dropped into a computer-generated feed along with the station ID and branding before being sent back to the transmitter site. Odd that, the less that still happens locally behind the scenes, the more the owners of these network owned-and-operated stations try to pass themselves off as "local TV" in order to collect this "TV tax" through a mix of must-carry protection and fee-for-carriage: two things that should never exist at the same time for the same station anywhere.

Flag

Like

*barbarahudson* ★ 3 weeks ago in reply to Carl B

And CFCF is for the most part just rebroadcasting CBS-3.1 and substituting their ads.

Sorry, CFCF, but I get CBS HD digital 3.1 and 3.2 just fine with a cheap indoor antenna, and a LOT better-looking than your local feed.

Local news? Give me a break. By the time it's on CFCF, the Internet has already done it to death and moved on.

They won't be around in 10 years anyway ... local news will be covered by anyone and everyone with their hi-def cell-phones and camcorders doing local podcasts, aggregated and broadcast on the Internet.

Flag

Like

*Frank M* ★ 1 month ago in reply to Roland 6 people liked this.

I agree with Roland. This whole debate is focused on the wrong thing!!! Why do regulators always look backward instead of forward? Why are they a decade or two behind the market? Corporate welfare, corporate bailouts, taxpayer funded incompetence... that's not supposed to be how government works. Digital and IP technology have changed the landscape, forever. So let's talk about adapting to it --- NOT paying for inefficient, unpopular, dead business models. let local stations close ---- if there's a market for their services then entrepreneurs will fill it... decades ago a broadcasting license was a license to print money... so too many of them were created ----

Advertising is STILL A HUGE BUSINESS. but it's flowing to new area's... TV will always draw a TON of advertising, but not all of it...

DONT TAX US, instead GET OUT OF THE WAY and let the market work... that way consumers will benefit most... from innovation, choice, and fair prices!!!!!!!

Flag

Like



Rick ★ [1 month ago in reply to Roland](#) 2 people liked this.

I am adamantly apposed to the extra tax & bail out & I agree with you comments. I like a menu pricing option. If I like 5 stations, I'll pay for 5 individual stations not a bundle & stations that I will probably never watch.

Here's a little diddy about our taxation situation.

Tax his land, Tax his bed, Tax the table at which he's fed.

Tax his work, Tax his pay, he works for peanuts anyway!

Tax his cow, Tax his goat, Tax his pants, Tax his coat.

Tax his tobacco, Tax his drink, Tax him if he tries to think.

Tax his car, Tax his gas, find other ways to tax his ass.

Tax all he has then let him know that you won't be done till he has no dough.

When he screams and hollers; then tax him some more, Tax him till he's good and sore.

Then tax his coffin, Tax his grave, Tax the sod in which he's laid.

When he's gone, do not relax, it's time to apply the inheritance tax.

Accounts Receivable Tax, Airline surcharge tax, Airline Fuel Tax, Airport Maintenance Tax, Building Permit Tax, Cigarette Tax, Corporate Income Tax, Death Tax, Dog License Tax, Driving Permit Tax, Environmental Tax (Fee), Excise Taxes, Federal Income Tax, Federal Unemployment (UI), Fishing License Tax, Food License Tax, Gasoline Tax (too much per litre), Gross Receipts Tax, Health Tax, Hunting License Tax, Hydro Tax, Inheritance Tax, Interest Tax, Liquor Tax, Luxury Taxes, Marriage License Tax, Medicare Tax, Mortgage Tax, Personal Income Tax, Property Tax, Poverty Tax, Prescription Drug Tax, Provincial Income and sales tax, Real Estate Tax, Recreational Vehicle Tax, Retail Sales Tax, Service Charge Tax, School Tax, Telephone Federal Tax, Telephone Federal, Provincial and Local Surcharge Taxes, Telephone Minimum Usage Surcharge Tax, Vehicle License Registration Tax, Vehicle Sales Tax, Water Tax, Watercraft Registration Tax, Well Permit Tax, Workers Compensation Tax

--- and in 2010 the HST

This is an opportunity to fight back & say enough is enough.

Flag

Like



StanF ★ [1 month ago in reply to Rick](#) 3 people liked this.

Rick

The CRTC has been told to consult.

They have no plans to do anything with comments registered here.

Write to your MP if your want something done.

Your MP will have one of his staff members send you a message saying the CRTC has been asked to consult.

You and all taxpayers will be stuck with the CRTC expense.

The end result will be the status quo.

Flag

Like



Rox ★ [1 month ago in reply to Roland](#) 2 people liked this.

Um... so you admit to buying a cable package for x amount of dollars per month and you don't watch some of the channels.

If you don't like paying for channels, you should cancel your current subscription because you're doing just that right now.

If you're going to post arguments, please makes some sense here guys.

Yes, it's a business and need to make profit. But if you're selling someone else's product as part of your package, you need to compensate that other person. It's simple. If you're going to exempt this special case and allow companies to sell another's product at no cost, then why not exempt the transfer of movie and music files on the internet? Technically, it's only a signal being transferred much like over-the-air broadcast.

Oh wait, I know why... lobbyists.

Flag

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Anon ★ [1 month ago in reply to Roland](#) 1 person liked this.

Roland - Let me guess - you live in a big city will all the amenities and 3 local stations right there in town.

How about if you lived in a rural area and your ONLY choice for TV is via satellite? You can get the weather information for any part of the USA but none for anyplace within 300 miles of where you live. No emergency warning system, no place for your local issues to be aired, no opportunity for your kids to be mentioned for their achievements in sports, etc. No way to showcase anything special to the outside world either.

Even the internet is still rather elusive out in the boonies. Highspeed is not an option and satellite outside of the budget.

Local TV is more than just entertainment. It is still a valuable communication tool.

Flag

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Bob2 ★ [1 month ago in reply to Roland](#) 1 person liked this.

I agree with this completely

Flag

Like



Rick ★ [1 month ago in reply to Roland](#) 1 person liked this.

I am adamantly apposed to the extra tax & bail out & I agree with you comments. I like a menu pricing option. If I like 5 stations, I'll pay for 5 individual stations not a bundle & stations that I will probably never watch.

Here's a little diddy about our taxation situation.

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Tax his work, Tax his pay, he works for peanuts anyway!

Tax his cow, Tax his goat, Tax his pants, Tax his coat.

Tax his tobacco, Tax his drink, Tax him if he tries to think.

Tax his car, Tax his gas, find other ways to tax his ass.

Tax all he has then let him know that you won't be done till he has no dough.

When he screams and hollers; then tax him some more, Tax him till he's good and sore.

Then tax his coffin, Tax his grave, Tax the sod in which he's laid.

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--- and in 2010 the HST

This is an opportunity to fight back & say enough is enough.

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James ★ [1 month ago in reply to Roland](#) 1 person liked this.

Agreed and well said

Flag

Like



James ★ [1 month ago in reply to Roland](#)

Agreed

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



nowoolinis ★ [1 month ago in reply to Roland](#)

here, here.

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



emadramzy ★ [1 month ago in reply to Roland](#)

I am 100% in agreement with this opinion

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[Like](#)



MD ★ [1 month ago in reply to Roland](#)

What you say""The ones that adapted to the new technology of automobiles from horse and buggies survived and those that refused to change with the new technology failed."" is absolutely false.

Those big shot administrators should got to Amish and Menonite (and also you) for lessons on administration money management and ways to work.As not adapted to new technology,these peoples can pratically survive better then the majority of us.

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Saeed ★ [3 weeks ago in reply to Roland](#)

An independent public broadcaster is vital to sustain the healthy flow of information in a democracy. It's why the BBC charges its viewers directly, and why we should do the same here in Canada.

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Michele K ★ [1 month ago](#) 58 people liked this.

No way does local TV deserve any funding from me, a cable subscriber.

I subscribe and pay FOR CABLE specifically because I do NOT want 'local' anything, which is available over-the-air for free (its actual value) anyway.

It is patently unfair to make me and others like me - the cable subscribers - pay for something we're the least likely to watch, while others who do watch, pay nothing for it.

I also find it totally outrageous that 'local' TV are even allowed to hi-jack cable and force local advertising feeds onto me - if anything, they should be paying cable for the privilege, and not vice versa.

The cost of cable (thanks to those ridiculous 'packages' of services you force onto us already, most of which none of us wants or watches) is already much too high, so should it go up one penny in support of 'local' channels, I will be cutting my cable package way back, if not completely, and buying a nice, big antenna.

I am sick to death of being treated like a cash cow for the CRTC's force-fed experiments in Canadian culture, and this latest nonsense really is the last straw for me.

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Rick ★ [1 month ago in reply to Michele K](#) 13 people liked this.

Michele K, you already pay for local TV in your cable bill. It is under the "basic" service rate, and cable companies charge you for it and keep all the money. The problem is cable companies, they are the cash cows. Your bill has gone up 4 times the rate of inflation in the last 5 years. Since cable deregulation, cable bills have increased by as much as 70% for Rogers and 67% for Shaw customers. It is time to level the playing field, and let cable pay local stations like they do in the US.

Flag

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Amber P. ★ [1 month ago in reply to Rick](#) 3 people liked this.

I totally agree with you Rick! Cable companies are just cash cows looking for more money. The cable companies should have to pay the local TV stations the money they get extra from us that is for the basic service rate.... I like having local TV when I want it, so I can keep up to date with what is going on in our country.

Flag

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DaveA ★ [1 month ago in reply to Amber P.](#) 1 person liked this.

So which local company do you work for?

I suppose to letting others opt out at zero penalty or cost is out of the question too?

If it is, then come clean. 99.999% think they are being ripped off enough. And CRTC ranks right behind CCRA in unpopularity. Because 160mb/sec Internet is \$20 in Japan, cell phones, TV and other regulated monopolies are all the same. Now the local stations want corporate welfare tax on my bill?

I am not very far from canceling cable TV, an easy way to save bucks. Which is why I suspect Shaw does not support this. They know the unsubscribe rate will hurt them as they have studied the elasticity of the market.

Good part about canceling cable is less GST. Don't need to buy a new TV, just use the Internet.

Did you know you can read more concise content from news on line in 5 minutes than you can get out of local news in 60 minutes?

Flag

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barbarahudson ★ [3 weeks ago in reply to DaveA](#)

Get an indoor antenna and try it out. If you have an HD tv, for less than the cost of 1 months' cable service you can probably get enough digital channels to keep you happy.

Of course, they'll be US digital channels - but CTV is 95% US content anyway - and their "news" is "old news" by the time they broadcast it. The Internet has already killed off "local news", which is the only real argument for "local tv".

Can't say I miss it since the quality got so poor the last few years.

Flag

Like



nowoolinis ★ [1 month ago in reply to Rick](#) 3 people liked this.

negative, The cable co's charge you to provide service and distribute programming to your home. (200+ channels, internet, Phone, Local programming, Entertainment) They

do not, nor are they obliged to pay broadcasters for programming that has 25%+ of its time filled with advertising. They do however pay into a fund intended to support Local programming in smaller communities not privy to OTA broadcasts. In reality the broadcasters should pay for the distribution to the intended audience and provide a subsidy to the viewers who are forced to endure those lengthy periods of "station identification".

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[calmzone1](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to Rick](#)

Well said!

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



[DaveA](#) ★ [4 weeks ago in reply to Rick](#)

Deregulated? Sure could have fooled me. I don't see 3 or 4 cable operators in honest competition in my area. Sure do not. Want real deregulation, let big US companies come in. Or at least let local companies form without having to spend a billion on Ottawa CRTC appeasement.

Look at the cell business fiasco, a new company wants to compete and the incumbants were trying their dirtiest best to restrict your options to the happy prices fixing going on.

While she pays for local cable, it is Rogers/Shaw/.. that supply it but no money goes to the local companies. The trade off is simple, guaranteed access to the consumer. A guarantee if access to the consumer as you can't order cable TV at all and not avoid getting the locals.

What is wrong here is that locals want both. Would they give up guaranteed access for a monthly stipend and allow consumers a no-charge no penalty opt out? I doubt it. What they want is a corporate welfare tax imposed on everyone. Which is wrong and why I will unsubscribe to cable TV if it happens.

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[fbergeron](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to Michele K](#) 8 people liked this.

I guess we will watch shows like "Flashpoint", "Dragon's Den" and "Corner Gas" on network like NBC, ABC or CBS . . .

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



[red5](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to fbergeron](#) 5 people liked this.

Flashpoint is available on CBS. Corner Gas is done. But the point is that there is good, quality, Canadian programming available; however only the CBC is producing and airing it. Aside from Degrassi, CTV had only one program recently that was not co-produced by a US network (Corner Gas) that aired in Prime Time. Global tries every so often, but it rarely sticks.

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[NecessaryEvil](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to fbergeron](#) 3 people liked this.

You actually watch that crap?

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[joel](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to NecessaryEvil](#) 3 people liked this.

Exactly our problem. Because canadian shows are not as well advertised, not as well funded, they end up being sideline and misjudged. Have you even watch more then ten minutes of any of those shows yet?

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[NecessaryEvil](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to Joel](#) 3 people liked this.

I have indeed tried to watch all three. None of them are worth my time.

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



[DaveA](#) ★ [4 weeks ago in reply to fbergeron](#)

Good idea. And get Cramer, Shark Tank and SciFi.... I also used to like Bloomberg. I even saw more BBC when I lived int eh USA! And BBC in the UK is far superior to the excuse we call CBC. Even Fox is good for a laugh. Get the new Canadian made good stuff like Atlantis a year or two early, Sorry, Corner Gas, Trailer Park Trash and Muslim on the Prarie don't do it for me. When it comes to local TV and having lived abroad for 10 years, I realize first hand just how pathetically myopic and manipulated Canadian media really is.

[Flag](#)

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[Alan](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to Michele K](#) 8 people liked this.

You are clearly ignorant with the facts. If you read carefully, it is the cable company taking the local broadcaster feeds and then selling it. The local channels that are bundled in your packages are NOT being paid for. I repeat NOT.

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[BJ](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to Alan](#) 11 people liked this.

Who cares about local programming!

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



[DaveA](#) ★ [4 weeks ago in reply to BJ](#)

Not I.

I can read one whole hour of prime time TV news on the internet in less than 5 minutes. Why would I watch local TV? You an I understand, but others living in the past or in other people pockets probably differ.

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



[Jon_Q_Public](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to Alan](#) 9 people liked this.

Alan - you're wrong on this one. Local TV stations get their revenue from advertising. Advertisers pay for TV programming, and you pay for the advertisements when you buy products that advertise. TV stations want to try and fleece the consumers by double dipping at the trough ...

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[Alan](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to Jon_Q_Public](#) 3 people liked this.

Yes advertising is a stream of revenue but NOT from the cable company. And there is no double dipping because the advertisers goes directly to the local broadcasters. The cable company is taking the feed for free. That's the main point.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)

[red5](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to Alan](#) 3 people liked this.

The cable company is increasing the number of people who have access to the station, and the advertising on the station. In any other industry, it would be the cable company that would be demanding money from the local TV channels.

Think about it; this is comparable to a taxi driver, with local TV being the passenger. When was the last time you expected the taxi driver to pay you?

[Flag](#)[Like](#)

[allan](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to Alan](#) 5 people liked this.

Allan the cable and satellite are forced to carry local tv whether the customer likes or dislikes it. The local provider makes their money by advertisements and they overpay for american programming and local tv stations are owned by huge corporations and the cbc is funded by the taxpayers

[Flag](#)[Like](#)

[Alan](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to allan](#) 3 people liked this.

Since you mentioned the CBC, for what it's worth they are a premier news broadcaster and reputable worldwide. And btw, CBC Radio (#1 in Canada) has 0 revenue from advertising because they aren't allowed to have any by mandate. Therefore, the corporation is dependent on TV ads. And even though they are funded by taxpayers I believe they are mandated to have at least 30% in recoverable revenues.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)

[DaveA](#) ★ [4 weeks ago in reply to Alan](#)

Yep, CBC shows better quality abroad than at home because the crap they push to us will not sell.

Yes, I have been in a hotel room abroad watching CBC... and even then most prefer BBC or CNN.

CBC is a branch of the government pandering government appeasement. It is why AD-Scam, Mulroney and other government foul ups were on the internet 6 months to years before CBC would touch it. CBC only releases bad news of the government when everyone already knows about it from other sources. Name us one story they released putting the government in bad light in the last 20 years!

[Flag](#)[Like](#)

[liam](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to Jack](#) 5 people liked this.

Yep.... the cable company is selling a distribution system to allow reception of signal. In many cases across the country they enhance the reception of local channels. There are regulatory concessions made by the cable companies called non duplicating substitution so that the local TV can maintain their advertising base...

[Flag](#)[Like](#)

[DaveA](#) ★ [4 weeks ago in reply to liam](#)

I call the practice signal hijacking. Riding your adverts on other peoples signal. Also slipping parts on the floor for more ads than the originating source has aloted time for.

Personally, I think the practice should be outright banned as illegal. Citing it is signal theft. Heck, if you or I tried it we would wind up sued into oblivion and in jail. An illegal act made legal buy the CRTC special interests.

[Flag](#)

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nowoolinis ★ [1 month ago in reply to Jack](#) 3 people liked this.

Ignorance is bliss, and is apparent as you watch all those commercials built into the local programs you watch.

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



Don Dutchak ★ [3 weeks ago in reply to nowoolinis](#)

Living in an area where we have shaw every ten minutes telling us the private companies are going to be forcing us to pay more, and yet they think nothing ot stealing local network signals for our area as if they are paying for it. NO, they are simply charging us for it. I support local TV and think it is vital to the smaller areas served by CBC CTV & Global to keep us up to date with the local service we are receiving / Its not broken so leave it alone.

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



NecessaryEvil ★ [1 month ago in reply to Jack](#) 3 people liked this.

Alan, let me tell you something. I don't care who gets paid what by who. All I know is that if local stations are allowed to 'tax' us on the signals, then I'll be paying to watch really bad programming twice. THAT'S the main point.

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



Joel ★ [1 month ago in reply to NecessaryEvil](#) 3 people liked this.

Are you being "Taxed" by the broadcasters or the providers? The CRTC went out of their way to say that this fee should not be passed on to consumers. Unfortunately, because of hidden fees, they can't just make a rule against it.

[Flag](#)

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DaveA ★ [4 weeks ago in reply to Joel](#)

Added fees will ALWAYS be passed onto the consumers. No way to prevent it and still get a signal.

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



Carl B ★ [1 month ago in reply to Jack](#) 2 people liked this.

How are local channels not being paid for? They're being paid for by advertising. There's also that pesky 1.5% TV tax known as the Local Programme Improvement Fund (LPIF) being levied.

[Flag](#)

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Cynthia Burgess ★ [1 month ago](#) 29 people liked this.

I have worked in Canada's broadcasting industry for 20 years. Canadian content has always

been of the LOWEST priority. I have witnessed cutbacks and layoffs during that entire time (and been affected personally) - and yet the big TV broadcasters continue to shell out huge dollars for American programming.

If the TV broadcasters are given more money, there's no guarantee it will go to Canadian content and creating Canadian jobs. The industry should have anticipated long ago that change was in the wind. Why should taxpayers have to subsidize poor business decisions?

[Flag](#)

Like



[gerrycurry](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to Cynthia Burgess](#) 12 people liked this.

I don't watch TV to pay for Canadian jobs or support Canadian programming. I watch TV for knowledge or entertainment. I don't care where it comes from or who made it. If it's good I watch it. If it isn't I don't. And most of the CRTC-mandated Canadian content is mediocre at best but usually embarrassing trash.

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[Jennifer](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to gerrycurry](#) 1 person liked this.

You nailed it gerrycurry!

[Flag](#)

Like



[DaveA](#) ★ [4 weeks ago in reply to gerrycurry](#)

Agreed, but we get to pay for the overhead of such stupid decisions. While subsidising some of the trash, we get less money for the good stuff and just pay more all around.

It is also why Rogers/Shaw/Bell/Telus want to filter/throttle/QOS the internet connections. Net Neutrality is where the real war is going on because TV is moving to the Internet no matter what the CRTC and local stations want.

[Flag](#)

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[bulkspin](#) ★ [3 weeks ago in reply to gerrycurry](#)

Have you ever heard of a show called 'Zed'? It was way the head of its time and is still unsurpassed. It was the best integration of the Internet and Television. It was the BEST showcase of Canadian Art of all types. It was DEFINITELY worth watching. It was CBC at its finest.

It is gone.

A law should have been made to FORCE CBC to continue and expand in this direction.

I am serious. It blew youtube away. It was so far above Youtube that a comparison cannot really be made.

[Flag](#)

Like



[scott1515](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to Cynthia Burgess](#) 11 people liked this.

Like Cynthia, I did almost ten years in Canadian television, in news. Every year we saw our network owners cut back on locally produced programming and wiggle as much as they could within their licenses, as the CRTC did nothing. Canadians should not be asked to bear the cost of the broadcasters' inability to deliver the returns to their shareholders that the markets want. I don't often say this, but let the market rule. In this instance, the broadcasters have been doing it to their stations for years. We're being used to fund a cleverly crafted strategy if the CRTC rules on the side of 'local television.' It barely exists. I'd bet CTV would be delighted to cancel all local news except the insipid CFTO and broadcast that across Ontario.

[Flag](#)

Like

*petergomery* ★ [1 month ago in reply to scott1515](#) 2 people liked this.

As a former TV journalist, I can assure you that my tenure was based on TV viewers and the corresponding revenue from advertisers. When viewership declined so did revenue and the station changed its format including me! This is what the free market is all about. I went on to other successes and so did the TV station., largely because of the advent of cable and the corresponding increase in viewership. The TV station should have paid the cable for its enlarged audience and enhanced advertising revenues.

[Flag](#)

Like

*rick* ★ [1 month ago in reply to Cynthia Burgess](#) 7 people liked this.

Tax payers are not being asked to subsidize TV stations. The current challenges for local TV have nothing to do with "bad business decisions". The problem is cable companies take the signals and programming from TV stations, charge you, the customer, for the channels, and dont remit anything back to the stations. The only one being subsidized here is the cable companies who are allowed by regulation to take signals and programming without paying for it.

[Flag](#)

Like

*Carl B* ★ [1 month ago in reply to rick](#) 5 people liked this.

If CTV and Global don't like the prime position on the local cable dial which they have been given for free, perhaps these slots should be given to in-region stations such as WNYF which are currently not carried at all and would be desperate to obtain the additional audience share

[Flag](#)

Like

*NecessaryEvil* ★ [1 month ago in reply to Cynthia Burgess](#) 4 people liked this.

Wow, I'm impressed (no sarcasm here). Someone in the local industry that sides with cable companies. I just don't know how to say this any more clearly - I don't think I should have to pay for channels I don't watch. If Canadian content was actually good, then maybe I'd have more sympathy for local stations but from what I've seen, their best shows are from south of the border. Couldn't they use that money to pay for some talent instead? Just a thought...

[Flag](#)

Like

*Jim* ★ [1 month ago](#) 25 people liked this.

1. If they want to upgrade to compete then that is their decision and part of running a business. If they can't run it effectively and make money, then like any other business they tighten their belts or close.
2. The only support they need is good management and business sense. That is not the publics responsibility.

[Flag](#)

Like

*roger* ★ [1 month ago in reply to Jim](#) 4 people liked this.

Jim, good comments, but you have it backwards. The cable companies are allowed by regulation to take signals and programming from local TV stations and they dont have to pay. This is just wrong. Imagine if you were a shoe maker and you had to give away your shoes away for free to somebody who then resold them and kept all the money.

[Flag](#)

Like

*ssavinkoff* ★ [1 month ago in reply to roger](#) 3 people liked this.

Roger, maybe you are too young to remember, but before cable all broadcasts were OTA. Along came CATV (Community Antenna Television) more commonly know as cable vision. CATV benefited the local broadcasters by getting their signal to more customers which was good for advertising \$\$\$\$. The consumers got a better quality signal and more channel choices. So CATV was a service available to both the broadcasters and the consumer. Broadcasters are not forced to use CATV just like consumers are not forced to purchase cable vision.

So as a service, CATV (cable vision) should be paid for by both the broadcaster and the consumer if they choose to use their service.

Flag

Like

*red5* ★ [1 month ago in reply to roger](#) 2 people liked this.

If the shoemaker was giving away their shoes for free to everyone else who walked into their shop, then yes, the resellers should receive them for free. The resellers are charging for the convenience of "one stop" shopping, much like Costco charges a membership fee.

TV is not a standard retail environment. The metaphor's do not make sense.

Flag

Like

*nowoolinis* ★ [1 month ago in reply to roger](#) 1 person liked this.

But if the shoe maker was given tens of thousands to place a nike logo or two on the shoe, would the truck driver taking the shoe to walmart have to pay the shoemaker also?

Flag

Like

*Paul O* ★ [1 month ago in reply to nowoolinis](#)

You're kidding, right?

The shoe Manufacturer is paid by the Distributor, who is paid by the Retailer, who is paid by the Consumer.

The truck drivers are paid by the Distributor, just as the cable installers are paid by the Cable Cos (who act as both Distributor and Retailer).

Flag

Like

*Denis* ★ [1 month ago in reply to Jim](#) 3 people liked this.

Agree 100%

Flag

Like

*facebook-800445251* ★ [1 month ago](#) 18 people liked this.

Once again Canada is woefully behind in the adaptation of new technical standards and once again the CRTC is to blame.

Stop coddling the broadcasters and BDUs! Do your job, regulate!

If BDUs can't afford to make the digital transition then let them go under. Open up competition by eliminating or reducing the Canadian ownership rule and let foreign companies come in and

give Canadians the technological infrastructure that the BDUs refuse to pay for.

Canadian content can be supported without giving handouts and favourable industry conditions to BDUs and broadcasters. Fund Canadian content directly through the NFB, Telefilm, Candian Council for the Arts, Canadian Television Fund, etc.

It is about time Canada applied some principles of competition to the broadcast sector and stopped propping up inefficient, obstructionist oligopolies.

Canadians are not being done any favours by the CRTC continuing to bow to the demands of BDUs and broadcasters. Look out for Canadians consumers first, let the broadcast sector figure out on its own how to make money. It isn't the job of the CRTC to ensure the current players in the sector maintain their market share.

Encourage innovation and excellence, not stagnation and obstruction.

[Flag](#)

Like



[scott1515](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to facebook-800445251](#) 6 people liked this.

I agree 100%. Relax the ownership rules. Let Canadian content survive by merit, not regulation. Technology has made cultural protectionism irrelevant. The new, legitimate driver of television should be consumer choice.

[Flag](#)

Like



[Ray_S](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to scott1515](#) 2 people liked this.

It's not that simple, and it's not just a manner of ownership. American movies and TV shows are often made in Canada because it's cheaper, and it's fun to spot sites here in Canada masquerading as some US city. The aim of owners is to improve the bottom line, and that is what differentiates Canadian culture from American cultural industries. Having a potential market that is 10 times the size of the Canadian market gives producers a lot more freedom to lower the per viewer costs of a programme while putting greater efforts into marketing. What objective criteria do you have for saying the US programmes are better? Or have you just been conned by the marketing machine? It's nice to sing the mantra of consumer choice, but not at the expense of the ignoring the dark side of such choice and what it does to one's values.

Protection of local community based television, as well protection of national programming is to some extent essential. If this means that a SMALL package of stations get preferred access, I'm OK with that; it serves a small but important market that should not be at the whim of the tyranny of the majority. 50 or 100 channels is well beyond small.

I do put most of the blame on the unregulated greed of the cable companies, and though this might seem to have me leaning in favour of the producing broadcasters, it's far from unqualified support. The internet has brought a tremendous paradigm shift to the nature of communications by introducing a medium that is hot beyond McLuhan's wildest dreams. Unless and until the regulators and the broadcasting industry come to terms with this the only promise is for continued turmoil. TV remains a cold medium that does not provide a reliable hitching post for their horses.

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[Paul O](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to facebook-800445251](#) 2 people liked this.

You say this now, after the CRTC gave the cable co's all sorts of rate increases so that subscribers could pay for infrastructure improvements, while their shareholders benefit?

[Flag](#)

Like



Chris ★ 1 month ago in reply to facebook-800445251 2 people liked this.

A quick correction on this one: by and large the BDUs HAVE converted to digital technology. That's how they can offer digital specialty services, HDTV and VOD.

The issue here is that the BROADCASTERS (e.g. CTV, Global), who, formerly, were required to convert all their analog over-the-air transmitters to digital, are now saying that they won't do the conversion except in the major urban markets. That means, after 2011, NO over-the-air signals in markets under 300,000. After that time, if you don't live in one of the big cities, rabbit ears or an antenna won't work because there will be no off-air signal to receive.

That's what the issue raised by this question is about.

Finally, just to be clear, the broadcasters do not intent to convert their non-urban transmitters to digital even if they succeed in getting new fees from the BDUs.

Flag

Like



Carl B ★ 1 month ago in reply to Chris 1 person liked this.

Perhaps requiring almost every station in the nation to turn off analogue and turn on digital on the same day (Aug 31, 2011) is going to be a disaster and unmitigated chaos. The Americans weren't able to pull off a single (Feb 17, 2009) cutoff even though most of their stations had been simulcasting a digital signal on a second channel at great expense for years, with their government had been partially funding converter boxes for viewers for close to a full year and with new analogue-only TV's banned from interstate commerce since at least 2007.

If any OTA reception gets through this one single national deadline undisrupted, it will be in communities where viewers have already converted to directly receive US DTV programming and can continue to watch US locals while the domestic stations try to get their acts together.

Flag

Like



Chris ★ 1 month ago in reply to facebook-800445251 2 people liked this.

A quick correction on this one: by and large the BDUs HAVE converted to digital technology. That's how they can offer digital specialty services, HDTV and VOD.

The issue here is that the BROADCASTERS (e.g. CTV, Global), who, formerly, were required to convert all their analog over-the-air transmitters to digital, are now saying that they won't do the conversion except in the major urban markets. That means, after 2011, NO over-the-air signals in markets under 300,000. After that time, if you don't live in one of the big cities, rabbit ears or an antenna won't work because there will be no off-air signal to receive.

That's what the issue raised by this question is about.

Finally, just to be clear, the broadcasters do not intent to convert their non-urban transmitters to digital even if they succeed in getting new fees from the BDUs.

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Carl B ★ 1 month ago in reply to Chris 1 person liked this.

Glendive, Montana (pop. 4700) has digital OTA TV. No off-air signal to receive is just plain senseless.

Flag

Like



NecessaryEvil ★ [1 month ago in reply to facebook-800445251](#)

I'd hire you for a position at the CRTC if I could. Very good ideas, all of them.

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



Mike ★ [1 month ago](#) 17 people liked this.

When we search for local programming on TV, I find it highly ironic that the majority of this programming comes from the cable/satellite providers. Shaw has a channel devoted entirely to community events such as civic election results, and city council meetings, local sporting events, etc. CTV, GLOBAL, CBC do not carry this programming and they are the ones asking to be compensated for producing local television????

WHY should CBC, a Canadian CROWN corporation get involved in this debate? 1 BILLION in annual subsidies and they want more? What a waste of taxpayers money!

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Carl B ★ [1 month ago in reply to Mike](#) 8 people liked this.

Global is simply not local TV. Even in Ottawa, all that's coming from the transmitter in Camp Fortune, Québec is just a rebroadcast of some Toronto station. The same is true of quite a few others (CITY, OMNI, Sun, CTS) licensed to serve the national capital region.

If it's not local, it shouldn't be asking for a subsidy on the pretext of broadcast localism.

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Joel ★ [1 month ago in reply to Carl B](#)

At least it's local to Ontario and Canada. Most French channels are repeaters as well. However, choosing in between repeaters and nothing, repeaters should easily win.

[Flag](#)

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digi_girl ★ [1 month ago in reply to Carl B](#)

Carl B - Global does not have a local station in Ottawa so of course they do not serve the local Ottawa market! The only station they have in Ontario is Toronto. All over the air stations are local somewhere.

[Flag](#)

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Carl B ★ [1 month ago in reply to digi_girl](#) 1 person liked this.

In eastern Ontario, CIII-TV is less local than WPBS-TV. That it is "local somewhere" is meaningless if that 'somewhere' is 300-400km out-of-region.

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Jack ★ [1 month ago in reply to Mike](#) 6 people liked this.

CBC is one of premier newscast in the world. Many other major broadcaster in world gets news from the Crown Corporation. If you think 1B is a lot of money, I am glad you are not running a 10,000 employee corporation. Put things in perspective here please. The cost of bailing out the auto industry was 30B with less the amount of employees and a business going to ZERO.

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[NecessaryEvil](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) [in reply to Jack](#) 2 people liked this.

Um, I didn't want to bail out the auto industry either. Bad comparison dude.

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



[bill](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) [in reply to Mike](#) 1 person liked this.

Lets not wring our hands over Shaw or Roger's community channel funding... both companies get to keep money back from their contribution to the Canadian production fund... There is an advantage to this to the cable companies bottom line in many ways....

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[John_in_SurreyBC](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) 14 people liked this.

NO public funding should be provided. Simsubbing should be discontinued in its entirety. If the stations cannot produce programming that attracts and audience, they should no be in business.

[Flag](#)

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[Carl B](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) [in reply to John in SurreyBC](#) 7 people liked this.

Simultaneous substitution has never served the public interest. Not only is it little more than legalised theft of advertising revenue (you paid for the right to run that show on your station, not for the ability to tamper with another station's broadcast signal) but it only encourages programming duplicative of that already available from affiliates of the originating network.

Ban this practice and domestic stations will be forced to actually offer unique programming instead of a useless, low-quality downconversion of programmes already freely available in crystal-clear OTA HDTV simply by pointing an antenna across the US border.

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[jimcassidy](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) 14 people liked this.

Negotiation for value of their signal is still a red herring. The financial difficulties of broadcasters where caused by broadcasters and poor decisions made by the CRTC in allowing major expansions of their companies. Why should I be responsible for someone elses poor decisions. Enough is enough. We pay enough for one public national broadcaster and provincial public broadcasters. If the private networks cannot make it then let them close down.

One wonders how so many US markets could afford the transition to digital and in particular small markets with only repeater stations. The transition has been known for many years and is just another example of brinkmanship by the private broadcasters who want everyone else to pay. No change in the deadline is required.

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[Carl B](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) [in reply to jimcassidy](#) 6 people liked this.

In the US, the Federal Communications Commission has allowed low-power TV stations (up to 150kW of UHF or 3kW of VHF) to remain in analogue indefinitely. This would include most of the repeater stations. Why are Canadian broadcasters not being given this option?

If Canada were to give its broadcasters the option to convert their rebroadcast transmitter licenses to low-power TV status, many small-town UHF transmitters such as TVOntario or CBLFT (Radio-Canada) would likely already be near or below these power levels (there are about a hundred TVOntario's province-wide, mostly low-power and originating nothing locally). That would save an enormous and unnecessary digital conversion effort.

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Like



Carlos Murmal ★ [1 month ago](#) 13 people liked this.

I love Canadian stations. Look at all the Canadian programming they provide:

All My Children
30 Rock
Jimmy Kimmel
America's Got Talent
Kilmora: Life in the Fab Lane
America's Toughest Jobs
Cold Case
Grey's Anatomy
Supernanny
Eli Stone
Parks and Recreation
Gossip Girl
Battlestar Galactica
Dirty Sexy Money
High School Musical
Fringe
The Simpsons
Tonight Show with Conan O'Brien
Jimmy Fallon
60 Minutes
Mad Men
Missing
One Life to Live
America's Next Top Model
Private Practice
Pushing Daisies
Samantha Who?
Supernanny
Terminator: Sarah Conner Chronicles
The Big Bang Theory
The Ellen DeGeneres Show
The Mentalist
The Jay Leno Show
TMZ
TMZ Weekend
Two and a Half Men
Whose Line is it Anyways
Who Wants to be a Millionaire
Wife Swap
Live with Regis and Kelly
The View
The NFL
The PGA
America's Funniest Home Videos
Bold and the Beautiful
Oprah
General Hospital
Dr. Phil
Access Hollywood
The Amazing Race
Law and Order
Law and Order: CI
Law and Order: SVU
CSI
CSI: New York
CSI: Miami
Don't Forget the Lyrics
NCIS

NCIS: Los Angeles
The Daily Show
The Colbert Report
So You Think You Can Dance
American Idol
Ghost Whisperer
Hole in the Wall
Numbers
Prison Break
Heroes
My Own Worst Enemy
House
90210
Kitchen Nightmares
Bones
Survivor
The Office
Kath and Kim
Life on Mars
Life
The Ex-List
King of the Hill
Family Guy
American Dad
Brothers and Sisters
'Til Death
How I Met Your Mother
Do Not Disturb
Worst Week
Boston Legal
Knight Rider
Deal or No Deal
E! Ture Hollywood Story
My Name is Earl
Are You Smarter than a 5th Grader?
Dateline NBC
Eleventh Hour
20/20
Snoop Dogg's Father Hood
Forbes Specials
Extreme Makeover: Home Edition
The Real Housewives of Orange County
Cougar Town
Modern Family
Curb Your Enthusiasm
The Biggest Loser
Judge Judy

I knew it was bad, but I didn't think it was this bad. This list is longer than my grocery list for a full year. Pathetic - all Canadian broadcasters should be ashamed.

[Flag](#)

Like



[Dave Jan](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to Carlos Murmal](#) 1 person liked this.

By all means, feel free to invest and put to air a Canadian Network. Let's see how well you do with the 100% Canadian programming you so richly desire.

[Flag](#)

Like



[NecessaryEvil](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to Carlos Murmal](#)

Why is Curb Your Enthusiasm at the bottom of your list? It deserves to be at least in the top

ten.

[Flag](#)

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[digi_girl](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) [in reply to Carlos Murmal](#)

Why Carlos? Because people like you choose to only watch US programming? So broadcasters can only make money selling advertising during US programming to subsidize the creation of Canadian content that they are required to air by the CRTC?

[Flag](#)

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[Ray S](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) [in reply to Carlos Murmal](#)

There must be some significance to mentioning "Supernanny" twice. Is she so desperately needed? ... and you "lost" "Desperate Housewives" from the list. ;-)

"Canadian Idol" was every bit as good as its American counterpart yet it failed to go on the air this year because it could not get the sponsors.

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[Tracy](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) 13 people liked this.

Sure, local stations should have the power to negotiate. However, that negotiation has to be fair for all. If they want to charge for their service I want the ability to decline their service and not be forced to pay for it.

Crappy businesses go under. This is not 1960. Information is available through a variety of sources. If your business model involves high costs and not enough value for the customer then someone will take your place with a better product at a better price. That is called capitalism and is something that socailists and bureaucrats need to learn and allow.

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[NecessaryEvil](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) [in reply to Tracy](#)

I love your idea - if they can charge for their service then we should be able to decline it. But in defence of all the socialists out there, many of them do understand the benefits of a free market economy. Try not to pigeonhole them like that.

[Flag](#)

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[tomsteadman](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) 13 people liked this.

There is a bigger issue here: What benefit does the CRTC bring to the table in Canadian broadcasting? My response is "nothing". You force me to purchase services I do not want, you create an industry totally insensitive to its listening audience and you steal industry profits to subsidize content production.

Local stations and cable companies should negotiate their buy/sell conditions. Get the CRTC out of the issue.

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



[Jon_Q_Public](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) [in reply to tomsteadman](#) 11 people liked this.

Amen brother.

We should be discussing how to abolish the useless CRTC. Everytime they get involved it ends up costing the consumer \$\$.

Let the market decide who survives.

[Flag](#)

Like



rbpj ★ [1 month ago](#) 13 people liked this.

I think that broadcasters should be able to charge the cable/satellite networks for access to their programs. I do not feel that the cable/satellite companies should be allowed to pass on this fee to the consumers. For years we have been hijacked by cable companies. There was no competition because neighbourhoods that were built were assigned to a particular cable company. If you did not like the service you received, the prices that they charged or what they offered (how they bundled the channels) well that was too bad. There was no competition. As well the CRTC approved the merge of some cable companies so that (for example) my sister who lived 1km away and was serviced by Mclean-Hunter paid less for services then myself (who was stuck with Rogers) when Rogers bought out Mclean-Hunter. In terms of paying for Digital - Rogers charges me an ADDITIONAL monthly fee to have Digital even though I don't have a choice. Kind of similar to Bell Canada who charges you a monthly fee for touch tone service even though you can't have rotary service anymore. I am tired of paying through the nose for my cable tv. I am tired of not having a choice in what channels I get (I end up paying for a lot of other crap). The cable companies are charging you a basic cable fee and then another fee for your specialty channels. As far as I am concerned the basic cable fee they charge me (for the free signals they pick up from the current broadcasters) should be more than ample to pay the broadcasters. Bottom line is that I should not have to pay one red penny more for receiving these channels.

[Flag](#)

Like



Jim ★ [1 month ago](#) in reply to [rbpj](#) 5 people liked this.

Broadcasters really have nothing good to offer as seen every day on the boob tube so until they manage themselves better and tighten their belts they deserve ZIP!!!

[Flag](#)

Like



red5 ★ [1 month ago](#) in reply to [rbpj](#) 1 person liked this.

You have choice; satellite or antenna. You are paying for a clear signal, and the ability to have more choice, not for the local programming. Are the charges for basic service high? Yes, but the charges are for infrastructure and channels not available over the air. If you don't like it, switch or cancel.

[Flag](#)

Like



Carl B ★ [1 month ago](#) in reply to [red5](#)

Depending where you live, you do not have choice. Too many tenement buildings have removed their master-antenna OTA TV systems years ago.

[Flag](#)

Like



mikey12345 ★ [1 month ago](#) 13 people liked this.

Essentially you want the viewers to pay for the TV signal now instead of the advertisers as has been the norm since TV first began broadcasting. The service the cable companies provide has nothing to do with local programming funding, it is a service of convenience, they give us the channels with clear signals and ease of use, as opposed to having to play with rabbit ears and an outside antennae.

if you want to make me pay for the lousy TV produced in this country, i'll just go with my antennae that is still attached to my house and get the programs for free.

[Flag](#)

Like



barbarahudson ★ [3 weeks ago](#) [in reply to mikey12345](#)

> if you want to make me pay for the lousy TV produced in this
> country, i'll just go with my antennae that is still attached
> to my house and get the programs for free.

You should - the quality of the digital signal you'll get OTA is far better than the recompressed one you'll get from your satellite dish.

That it's free is just a bonus.

[Flag](#)

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Bob Fleming ★ [1 month ago](#) 12 people liked this.

I think that local stations should be able to raise enough capital through the many, many advertisements they show during their programming, without being subsidized further. If I am to pay the equivalent of a tv tax, then I want advertisement free programming.

[Flag](#)

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Big Boy ★ [1 month ago](#) 10 people liked this.

1. Implement Digital TV now. Local TV stations are trying to get the Cable companies to pay for their transition to Digital. If local TV dies then good riddance to Bad TV.

2. There should be NO incentive out of Public funds or from Cable etc for Local TV. Most of the local TV programming in this country is crap anyhow. You want me to pay for 30 minutes of bad news coverage - on your bike. I get my news from the internet all around the world.

[Flag](#)

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Carl B ★ [1 month ago](#) [in reply to Big Boy](#) 1 person liked this.

The transition to digital TV is being forced so that UHF frequencies currently allocated to OTA TV stations above channel 51 can be taken away and sold to mobile telephony providers for not-insubstantial amounts of money.

Why is the federal government not using one dime of this money to fund the cost of digital conversion? About 10% of the money the US FCC raked in through UHF spectrum auctions from this conversion went to fund the NTIA converter box coupons.

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vandrbest ★ [1 month ago](#) 8 people liked this.

Perhaps we should rethink the entire structure. We have created an artificial economy by mandating that certain channels should be carried, supported, etc. The television broadcasters have every intention of surviving a transition of users to the Internet - they just want cable/satellite to cover any interim losses. What they don't seem to understand, is just doing the same thing over a website doesn't drive value for consumers or advertisers. I'm all for funding national culture and niche-y content, but since when does that cover So You Think You Can Dance Canada or Grey's Anatomy or any other of the 'big' programs our 'Canadian' broadcasters are pushing?

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



Crystal ★ [1 month ago](#) 7 people liked this.

sorry to say but all these comments are a waste of time,they will charge us weather we like it or not.everyone should just boycott and cancell their services and show them we are not gonna be

bullied anymore.

Flag

Like

 *DaveA* ★ 1 month ago in reply to Crystal 2 people liked this.

Agreed. It is very unlikely a statism government is going to listen, as government feels it knows better than you about what you should see and hear on TV. They always seem to take the big 4 position of high prices and crappy content.

You should consider becoming a conservative-libertarian. Let people choose. We lose our freedoms as government gets too much control and too much of our money. It is natural for Shaw/Rogers/Telus/Bell to leverage the monopoly they have, but government is in their pocket which makes it bad.

One thing is clear about all these posts. Is 99.99% of Canadians are not happy at all. If comunity satisfaction were part of the CRTC's mandate, they would be a minus billion on a 1-10 scale.

Flag

Like

 *Carl B* ★ 1 month ago in reply to Crystal 1 person liked this.

Take the biggest antenna you can find, point it across the US border and watch free HDTV.

Flag

Like

 *Danny* ★ 1 month ago 8 people liked this.

Local stations should be able to let the market determine their value. Let subscribers choose which channels they wish to receive.

Get rid of the basic package.

Flag

Like

 *Kevin* ★ 1 month ago 8 people liked this.

So lets see if I understand this. Outside of the major markets the networks want to have the cable/satellite providers provide them the service of getting the signal from the studio to the customer, and be paid by the cable/satellite providers for the privilege of doing so... In essence, small market local stations follow the same model as the specialty channels, PLUS mandatory carriage on a preferred dial location as well as signal substitution...

There is no reason that the broadcasters aren't ready for the transition, other than the fact that they spent the money they should have used for the conversion buying up overpriced assets.

1. Allowing them to negotiate won't have any impact; they will simply continue as they have and come back to the CRTC again and again asking for yet more protection.

2. No. They had the money to do it, and didn't. Providing them with support and/or incentives simply rewards them for ignoring the upcoming change in technology.

Flag

Like

 *Chris* ★ 1 month ago in reply to Kevin 1 person liked this.

That's it exactly.

Flag

Like



kenlaing ★ 1 month ago 7 people liked this.

It's about time the whole system were revamped in order to serve the consumer better. It's time for the CRTC, the cable/satellite providers and the owners of the specialty channels to step aside and give us, the poor beleaguered viewer a chance to vote yea or nea to each individual channel. Right now, I can't have the Playboy channel because I don't want the other Disney properties offered through what is now called Shaw Direct. How corrupt is that? And it's not Shaw Direct's rule. It's Disney's rule. Oh how the incorruptible and family-oriented have fallen. And it happened on CRTC's watch...and they're supposed to be looking out for us.

I'd love to have the Playboy channel but I'm a bachelor and I'm damned if I want a bunch of kiddy channels in order to get it, so I'm not a prude. And in order to get TCM (Turner Classic Movies) I had to take 4 or 5 other "kiddie" channels which I never watch. Nevertheless I wanted TCM badly enough that I gave in to the corrupt practice of proprietary bundling of product. (It reminds me of when I ushered in a movie theatre many decades ago. In order to get one good movie in the local theatre, we had to take and exhibit 4 or 5 bad ones.)

Again, I say, the rules should be changed, streamlined and simplified so that we can turn on or off each individual channel. The only condition on this (acknowldging that we're still in Canada) should be that your choices must add up to 51 percent Canadian channels and 49percent non-Canadian, or whatever the current politically correct percentage is.(Maybe it's 60/40) And look what the CRTC has caused to happen with the above rule, (while we're on the topic of CanCon.)

Starchoice, now Shaw Direct, to beef up its Cancon, is SHOWING SLIDES on several of their channels...to beef up Cancon. Meanwhile 'A' Channel and CBC Windsor are not available on Shaw Direct because they claim they have no channels available. How ironic is that?

If we went to the model of the viewer being able to turn on or shut off each individual channel, each specialty or broadcast channel could then stand or fall on its own individual ratings, just like the over-the-air model. The additional benefit to this system would be that the provider would know which stuff we AREN'T watching as well as which we ARE!

Right now, against my will, I receive (but don't want) any number of religious channels.

Religion is against my religion. Why is there so much freedom OF religion in Canada and no freedom FROM religion. Under the current, corrupt system,100 Huntley Street can claim me as a potential viewer. I don't want that. I want them and Shaw Direct to know that religious shows are not welcome in my home. I don't have that right under the current (banana republic) CRTC model.

No, the only honest way to have Canadian programming streams properly judged by those to whom they're being offered is to have individual choice on each channel and each type of channel. It would also render moot the current argument over whether we and the cable companies should pay more for local tv channels when they're offered on cable/satellite. In Windsor, for example, I'd have the option of paying to have Windsor/Detroit channels integrated into my satellite service or I could opt for over-the-air acces through my rabbit ears and not pay the optional fee for local channels. It's about time the CRTC broke out of their mutual "regulatory capture" with the broadcast forces and ruled in favour of the viewer in the ways described herein. This would take the CRTC back to its original raison d'etre: to serve the Canadian viewer.

Don't forget, it was the CRTC that was asleep at the switch when Bell "slipped one by them" when they convinced the Commission to continue charging for touch tone even though they turned it into a basic service and not an optional premium. We've all been paying 2 dollars and fifty cents per month too much for our landline phones ever since. Let's get it right this time, CRTC.

sincerely,

Ken Laing, Announcer Emeritus, CBC Radio, Windsor.

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Richard ★ 1 month ago 7 people liked this.

I think it's unfair for the Cable companies to be forced to negotiate fees unless they are also allowed the right to decline carrying the channels, otherwise they have no grounds on which to negotiate..

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



ernestprice ★ 1 month ago 7 people liked this.

No, it is their Business Model stupid, I do not think the Thompson family is cash strapped. The technology for digital is already there; what does a box cost the cable Co`s \$10:00, and the consumer gets invoiced \$4:00 monthly(\$48:00 + taxes) a year for the next 50 years!
No, the industry needs no financial support and or, incentives to implement the transition- let them pay the senior execs less bonus & put it where it belongs providing quality competitive priced products to the consumer.

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



Carl B ★ 1 month ago in reply to ernestprice

Why should you be forced to rent their box instead of using the digital tuners built into new HDTV sets? US cable companies are required by FCC regulations to provide CableCards which can be used to subscribe to digital channels without establishing two-way communication and the attendant costs for unlimited PPV liability and box rental. No similar requirement exists here and the CableCard is pretty much as unheard-of in Canada as the mythical +1-600 telephone area code where, if someone calls your mobile, they pay the airtime.

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Loren ★ 1 month ago 6 people liked this.

First off, the discussion questions are extremely misleading.

It is not "local stations" that are asking for a carriage fee, it is the national broadcasting network corporations that own them.

Television station ownership in Canada is extremely concentrated, reduced to only a small group of major players.

If these players can't find a business model that will be profitable in a given market, then they should be allowed to back off and let someone else come in.

It is also quite untrue that there is a necessity high cost associated with operating a digital television broadcast station.

Low Power DTV transmitters are not expensive, and could be operated under license by local independent broadcasters in areas that are not cost effective for the larger networks, providing job, local content, and paid for by donations and/or advertising.

If local content in television is truly the goal, a mix of community and small entity television is the best way to achieve it.

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skylermccaw ★ 1 month ago in reply to Loren 2 people liked this.

I'm with Loren on this. "Local TV" is more like the small guys like Jim Pattison and Channel Zero and the employees and 2 small local business @ CHEK-TV Victoria who bought the station after the large corporate owner (Canwest) threatened to close it if nobody bought it. This "Value For Service" goes to either CTVglobemedia or Canwest, who own lucrative specialty channels that rake in hundreds of MILLIONS of dollars in yearly revenue. In the case of the CBC, they get a BILLION dollars of taxpayers money. IIRC, there's noooo guarantee it will go to fund CANADIAN TV productions (different than the LPIF - Local Production Improvement Fund that is a *separate* tax that goes to fund local newscasts). It can go into corporate bank accounts to keep their stock high. C'mon, Canada! Enough is enough!

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ddrose9 ★ [1 month ago](#) 6 people liked this.

Local stations generate their own revenue through excessive advertizing already. If they fail, they fail!

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



Paul H ★ [1 month ago](#) 6 people liked this.

1) Clearly, as shown in the CRTC's preamble above.

2) Absolutely not. There should be no incentives, nor support, for doing something so simple as 'moving with the times'. Frankly, the industry should have upgraded long ago.

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exsudburyguy ★ [1 month ago](#) 6 people liked this.

The industry doesn't require any support or incentives. Canadian broadcasters still operate as if it's the 1960s, for example by buying U.S. programming even though 95 percent of Canadians have access to the programming either by cable, satellite or the Internet. We don't need CTV or Global to show "Lost," "24," or the Super Bowl. We have access to those shows. We need Canadian networks to show us the Olympics (which CBC had done better than any U.S. network but I fear the mess CTV will make of it), Canadian produced shows such as the "Border" and sports and news.

Giving the networks an additional bailout by imposing a TV tax won't encourage them to do those things, but merely to continue with their broken model while gouging the customers. The best incentive for the networks is to force them to compete in the international marketplace by producing top-notch Canadian content that people around the world will pay to watch. That means removing the protections they have currently, which are a disincentive to that.

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joel ★ [1 month ago](#) [in reply to exsudburyguy](#) 1 person liked this.

I agree. Look at the BBC and some of it's top notch documentaries it promotes. Not to mention you can get it almost anywhere in the world.

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NecessaryEvil ★ [1 month ago](#) [in reply to exsudburyguy](#) 1 person liked this.

I can't say I've ever thought of the protections as a disincentive before, but it sure does make sense.

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EdR ★ [1 month ago](#) 6 people liked this.

If industry support means taxpayer support, no way. If a business can not succeed on its own perhaps a better business plan is needed.

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



Michael Foster ★ [1 month ago](#) 6 people liked this.

1- It would cause cable prices to go up.

2 No, they spend 800 Million on American programing which I can get on an American station anyway. They should learn to be successful creative broadcasters who make their own content.

[Flag](#)

Like

*Mike Vormittag* ★ [1 month ago](#) 6 people liked this.

I would support allowing local stations to negotiate for the value of their signals under the following scenario:

- the local station broadcasts digital. No analog signal would be eligible. Local stations that currently broadcasts both digital and analog should be able to turn off analog any time at their convenience. Digital transmissions would need to conform to PSIP usage standards set by a regulating body (either Industry Canada or the CRTC as appropriate) which should at the very least encapsulate the FCC usage standards already in place in the United States.

- local stations would only be able to negotiate for the value of their signals within their digital broadcast contour.

- BDU subscribers would be able to opt out.

- BDU subscribers that opt in would be able to receive their local stations in unencrypted QAM allowing them to view these stations on n ATSC/QAM enabled digital television without the need of an external box supplied by the BDU.

- local stations serving smaller communities (example: less than 100,000 people in their broadcast contour) can remain analog after August 31, 2011 for defined time period (example: 2 years) but as stated would not be eligible for any value for signal program.

Thank you for considering these ideas!

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Like

*micahg* ★ [1 month ago](#) in reply to [Mike Vormittag](#) 1 person liked this.

Mike,

I think you hit it on the head -- freedom is a necessity. Also, don't forget about DVB-S/DVB-S2! I wouldn't be opposed to FreeHD Canada's solution if the local programming was unencrypted!

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Like

*Carl B* ★ [1 month ago](#) in reply to [micahg](#)

The US has huge amounts of free DVB-S programming from dishes as small as a metre in size. Much of it is ethnic-language or propaganda, but compare what Lyngsat lists for free US TV to the domestic offerings and it becomes clear that the small-dish frequencies on Canadian domestic satellites are monopolised (well, duopolised) by Bell and Shaw to the point where there are no free channels not part of one or another pay-TV package on Ku-band dish.

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Like

*Enough Already* ★ [1 month ago](#) 5 people liked this.

I WILL CANCEL MY SERVICES or find alternative ways to watch TV if I am forced to pay more.

I'm tired of the "Canadian Content" that is always being shoved down our throats. Most if not all is not worth watching in the first place.

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Like

*rgb66* ★ [1 month ago](#) 6 people liked this.

In the beginnning it was the over-the-air channels that allowed the Rogers, Cogecos and Shaws to succeed. Without over-the-air channels these businesses would have had precious little with which to build their communications empires.

Now we are being asked to pay for over-the-air programs that enabled these corporate bemoths to exist. I disagree with this premise, and disagree with the charging for over-the-air broadcasting. I also disagree with billing cable and satelite customers in order for funds to support "canadian production"; the quality of canadian shows are atrocious compared to US or Britain. This is not good value for money.

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[Carl B](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) [in reply to rgb66](#)

It was Buffalo NY local channels that allowed Mr. Rogers to build his corporate empire. Those who merely wanted to view Toronto stations in Toronto could just point an antenna at the CN Tower, so no point getting cable for this.

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[ScottO](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) 5 people liked this.

I do not agree with TV Tax to be collected by local satellite / cable companies. My Satellite bill is high enough as it is without additional fees being added. I would tend to agree with other commenters, and think that they need to keep the present model, and if it is not making enough money, then perhaps they should close down some of the extra stations. For instance, there likely is not much need for two CTV stations in Nova Scotia when they both have the same programming anyway.

Also, I do not have a local channel where I live, so why on earth should I have to pay for local programming that is not local? Sure there is NTV in St. John's, but I live in a pretty remote area and there is no television signal anyway. (For that matter, the only radio signal is CBC Radio 1). The only way I get any TV is with my satellite (though some people in the community have cable). I don't think it is right that I get charged to watch "local" programming for the channels that are not even broadcasted in my area.

And you know darn well if the networks get what they want, the cable companies will going to turn around and charge the customers the increase. Bell did this with the 1.5% improvement fee (tax); they state on their website that the CRTC "told them to charge the customer"; on the other hand, the CRTC claims they never said anything of the sort and that the cable companies were to pay it themselves.

Come on CRTC, do what your supposed to do, side with the people for a bloody change. Ding the cable companies if you must, but keep MORE taxes out of it for the people - unless you want to pay our cable bills too. And I doubt that's gonna happen anytime soon.

[Flag](#)

Like



[Carl B](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) [in reply to ScottO](#)

If you think that your cable bill is too high now, just wait until various provinces add the HST to that.

[Flag](#)

Like



[ScottO](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) [in reply to Carl B](#)

Exactly my point. After HST it is nearly \$140.

I would drop most of my standard def. programming if I could. But they tell me the only way I can get the HD channels is to have the SD equivalents. So, basically I pay for the SD bundles, and then pay for the same channel again in an HD bundle. kinda stupid.

[Flag](#)

Like



Michael ★ 1 month ago 5 people liked this.

I also agree that we should not be supporting local stations. Our support is indicated by the number of people watching the program. Their revenues are derived from advertising and such. Maybe they can hold fundraisers so that the people watching it can pay for themselves directly.

What I don't understand is that it's almost 2010!! TV has been around for 75 years or so. I'm unaware of the agreement before but I see nothing wrong with the current arrangement. Nether the cable companies or networks pay anything to each other. I see the argument that local TV wants money as cable companies broadcast it.....but you can also argue that networks should pay to have their signal broadcast. It's the same idea as paying someone to have your website on the internet!

So why is it.....after 75 years or so..... that the networks apparently don't make any money and need additional funding?? It makes no sense.

I would also like to know how many people actually watch Local TV stations???? what are the ratings there? With 36 million people in Canada, what percentage watching TV watch local TV? I bet it is very minimal given the reason why local TV is doing poorly is because they can't charge enough for advertising because people don't watch it! People watch mainstream channels and popular North American TV shows, sitcoms, reality shows, etc.

I would be hard pressed to find anyone I know that NEEDS to watch local TV. If their model doesn't work for them, then so be it. who cares!

Flag

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P Muttart ★ 1 month ago 5 people liked this.

CTV, global, A-channel, and the rest should get their act together and their financial houses in order. You don't need extra fees from cable co. (i mean taxpayers) the big joke here is the CBC asking for extra fees while getting a billion dollars a year from the taxpayers already, to provide crap programming. If the so-called local stations didn't have cable or dish they wouldn't have ad revenue and would be out of business anyway. Odd enough my true local programs are on Rogers own station. Its time for pay by channel, and stop begging for more taxpayers money.

Flag

Like



Lu ★ 1 month ago 4 people liked this.

If local stations are given the right to negotiate for the value of their signals then the CRTC needs to protect the consumer as well by allowing the consumer the choice of whether they want to support the local station. I have a feeling that many would not support them or just support the one they watch the most. As result, the other local stations would lose viewers and then advertising dollars. In other words, if the local stations are going to insist on being paid for their signals then the consumer should be given the right to choose whether they want that signal or not. Where is our right to negotiate?

Flag

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Craig_c ★ 1 month ago 5 people liked this.

CTV and Global are completely off the rail here. They are saying "save local TV" but there is no real local TV to begin with! And they refuse to commit to save local newscasts or increased Canadian content.

Here are some suggestions I have:

1) Order the large companies to sell many of their stations. No company should be allowed to own more than 9 stations or reach more than 65% of Canadian households over the air.

2) There should be no extensions of the digital deadline. If they cannot meet the deadlines, they should sell the stations to someone who can. Removal from the air would remove any preferential treatment on cable and satellite, and if another company sets up a local station in the market, they would - without negotiation - get the rights to the market for that network.

3) The CBC, and any other Canadian-based network (whether English or French) should be required by law to produce 100% Canadian content. Private stations should be permitted to affiliate with foreign networks, since program duplication should be prohibited. Simultaneous substitution should be prohibited.

4) In local markets, local stations should have exclusive rights to programming. That means out-of-market stations (such as what is now Global Ontario broadcasting outside the Toronto-Hamilton market) should be forced off the air, and (whether Canadian or foreign) should be relegated to a discretionary tier on cable and satellite.

5) Out-of-market, time shifting and foreign signals should be required to be packaged as a separate-cost discretionary tier on cable and satellite, with no simultaneous substitution. The cost is negotiated by the local stations.

6) Foreign ownership on stations should be removed, as long as the ownership is within the national quota of 9 stations/65% reach, a local marketing agreement is reached and all jobs and the master controls are within the designated market.

7) In large and metropolitan markets (over 500,000 population), no company should be allowed to own more than 2 stations, of which no more than one could be among the top 4 stations in the market. In smaller markets, a locally-based company should be allowed to own up to 3 stations due to the smaller opportunity base. Companies based outside the market would have the same rules as large markets.

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[Carl B](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) in reply to [Craig_c](#) 1 person liked this.

Allowing even 65% of viewers to be reached by stations controlled by the same owners is overly-generous. The US limit is 45% and even that is lax by historical standards.

The original CTV, when it was founded in 1961, was owned collectively by the individual stations. The network didn't own the stations; it was the other way around. The CRTC turned a blind eye while the owners of CFTO bought one station after another, eventually gaining control of the network and most of its member stations. CTV then started charging stations for content which was already jam-packed with network national advertising, alienating most of its few remaining independently-owned affiliates - everyone from NTV in the east to BCTV in the west. It is now very rare to find any CTV station with an independently-owned affiliate ownership and there is pretty much nothing local (other than news broadcasts) on these stations.

Breaking this up so that networks could not own stations and had to serve the interests of independently-owned affiliates would only benefit broadcast localism.

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[Craig_c](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) in reply to [Carl B](#)

I do agree that 65% is generous, but the total of the three largest markets - Toronto-Hamilton, Montreal and Vancouver-Victoria - are in excess of 50% of households in Canada. They'd have to sell some of their big stations in the larger markets for sure even with a 65% limit, and a 45% limit (if CTVglobemedia kept CFTO Toronto and CIVT Vancouver) would force them to sell almost everything else.

There are only three CTV affiliates that are not owned by the network - CHFD Thunder Bay, CJBK Kenora and CITL Lloydminster. There are no Global affiliates not owned by the network. (That does not include NTV/CJON St. John's, which is dual-affiliated).

Of course, if 100% Canadian content is mandated by Canada-based networks (per my recommendation), they probably would become affiliates of US networks, leaving only the CBC and some independents as broadcasting Canadian shows in English.

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Jim ★ [1 month ago](#) 5 people liked this.

No extra fees to support a dying genre of TV period. Producing a quality product that people want is the only incentive which should be discussed. If you force everyone to prop up local TV with fees, local TV will have no incentive to do better and deliver a product which people want.

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chrisvinzenz ★ [1 month ago](#) 5 people liked this.

I dont care! Give me Direct Tv or Dish Network for 1/3 the price!

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



Ivan Woodburne ★ [1 month ago](#) 5 people liked this.

A wise man once told me that when you get something for nothing that is exactly what it is worth. I do not have a problem with paying for what I want, but I do not want to have to pay extra because someone else wants it. Pay as you go television whether digital or not should be the basis of future pricing. No support or incentives should need to be provided. Either the broadcasters are in the business or not and if they are in then they need to evolve with technology at their own expense.

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fd ★ [1 month ago in reply to Ivan Woodburne](#) 3 people liked this.

That would be ideal if each of the individual cahnnels were \$2.00 per month, then, for the 40 or so regular programmes watched, you would truly be getting your monies' worth. That way, a \$95.00 a month bill, would be worth 95.00, not less than half that because the programmes are garbage.

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Tami Wilkins ★ [4 weeks ago](#) 3 people liked this.

Local stations should be able to negotiate the value of their signals in order to strengthen local programming - costly but critical to our national identity as well as to our communities.

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9vh9 ★ [4 weeks ago in reply to Tami Wilkins](#) 1 person liked this.

Concise and to the point. I couldn't say it any better. I'm with her!

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



Jimmy ★ [1 month ago](#) 3 people liked this.

I am opposed to shutting down analog television signals, period!

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



adam wood ★ [1 month ago](#) 3 people liked this.

Every week when Canadian television ratings are released, the bulk of top rated shows in this country are American shows that have been rebroadcast on Canadian conventional television networks.

According to critics, the lack of Canadian programming during primetime and the recent failure of the Canadian conventional television industry is the consequence of a CRTC policy known as simultaneous substitution.

Critics say the policy has allowed Canadian over-the-air television broadcasters, such as the CTV and Global, to reap billions of dollars in windfall profits for many years by becoming resellers of American television programming.

In April of 2007, in response to growing pressure from taxpayers fed up with the lack of Canadian content during primetime, high television costs and the apparent lack of consumer choice, the CRTC commissioned Laurence Dunbar and Christian Leblanc to conduct a comprehensive review of the existing regulatory framework for broadcasting services in Canada.

Released in August 2007, the report tabled numerous recommendations including one which proposed the CRTC reassess the impact that simultaneous substitution was having on the Canadian broadcasting system.

Dunbar and LeBlanc concluded that rather than encouraging more Canadian programming on Canadian networks during primetime, simultaneous substitution rules actually provided an incentive for broadcasters to simulcast more American content during primetime.

In its report, Dunbar and LeBlanc clearly came down on the side of the critics. Supporters of simultaneous substitution – the CRTC, conventional broadcasters and various national arts organizations – however, continued to argue that the critics were wrong and the practice was necessary to foster a strong and financially viable domestic television industry.

The result was the CRTC did not act on the recommendations of Dunbar and LeBlanc and carried on with a business as usual report.

Fast forward two years and we find a Canadian television production and broadcasting industry that appears to be in its death throes. For the week ending October 11th, 2009, the top 15 shows in Canada were all simulcast viewings of shows developed and produced in the United States. Not one of the top 15 shows during primetime was developed and produced in this country.

In addition, rather than fostering a strong and financially viable broadcasting industry” CTV and Global are now begging the government for money, selling off stations for a dollar and pleading with the CRTC to even further reduce their Canadian content requirements.

Despite earning windfall profits for decades by reselling U.S. programs and despite receiving close to a billion dollars annually in subsidies, conventional broadcasters are still not financially viable.

In summary, the policy of simultaneous commercial substitution has been a miserable failure.

Rather than throw more money at conventional broadcasters, perhaps it's time the CRTC and federal government took the Dunbar / Leblanc report off the shelf, dusted it off, and thought about implementing many, if not all, of its well reasoned recommendations.

Flag

Like



Kamiki ★ 1 month ago in reply to adam wood

Your explanation is a good contribution to this debate. In the earlier days, many cable companies vigorously resisted program substitution. They also resisted providing community channel programming as mandated by the CRTC. Both of these policies combined to reduce local programming by the through-the-air broadcasters. Both of these policies became a failure and did not result in better local representation.

Flag

Like

 *lesleyhartman* ★ 1 month ago 3 people liked this.

I disagree with many of the posts that say that the problems with local stations are of their own making. Up until 10 years ago, these businesses were thriving. What has killed them are cable stations gobbling up advertising revenue because folks want to advertize to the largest possible audience (rather than local audiences which are smaller). Yet, local broadcasters are the backbone of the whole system. Just thinking of the news for a minute--we would have no news if it weren't for local reporters--all news is local somewhere. It is just basic economics. It is much harder for a local company to compete; their costs are higher because they can't rely on one office like a national network can--they have the overhead of local offices and staff. Yet, they bring us all the news, in essence. And this is the backbone of a democracy--without news, don't kid yourselves, who would hold politicians or businesses accountable? What power would we have at all? So the way I see it, is the local broadcaster brings the news from our own communities to us and to the world at large. It also brings art from our own communities to us and to the world at large. Would Anne Murray have made it without early TV appearances on local TV? This is a forum for us to have a voice, and for our artists to have a forum for their work to be broadcast. It also employs the people in our own communities. Get educated, people! Your ignorance of the situation is showing! Check out this UTUBE video of Ian Morrison presenting to the CRTC: <http://www.friends.ca/brief/9006>. It is the large cable companies posing as consumer advocates that are the real ones to be angry at as they rake in the profits and hike up their rates! Having them pay for local stations shouldn't even have to be passed on to the consumers--then we get thriving local TV AND decent cable rates.

Flag

Like

 *frozencanuck* ★ 1 month ago 4 people liked this.

dissolve the crtc - it is corrupt and useless

<http://dissolvethecrtc.ca>

Flag

Like

 *NecessaryEvil* ★ 1 month ago in reply to frozencanuck 1 person liked this.

Or at least get rid of the guys who work there now. Can you believe VonFinklestein's comments last week when he was whining about how cable companies and local stations won't get together? He sounded like Rodney King in 1992 - "Can't we all just get along?" Great leadership.

Flag

Like

 *Joel* ★ 1 month ago in reply to NecessaryEvil

Maybe, but at least he's willing to listen to us. He could of just rulled without consultations. Which, in my honest opinion, would not of ended well.

Flag

Like

 *Paul Morris* ★ 1 month ago 4 people liked this.

Frankly I would think the local stations should be happy that the cable companies even carry their signals. I think that by carrying the channels the cable companies are doing the stations a favour. If the local stations want to bypass the cable then they only need to transmit over the air. HDTV over the air works great.

Flag

Like

 *tom I* ★ 1 month ago 4 people liked this.

Let the market decide on who survives just like any normal business in a suposedly free market

state! I find myself having to repeat the answer because it's so basic. If you have what people want, they will come. If not, good bye. Why cant the CRTC understand this? Doesn't matter if it's local, cable, satellite, Canadian or American!

[Flag](#)

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kenstvital ★ [1 month ago](#) 4 people liked this.

At the present time, I feel local stations should pay the cable company. Why? They are required to do program substitution, which costs the cable company time and money, and the cable company has to deal with irate customers. The signal is provided to a lot more people than could receive the signal via antenna.

No taxpayer money should go to help with the transition. CTV et al must make a business decision if they want to keep broadcasting. If they don't, please turn in your license to the CRTC. CTV should know if they go off the air, it will improve reception of American stations.

In fact, why not let the US networks start up in Canada? That way, Canadians get local news (which they don't always get now), and the US programs that predominate the schedules.

[Flag](#)

Like



Craig_c ★ [1 month ago](#) in reply to [kenstvital](#) 2 people liked this.

That is my thought too about the US networks. Any Canadian-based network should be required to have 100% Canadian content. That means there is probably only room for one (CBC presumably, whether it is kept public or privatized).

[Flag](#)

Like



Carl B ★ [1 month ago](#) in reply to [Craig_c](#)

One option that isn't even being looked at would be to allow stations to run whatever they like on digital subchannels provided that the first, main channel be Canadian content.

If one station could carry three or four programmes at the same time, what technical reason would prevent a station from affiliating to each of CBC, CBS, ABC, NBC at the same time and still delivering the same number of hours of Canadian programming that they currently carry on their single analogue channel?

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Like



Tim ★ [1 month ago](#) 4 people liked this.

I think networks are looking for an excuse to close down smaller local stations so they do not have to upgrade their technology.

They should be forced to upgrade it and use it as a relay of the nearest large city if they do not want to show local content.

Let them pay for it out of the money they spend in buying TV shows from the US that they have no intention of airing.

[Flag](#)

Like



A.T. Hall ★ [1 month ago](#) 4 people liked this.

When networks sell off stations for \$1.00 we can believe their claims of financial hardship. Advertising for TV is shrinking daily, shifting to the web. The cable operators have a monopoly as well as a surfeit of arrogance in refusing to talk to the station owners. For the sake of the survival of the industry CRTC should examine the financial statements of both parties and act as an arbiter to introduce some civility and fairness into the dispute. Whatever the outcome, the

cable operators should be prevented from raising basic rates.

Flag

Like



John_in_SurreyBC ★ 1 month ago in reply to A.T. Hall 2 people liked this.

perhaps if they can't make it they should go under... whatever happened to needing to be successful to stay in business?

Flag

Like



Bob ★ 1 month ago in reply to John_in_SurreyBC 1 person liked this.

Maybe there's some TARP money still available south of the border they could have - [rolling eyes]

Flag

Like



rgb66 ★ 1 month ago 4 people liked this.

One further comment; with respect to digital transition, the broadcasting sector has known for years this was coming. Do NOT extend the date for HD transmission by any private station, and do NOT increase cable/satellite fees to provide funding for this initiative. If the Globals of the world can't afford to make the change, let them fail.

Flag

Like



Carl B ★ 1 month ago in reply to rgb66

Global would've been more than able to afford to make the change had they not sunk enormous amounts of borrowed money into acquisitions of newspapers and speciality channels.

That does leave one question: if Global goes from being all-but-unwatchable analogue to just plain gone digitally here (as the TVfool online models predict for CIII-TV-2 even if they go to digital VHF 8 on schedule and according to plan) will the cable company finally stop pasting its signals over those of in-region stations such as WWNY and WWTI? I'd hope that no usable OTA signal in a community meant loss of all must-carry protection on cable there.

Flag

Like



Danny James ★ 1 month ago 3 people liked this.

Quite simply, the digital transition is forced by the government, not the cable operators. They have to pay out of pocket to upgrade to meet the requirements. Subsidizing smaller players is not levelling the playing field but penalizing well run companies. The government should subsidize the digital receivers if anything to allow the transition "they forced" to be seamless. In the end however, aren't we all paying? The digital transition is not required other than another way to open up spectrum for the government to capitalize on controlled bandwidth through fees.

The reality is, Cable companies are forced to provide terrestrial signals as part of their license to operate under the rules and obligations. Saying that they are getting FREE product from these stations is erroneous. When times are tough, cable will make less on subscribers who choose to downsize their services. TV Stations must face the same reality as advertisers downsize their budgets which results in lower revenue to the TV Stations. Streamlining their operations should be the proper course of action. By asking Cable to pay for something that they are forced to carry is somewhat the same scenario as the Provincial Government forcing taxpayers to pay for the debt of the old Ontario Hydro on their bill indefinitely. We did nothing to cause it, but now we have to pay for it. Seems the same logic applies with this fee.

Additionally as it relates to local content, Cable operators such as TVCogeco, Rogers Television, Shaw and others provide more than 10 times the amount of local content as CTV, Global,

A-Channel etc.. Where else can you see the AHL, OHL, Curling, High School Football and local Christmas parades to name a few. On average, there is as few as 7 minutes of coverage by TV Stations on news reports in smaller towns such as Stratford, Sarnia, St Thomas or the like per week. Local Cable Television accounts for the highest ratio of "truly" local television and if anything, the cable operators should have the choice to offer more local through proven investment in their own operations if it benefits the public instead of paying TV Stations for revenue they could not generate themselves.

Common sense should prevail here. If you truly want to support local television, force the TV Stations to be accountable for a percentage of their content for "truly local". As a result, they can keep their license. If they don't, they can lose it.

Flag

Like

 *StanF* ★ [1 month ago](#) in reply to [Danny James](#) 1 person liked this.

Danny James

You are right. Digital over-the-air broadcasting was mandated by government to make better use of the broadcasting spectrum. They also set the transition date and require over-the-air viewers to upgrade their receiving equipment to receive the digital signals. We pay. Government grows.

The locally produced program material being broadcast over-the-air and redistributed by cable and satellite service providers is miniscule because local stations were bought by the Canadian networks. If LOCALTVMATTERS really, why did local stations sell out to the STOPTHETAX networks in the first place?

Follow the money!

The "digital" signals distributed by cable and satellite providers are a different matter. As you know, they are in an entirely different technical format and require a proprietary converter to be "activated" by the service provider at an additional monthly cost.

Flag

Like

 *Carl B* ★ [1 month ago](#) in reply to [StanF](#)

If cable providers would stop encrypting their digital signals, the built-in HDTV tuners in new digital TV's would be able to display them with no additional-cost proprietary converter. The only major difference between over-the-air digital TV (8VSB) and digital cable (QAM) is in modulation, the rest of the ATSC standard is the same for both and a digital TV will find the few unencrypted channels on the cable just fine.

Flag

Like

 *Joe* ★ [3 weeks ago](#) 2 people liked this.

As a photographer, I am obligated to pay people that I photograph for commercial use. They are due "fair and reasonable compensation." I have a hard time understanding why television signal should be any different. What is not being recognized by cable/satellite company's is the work and cost that goes into creating local content. Its not that hard to see the cable/satellite industry is talking out of both sides of its mouth. On one hand they do not want to pay for the local signal the are sending to paying customers, but on the other hand its a prosecutable offense to steal the same signal from the cable/satellite that they get for free...

Hummmmmm....

So as a creative artist, should I be inclined to give away my hard work for nothing, only to watch it be sold right in front of me?

Every creative art charges for its work. Film, music, theater, painters, sketch artists... But not local television stations. They can't! Seems just down right wrong. I know as a photographer, if I see my work being used without permission I have a lawsuit I can file. Local TV has its hands

ted by the rules of the CRTC.

[Flag](#)

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chrisj2000 ★ [1 month ago](#) 3 people liked this.

1. The local stations should be free to negotiate for the value of their signals however, if cable companies don't want to carry them, then the local stations should not be crying to the CRTC to save them by imposing ANY fee on the cable subscribers. If they can't make money, they shouldn't be in business.
2. No, they should not require any support or incentives from the government. Most of the local stations in this country are owned by one of few large media companies: Global, CTV, CBC. If they want support or incentives, they should be asking their parent companies!! Why are they asking us to pay?? If their parent companies are willing to let them fail, why are we being asked to bail them out?!?!?

[Flag](#)

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lewiscoulson ★ [1 month ago](#) 3 people liked this.

I just want to pay for the channels I want to watch....it's that simple.

Lewis

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



Jane ★ [3 weeks ago](#) 2 people liked this.

Everyone should join the 21st century and adapt to HD or digital programming at their own cost. Just like the VCR gave way to the DVD player. I am not willing to pay for other people to get with the program.

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



ray_s ★ [3 weeks ago](#) [in reply to Jane](#)

If you're not willing to pay then stop expecting others to buy into the technology that you love. Some people still like vinyl records; should they be blamed for that. The quality issues are likely to remain debatable for a long time, but both sides should be able to experience the material in the way that they want. "Join the 21st century" is a technophile's mantra that disrespects those people who are satisfied with what they have.

[Flag](#)

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Ray B ★ [1 month ago](#) 3 people liked this.

Yes I have digital cable now but folks it will not be the end of the world as we know if I didn't have it. With digital cable I should be able to punch up what channels i want without any interference from a quasi political group as the CRTC and be able to choose my services my way. If I am forced to pay more on my cable the local stores and chains across this country of ours will be the lose. i will not be able to watch their ads on TV because i won't have cable! What will happen to those jobs? CRTC if you force this on me you will have killed many local businesses in my area? Shame on you. Just to make it very, very clear to you CRTC and "local TV stations you need me more than I need you so you had better rethink this whole process. It is time for the little guy in this country to have our say. Bring down this monster, local tv and cable. Cancel your services or at least make your services equal to what the tax will be. I will cancel right down to nothing if need be or at least basic service or use the internet. I can also get my son in the USA to tape these shows if i can't watch them because i cancelled my services. I can get my news on the internet or via email or even my local radio station and newspaper. Who needs cable or local tv anyway?

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



Marion Cumming ★ 4 weeks ago 2 people liked this.

I think that local television stations ought to be allowed to charge for their services to cable companies. Two or three decades ago cable companies needed to be propped up by free service. Now that local television stations are suffering the consequences of decreased advertising revenue, the economic downturn and greater focus on the internet, the time has come for cable companies to pay for services they have been receiving free. They need not use the pretext of having to pass on additional charges to their customers as I understand that most cable companies can absorb the additional cost of paying fees. I hope this situation opens up the opportunity to focus on improving the quality of programming, focusing on local and Canadian content in the context of the global. I recall the early days of cable TV being almost entirely community focused, before commercialization drove content. Now that the internet is taking and passing on news content and other programming free, I hope the CRTC will seek ways of enhancing the ability of the CBC to lead the way in building the capacity to share its prodigious news gathering and research and cultural resources. It can both lead and inspire the "competition". Thank you, Marion Cumming

[Flag](#)

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lee brooks ★ 1 month ago 3 people liked this.

the fact that local tv cannoot support it self on the 400million profit they made last year say to me that they should not be in business we should not be paying for some ceo's house car and vacation i will cancel my service first bfore i pay a tv tax to a bunch of ppl that cant manage there money

the fact that the local tv is trying to impose a tax on canada is wrong if i use rabbit ears how will they charge me then

it is a fact that they send there signal out to the air for free so why should they have the right to try and charge for a free service this is theft and fraud and they sould be charged as such

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Anne-Louise Gagner ★ 1 month ago 3 people liked this.

I am opposed to supporting local TV stations with an extra fee collected by the cable company from it's customers

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



joemetron ★ 1 month ago 3 people liked this.

HELLO ALL POLITICIANS

YES I SAID "ALL"

There is enough money in everybody's pockets, which WE THE TAXPAYERS DAILY FUND. ENOUGH IS ENOUGH.

We saw what greed can do over the last few years, worldwide.

It is time to stop TAXING THE COMMON MAN.

HELLO POLITICIANS- STOP TAXING US

NO MORE TAXES

NO MORE TAXES

OR

maybe its time for a TAX REVOLT!!!!

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Laura McNeil ★ 4 weeks ago 2 people liked this.

I don't see why consumer can't have the option to stay analogue!!! It's totally unfair especially to those consumers that really only require basic service to force them into paying more for something they don't even want! There are pensioners out there that can barely afford to pay

for basic cable, but do it so they can keep their sanity during the many lonely days that they are faced with. In addition to the working class alot of people simply can't afford to have to pay for satellite/set top box receivers especially if they only want access to basic service. It seems like this is all about strong arming consumers into pay for something they don't want, or absolutely don't need!!

[Flag](#)

Like



9vh9 ★ [4 weeks ago](#) in reply to [Laura McNeil](#) 1 person liked this.

I SO agree! You have described my situation and that of many people I know to a "T" verily. Thanks for this.

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Like



Rob ★ [4 weeks ago](#) 2 people liked this.

I think it is wrong for local TV stations to require viewers to pay for the signals on cable while they are available free with an antenna. The cable/satellite companies are increasing their audience by making the signals available to more people. How many people would watch their channels if they were only available via antenna?

These channels got into this mess by outbidding each other and over-paying for US shows and now would like a public bailout for what are their own mistakes.

[Flag](#)

Like



catherineanderson ★ [4 weeks ago](#) 2 people liked this.

Support is so necessary to eliminate commercial influence in decisions on what is to be broadcast. And we count on the CBC - all day and night for local news, and an even and balanced accounting of all news.

[Flag](#)

Like



PW ★ [1 month ago](#) 2 people liked this.

I advocate that it is of utmost important for the CRTC to continue to require broadcasters to transition to digital OTA across Canada. This is the model that the US has embraced and it is very effective and fair to all communities. Digital OTA should become available and widespread in Canada, available to all communities (where OTA has been available) if possible; if not then perhaps communities greater than 50,000 or 100,000.

If fee for carriage models need to be enacted to permit digital OTA penetration throughout Canada then that is reasonable. Again, this model is currently employed in the US and it is very effective.

The above model hierarchy will give most Canadians the option of receiving local television for free (via digital OTA) at costs that are much cheaper than current practices through cable providers. The costs of digital OTA include only basic equipment. Digital OTA provides a quality signal that can be provided to 90% of Canadians with no consumer costs beyond basic equipment purchase. Local television is currently free in major markets in Canada to the local communities using digital OTA. Communities need to be educated on the option of digital OTA. However, there are many other urban communities in Canada that broadcasters are dragging their feet on in transitioning over to digital OTA, citing costs. This is an obviously unfair practice to Canadians whereby only select markets with the largest population numbers get an opportunity to have free digital OTA television. Such a practice should not be permitted by the CRTC.

People who want enhanced television services that are supplied by cable providers should reasonably be prepared to pay a fee for carriage costs. Consumers who live in urban areas and complain of cable costs (with an extra fee for carriage) should not be rewarded for their ignorance of options for local television reception (ie, free digital OTA) or their desire for

enhanced television.

In markets where there is no local digital OTA available, cable providers should be required to provide local television channels at no cost (beyond equipment rentals or costs) to the community. As such, there should be no fee for carriage, or some sort of formula to discount carriage fees for these costs) with cable providers when they are servicing an area absent of digital OTA.

I have read that local TV stations are asking for the opportunity to block digital OTA transmissions originating from the US.

<http://www.thestar.com/news/sciencetech/technol...>

I believe this is outrageous. Digital OTA works especially well in major Canadian markets because there are opportunities for the general public to receive many channels. Local television receives government funding and ad revenue. It smacks of monopolistic practices to attempt to ban other content providers and such requests should be dismissed.

I have lived in Canada in a variety of places, including a small market and currently in a large urban market. Each scenario provides challenges to the CRTC in their regulation of the television industry across Canada. I strongly advocate that my submission above provides the best approach to addressing the breadth of issues for fair and equitable local television access across Canada to the benefit of all Canadians.

Flag

Like



PW ★ 3 weeks ago in reply to PW

I need to provide an update.....

I have no problem with fee for carriage on cable if local stations go digital OTA where they have traditionally had OTA available. That way the general public gets the option of free local television (and most do but many are ignorant). Digital OTA provides great signal quality and costs are much cheaper than any options currently with cable subscribers.

But I found out that local TV is trying to have their cake and eat it too. They are really trying to screw the system, and it seems the CRTC is even on board.

Local TV stations are no longer required to go OTA in anything other than the largest markets in Canada (something like >300,000 people). It was posted a while ago, but I missed it.

Broadcasting Regulatory Policy CRTC 2009-406
<http://www.crtc.gc.ca/eng/archive/2009/2009-406...>

News Story - Michael Geist
<http://www.thestar.com/sciencetech/article/664962>

Blog Post - Michael Geist
<http://www.michaelgeist.ca/content/view/4141/135/>

So now I wonder why local TV stations should get fee for carriage from cable companies if they also get to dismantle free broadcasting access to the general public (historical OTA use).

Sad sad stuff.

Flag

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Grumpy Bear ★ 1 month ago 3 people liked this.

Why should the cable/satellite providers be forced to pay for a product? The CRTC is saying that the cable/satellite have to carry the local networks. So now the local networks wants the CRTC

say to the cable/satellite not only do you have to carry it but now you have to pay for it too.

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Tom ★ [1 month ago](#) 3 people liked this.

It's past time we did away with the archaic CRTC. Let Canadians choose for themselves what they want to watch on TV.

[Flag](#)

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Mac@Toronto ★ [1 month ago](#) 3 people liked this.

1.

I don't understand the point on small market stations not being accessible over the air to their local market. Owners of digital sets have receivers that can be hooked up to newer antennae as they do now, and are not dependent on carriers. A friend found that the digital signals are easier to obtain than the analog signals.

If the stations do not have sufficient profits to afford upgrades, then there is no business justification for them to survive. After all, this technology has been delayed for decades for this reason. The Americans have already implemented, and they are late adapters.

If the local stations are allowed to negotiate for fees, I don't think that they will affect the industry so long as the signal is resold as a non-mandatory channel.

2. The incentive should be to the consumer to buy boxes for people who choose to receive digital signals over the air. The government could consider offering loans to stations for the equipment.

Finally, I believe that CRTC should force the carriers to drop the charge for carrying HD (digital) signals. The Americans do not have to pay a premium. If there is an argument that it costs to carry two, then give the consumer can choose to drop the analog signal. Sorry to say, but CRTC dropped the ball before allowing phone companies to charge for tone dialing over pulse (as my parents get a discount for pulse).

[Flag](#)

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Carl B ★ [1 month ago](#) [in reply to Mac@Toronto](#)

The cheap OTA digital TV converter boxes which were being promoted with the US federal government coupons last year are capable of converting a free HDTV signal to an ordinary signal. If the boxes being forced on cable/satellite pay-TV subscribers weren't too brain-dead to do likewise, perhaps there would be no need to carry the same channel twice (one SDTV, one HDTV) or three times (as digital cable also duplicates analogue channels on the same system).

Unfortunately, too late now to do anything about the huge number of HDTV-unaware boxes already deployed.

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Jason ★ [1 month ago](#) 3 people liked this.

The local stations should be reimbursed for their signals. The cable and satellite providers should be the ones paying the signals.

The consumer should not be expected to pay any additional fees to the cable or satellite companies.

The way I see it, the cable and satellite companies have been charging the consumer for local signals that they have been basically "stealing" for decades.

Its time the satellite and cable companies start taking responsibility for their actions. Paying the local stations for their signals must be recognized as a "cost of doing business" by the cable and satellite companies. This cost must not be the burden of the consumer.

We are already paying too much for satellite and cable subscriptions.

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Carl B ★ [1 month ago](#) in reply to [Jason](#) 1 person liked this.

If stations start charging cable companies for signals which are freely available over-the-air, their "must carry" protection should be taken away. That's how things work stateside; a local station which gets greedy gets dropped.

Simultaneous substitutions also need to end. They only encourage duplicative programming, created not to serve any discernible public interest other than to allow domestic stations to steal advertising revenue from affiliates of the originating US network.

[Flag](#)

Like



John S ★ [1 month ago](#) 3 people liked this.

No, allow consumers to decide whether to receive or not receive local programming. I'm tired of being forced to pay for channels I don't want. If the industry requires subsidies, let it be distributed from the huge amount CBC already receives. Distribute that evenly among all affected.

[Flag](#)

Like



JAMES LAIDLAW ★ [1 month ago](#) 3 people liked this.

1. Irrelevant
2. If the industry can't support itself then TOO BAD. Don't switch to digital. It's a FREE MARKET.

[Flag](#)

Like



Carl B ★ [1 month ago](#) in reply to [JAMES LAIDLAW](#)

The switch to digital is only being made so that part of the UHF TV spectrum could be auctioned to cellular telephone companies. They, not viewers or OTA stations, should be the ones funding this transition.

[Flag](#)

Like



Rick G ★ [1 month ago](#) 3 people liked this.

I am sick and tired of Big Networks constantly complaining about needing more money. In my television universe (Satellite), I currently receive 681 channels. Of those channels 30 are CBC, 23 CTV, 13 GLOBAL and 8 CITY -- for a total of 74 that I must take because of decisions made by the CRTC! Each and every one of these broadcast the same shows at the same time -- I can only watch one at a time, therefore the rest do not get viewed (EVER). If Big Networks want to charge me to watch my local channel, then let me choose which ones of the these 74 that I want and I'll gladly pay for them, but to be forced to pay for all 74 is stupid.

Give Canadians the choice of which channels are worthy of surviving (based on sign-ups) and the whole matter will resolve itself in a short time.

We live in a democracy where choice is the lynchpin of our society....just apparently not when it comes to our television viewing.

Big Networks are working as Monopolists not Capitalists.

I can assure you that I will reduce my monthly bill (cancelling some services) by the same amount that is chosen as the levy.

[Flag](#)

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[edwin_longueville](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) in reply to Rick G

I agree with you, but you are blaming the wrong party, it is not the networks that put that stupid model in place, it is the cable/satellite providers. They are the ones that give you no choice of channel that you subscribe to, and that with the CRTC's blessing

[Flag](#)

Like



[tom51](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) in reply to [edwin_longueville](#) 1 person liked this.

If I understand things correctly you would only have to pay for the local stations in your area not the ones that cable and satellite companies bring in. I want choice. Choice is allowing me to choose and pay for those stations that I want. Nobody in my house speaks French yet I must pay for 20 French stations that I never watch and never will watch. I am sick of having to pay for bundles of stations that are of no interest to me in order to get the one or two that I want. By letting the consumer pay it will become a real market place where all stations must compete. I love the AMC station from the US. With Rogers it comes as part of your digital package however with Bell it is only available if you take the expensive movie package. Where is the choice.

[Flag](#)

Like



[allencrawford](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) in reply to [edwin_longueville](#)

Edwin, partially true. There are "must carry" rules and also rules as to how many foreign signals a subscriber can have for each Canadian signal they pay for. I can't recall the ratio, but I think it is something like 2 for 1 (please someone correct me). That means that for every one Canadian signal, they can carry two foreign signals. So as a subscriber, I have to pay to get Canadian signals I don't want so that I can watch CNN (for example).

So it is the CRTC who is forcing many many Canadians to pay for content they don't watch or want.

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Like



[Chris](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) 3 people liked this.

It is absolutely inexcusable that Canadians outside major urban centers would not be able to receive the TV signals they currently receive after the digital transition. These same Canadians' tax dollars help fund CBC television. How can the CRTC possibly allow these Canadians to be robbed of a service for which they are paying?

[Flag](#)

Like



[andyedie](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) 3 people liked this.

We are continually bombarded with government bodies and agencies finding new ways to increase the cost of services. It is clear that the television stations and the cable/satellite providers are doing their best to blame each other, however we the consumer are stuck in the middle.

NO I do NOT want my cable fees rising as a resolution to this dispute. As it is I am FORCED to buy TV stations I NEVER watch because they are bundled in such a way as to ensure that the most popular stations are spread evening among the packages. Additionally, to buy High Definition you must still buy all the non HD channels. This is all to ensure maximum revenues to the cable/satellite companies.

Enough is enough CRTC...think of the every day consumer...you are people/consumers as

well!!!

Flag

Like



BJ ★ 1 month ago 3 people liked this.

Scrap the CRTC and let the market rule.

Flag

Like



MJ ★ 1 month ago 3 people liked this.

Local t.v. is garbage and the reason I pay such a high cable bill. So I don't have to watch the garbage of local t.v.

Flag

Like



joepro ★ 1 month ago 3 people liked this.

They have had plenty of time to prepare for the upgrade. Please don't give in to their ridiculous demands. If you do, then at least give me the option of NOT PAYING FOR THOSE CHANNELS, that are of no interest to me. Furthermore, please do not bend the simsub rules for HD content and don't allow them to request simsubs if they do not have a local HD antenna. Simsub-ing does not work. The cable/satellite companies cannot reliably implement it and very often, the programming doesn't start at the exact same moment and you are left missing out on your show(s). This is extremely irritating especially since the cable/satellite companies and broadcasters refuse to take the blame and blames the other party.

Flag

Like



D Brown ★ 1 month ago 3 people liked this.

I think the major networks should be required to maintain free nation-wide over-the-air coverage in digital form after the conversion at a level of coverage comparable to what exists now. I feel that free access to the major networks for news and information should be viewed as a public good since it ensures a better-informed population and facilitates social networking and a sense of community in local communities. I also feel that cable/satellite companies should be required to carry their signals and help maintain the over-the-air-network of digital signals by cross-subsidizing the stations which provide over-the-air signals. The cable companies benefit from access to the signals of the local companies and national networks like CBC, CTV and Global as it is now -- they should in some way compensate them for this.

At this point, I refuse to subscribe to either cable or satellite service as it is not good value for money. I neither want nor need the multiplicity of channels they provide. Apart from the major Canadian networks, there might be only one or two other channels I would with to subscribe to and until such time as the cable companies provide a small bundle from which I can choose, I will not make use of their services.

Flag

Like



Jeff ★ 1 month ago 3 people liked this.

I believe local stations should be compensated for their programming carried by the distributors. Local news especially is important to a community and needs to be protected. I am forced to subscribe to lots of channels I neither want or use, the carriers have long been in the business of "bundling" things we want with things we don't want. Why can't local TV be included and adequately compensated? The \$10 "tax" messaging from the carriers is misleading and offputting.

I subscribe to Bell TV (Expressvu). I am very disappointed that I cannot even access the local CTV Kitchener station, 8km from my house, on Bell TV? Had I realized this I might not have switched, however, as a consumer I want the option to switch but still have access to my local

news and programming. I would be willing to pay a little extra to support local TV - but only if I can actually access it through my service provider.

I have expressed my concern to both Bell and CTV about the lack of access and both have responded with ambiguous excuses.

If local TV dies why must we be limited to Canadian based tv service providers - truly open up the market and remove the protectism altogether.

[Flag](#)

Like



David ★ [1 month ago](#) 3 people liked this.

Let me get this right. First, Cable and Satellite subscribers must pay their providers for local channels as part of their "Basic Package" and, now it is suggested we pay more for local channels and a switch to digital TV as the local channels' current business model and incompetent management decisions do not give them an adequate profit?

To the CRTC I say "FORCE THE LOCAL PROVIDERS TO NEGOTIATE WITH ME not the cable and satellite companies" If I don't want a local channel I should have the RIGHT not to have it or pay for it. TV will eventually, unless the CRTC continues to act as their protectors, have to change their business model and thus shall we see how well they really serve the local community. Long gone is the time when we had only local channels to watch; has the CRTC yet to understand that the business model is changing right now and that via the Internet we can watch TV from around the globe. Open up competition at all levels and don't force us to buy local programing if we do not want it.

If the industry has been so blind that they have not followed the conversion to digital TV around the world - including very recently in the USA - and made plans for the inevitable why on earth would the CRTC think that we, The Canadian Taxpayer, should help it out? Let them be responsible and let them pay the price. Emphatically, the already overtaxed Canadian Taxpayer should give them not one penny.

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Doug Oucharek ★ [1 month ago](#) 3 people liked this.

Why can't local stations be allow to deliver their content in other, more modern ways? I'm thinking about Internet streaming here or using services like Apple's iTunes store? If the answer is: "The CRTC won't let them" then my message to the CRTC is this: time to modernize and start considering new delivery mechanisms for better competition. Stop supporting the cable companies as a monopoly on delivery!!! As long as everyone is forced to use traditional broadcast companies, they are in a position to overcharge us.

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gardezbien ★ [1 month ago](#) 3 people liked this.

1. In the short term cost will go up for the cable companies, but that is to be expected if the CRTC does what its mandate is! The CRTC must act as an overseer of the public's interest in fair and impartial Canadian broadcasting.

Digital transmission is the current technology, so there is no need to support analogue. Having said this, how else can Canadians receive public broadcasting other than through the Cable networks???? The Cable companies have become by default the only way to transmit public information!

People don't like any form of taxation, but want all services available to them when the need arises. We have all seen how the Free Market in America and the World works: during good times, "Let us do what we want; during bad times bring on Socialism and pay us for our greedy mistakes!"

2. The cable companies are awash with profit; they do not need public support!

[Flag](#)[Like](#)**veroniquev** ★ [1 month ago](#) 3 people liked this.

There has been a lot of debate recently about the value of local television with many people deriding its importance. All I can say is having been involved in producing local television (newscasts and local current affairs shows), I can testify to its importance. It has been part of our lives for so long, that I believe many people don't even realise the impact it actually has on their lives. Were all local newscasts/shows to be cancelled tomorrow, I think many would be shocked by how much they miss them.

This was the case recently when the local morning television show I worked for (the only English-language morning television news and current affairs show in Quebec) was cancelled. It literally sent shock waves through the viewership as well as the artistic, literary, scientific, medical etc communities, who used this vehicle as a means of sharing information and more importantly celebrating the vibrancy of the English-speaking communities of Quebec. That programming has now been replaced by packaged, Toronto-centric ones that are repeated over and over again. While I understand that it is not the broadcasters' duty to provide this type of programming specifically, it is definitely easier for a broadcaster to think in terms of more local programs when the money is there (and the incentive) to provide it.

When specialty channels were introduced, fees were part of the package because over-the-air television was so strong and advertisers still saw it as an effective way to reach their audience. However, as the penetration of satellite and cable has gotten stronger, access to specialty channels has increased. Viewers are choosing more and more to watch those channels as well as over-the-air channels, leading to a fragmentation of the audience which in turn has led to a fragmentation of the advertising dollar. This has given the specialty channel a real edge as it has two sources of revenue - one virtually guaranteed - cable fees.

This is not to say that broadcasters don't have to take a share of the responsibility in what is happening to them today, but the fact remains that advertising dollars are getting scarcer and other players need to step up to the plate and assume their fair share of the cost of providing choice and local choice to the consumer.

Times, they are a-changin' and broadcast distribution rules have to change with them.

As viewers we want choice and that's a good thing. But in order to keep that choice available, over-the-air broadcasters should be on the same level playing field as specialty. They, after all, do have obligations that specialty doesn't. Their Canadian content requirements are higher, their news commitments are higher, their program costs are higher. Specialties can buy re-runs and if they so choose, and only re-runs. They can repeat shows 2 or 3 times in the same program day. This is something over-the-air broadcasters don't have the luxury of doing.

Cable has had an obligation from the very beginning to include over-the-air Canadian broadcasters to complement the channels it really wanted to distribute - the US channels. That obligation was passed on to the satellite companies. Their telling us today that they would have to charge us for including Canadian local broadcasters clearly shows their disregard for the consumer and more importantly it shows a flagrant contempt for consumers' intelligence in understanding the greater issues.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)**viewerintoronto** ★ [1 month ago](#) 3 people liked this.

1. Yes, I do. Local TV stations were always an advertising driven model. If advertisers do not want to advertise with them, the onus should be on them to improve their product so that viewers will want to watch and advertisers will want to advertise. Forcing us to pay for lousy channels only reduces competition and makes for an overall poorer television experience.

2. Broadcasters, both cable and not, made tons of money over the years and are now crying because they overextended themselves and are not making as much money. If they aren't resourceful enough to come up with ways of improving their stations so people will watch them, they definitely do not deserve any public money at all.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)**MCK** ★ [1 month ago](#) 3 people liked this.

I am a cable subscriber and REFUSE to pay another dime for any signal. I'm already forced to

take on more than I want and won't pay for any television signal with substandard programming on it and canned laugh tracks. No thank you.

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[Like](#)



adam wood ★ [1 month ago](#) 3 people liked this.

No way does local TV deserve any funding from me, a cable subscriber and satellite subscriber.

I subscribe and pay FOR CABLE AND SATELITE specifically because I do NOT want 'local' anything, which is available over-the-air for free (its actual value) anyway.

It is patently unfair to make me and others like me - the cable subscribers - pay for something we're the least likely to watch, while others who do watch, pay nothing for it.

I also find it totally outrageous that 'local' TV are even allowed to hi-jack cable and force local advertising feeds onto me - if anything, they should be paying cable for the privilege, and not vice versa.

The cost of cable (thanks to those ridiculous 'packages' of services you force onto us already, most of which none of us wants or watches) is already much too high, so should it go up one penny in support of 'local' channels, I will be cutting my cable package way back, if not completely, and buying a nice, big antenna. (which depending on where you live could net some nice US HD broadcasting!)

I am sick to death of being treated like a cash cow for the CRTC's force-fed experiments in Canadian culture, and this latest nonsense really is the last straw for me.

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Bob ★ [1 month ago](#) 3 people liked this.

1. No - Cable companies will very merrily continue to gouge us one way or the other.
2. No support - no incentives - unless you choose to give up some of your steady eddy public service wages and lavish pensions unheard of in the private sector, and funnel those to them.
3. I'm not kidding!

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Bob ★ [1 month ago](#) [in reply to Bob](#) 1 person liked this.

SHAW CABLE JUST JACKED UP THEIR RATES - **DURING A RECESSION** - Dirty Pool I say!

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[Like](#)



bill ★ [1 month ago](#) [in reply to Bob](#) 1 person liked this.

well someone has to fund the bonuses...

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



dcjennings ★ [1 month ago](#) 3 people liked this.

We prefer to have the CRTC reinstitute REGULATED package pricing for a BASIC package for both Cable and Satellite providers, as it used to for cable. We seem to be forced more and more into batch channels. If Cable and Satellite providers choose not to compensate CTV CBC etc for airing their programs, at least give consumers the ability to have a basic price regulated package.

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leilalustig ★ [1 month ago](#) 3 people liked this.

I strongly believe that the Canadian public deserves and needs exposure and access to a wide diversity of views and information. Doing whatever it takes to make this possible, while limiting the cost to individuals, should be a federal-government responsibility. "Profitability" for the industry should be a side effect, as much as possible.

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John ★ [1 month ago](#) 3 people liked this.

This is utterly outrageous! ... I already pay far too much for so little from the Greedy Money Grubbing Cable company! I pay for channels I do not want and do not watch and because of their avaricious packaging action I am forced to pay more for a single channel I do want! this can only be described as Piracy! and is condoned and abetted by a completely ineffective CRTC.

I already pay for Local programming in my Cable Bill for channels that OTA users are getting for Free and now the Cable Company have the sheer gall and effrontary to threaten to charge me more if they they are forced to pay for Channels that they themselves get for Free! I can state here and now that if this occurs then I will rip out all cable infrastructure from my premises and will revert back to the methodolgy of yesteryear and bring in my signals OTA

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Ian M. ★ [1 month ago](#) 3 people liked this.

I don't think the local companies should get anything from the cable companies, after all they are increasing their coverage for nothing - which should allow them to charge more for their advertising - also the "local" broadcasters are really few and far between now (we haven't really had local broadcasting in our area for years now) - so why should I support "local" broadcasting which is only local for folks hundreds of miles from me?

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Eva ★ [1 month ago](#) 3 people liked this.

It is too bad that analog transmissions will be turned off as we currently watch CBC free through the rabbits ears, and there are local news broadcasts spliced into it. I find these very valuable - a good way to learn what is going on in neighbouring northern towns. I don't purchase cable or other TV signals because I find them expensive. This will change as my new husband likes to watch sports. We are also moving to a big city so the change will not affect us. However, for those who are thrifty or poor, not being able to use rabbits ears will be a problem.

1. Yes, I think the cable companies should pay local channels for their signal, and include them as part of their basic bundle, or even introduce a new basic "skinny" package of about 5 stations (including the CBC and some local ones) for low fee. The current basic bundle then could be added for additional cost, and even more channels could be offered through more expensive premium packages.

I would prefer to choose the TV stations I watch, rather than buying bundles that are mostly irrelevant.

2. I don't know if they need help. The incentive is customer demand. I think the HD TV would improve the poor picture quality I notice on the large screen TVs.

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Joshua Bailey ★ [1 month ago](#) 3 people liked this.

I suggest that the local networks be allowed to charge for their content. I also suggest that the cable companies be allowed to choose whether to carry them or not. If they choose not, they

can get their Canadian content quota elsewhere. I would suggest keeping the canadian content rules but otherwise throwing the market wide open, thereby providing some incentive for quality. Problem solved.

I watch over the air television, almost exclusively. I pay for this by sitting through commercials. I wouldn't agree to any monthly fee to watch more commercials. If I wanted more channels/content I would pirate the satellite signal, otherwise I'd go to the internet.

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 [dave_k](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) 3 people liked this.

1: No, the decision has already been made to purge local OTA in those markets deemed to be unprofitable. Our broadcasters want to be the equivalent of cable specialty channels; this is mainly practical because of the high penetration of Cable/Satellite distribution - which will only increase with the death of OTA in those areas.

2: The industry does not require support. It does, however, require "incentive" to maintain Local OTA service in all markets it currently provides service to. Otherwise, it will purge all support as soon as it feels appropriate.

The best way to do this is eliminate mandatory carriage rules and simulcast rights for networks who fail to maintain an OTA signal within that market (whilst still allowing for carriage requirements for French/English language services in those markets where an OTA signal might not otherwise be available by default; primarily in and out of Quebec).

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 [Paul](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) 3 people liked this.

Whether or not the industry has to change infrastructure to upgrade for the HD implementation should have no bearing on local TV's pricing.

No incentives, no subsidies and no more public money for any TV channel (including the CBC), or any cable/satellite firm. If they want our business, let them invest and compete, otherwise get out the way and let someone else earn our business.

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Like

 [fredp1](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) 3 people liked this.

I subscribe to Bell Express VU and live in the Windsor area. Bell does not carry any local programming for Windsor. They better not try to charge me for local programming when the closest that they offer is London. If they offered me local programming I would pay for it, but they do not.

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 [jayrb](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) 2 people liked this.

I run a small business. If my products and services are inferior, should I get subsidized to support my Canadian-ness? Where do I apply for MY handout?

Let them negotiate for the "value" of their signals. The market will decide if the asking price is worth it.

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 [StanF](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) 2 people liked this.

1. Local stations were required by the CRTC to convert their over-the-air broadcasts to a digital format - not necessarily a hi-definition format. Only the networks who own and operate

over-the-air transmitters can realistically determine whether they wish to remain in the over-the-air business in this new environment.

2. The only incentive the over-the-air TV industry should need is their desire to remain in business. Their survival should be their own business decision. Not a taxpayer supported bailout.

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Steve Martin ★ [1 month ago](#) 2 people liked this.

Answers to both the questions is simple: What happened to broadcasters actually
broadcasting their signal?

These broadcasters complain of companies "stealing" their signals, but in truth without cable and satellite companies how would they get viewers? Once everything goes digital, the negotiation will become one sided: broadcasters will need cable and satellite companies more.

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Phoenix ★ [1 month ago](#) [in reply to Steve Martin](#)

And in there lies the issue.

As far as I'm concerned, local TV lost their fight, and my respect, when they gave the Cable/Sat companies an ultimatum to the effect of "give us more money, or we're leaving".

It's like going to your boss and saying "give me more money or I quit". What will your boss say? "Okay, good bye!"

Local TV has lost this fight, and they need to just go away. To those who don't realize it, just about every single TV episode you can imagine is available on the internet, SOMEWHERE. You just have to know where to look. This will eventually be the mainstream, and if Local TV think they have a problem now... man, do they have another thing coming.

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Peter Court ★ [1 month ago](#) 2 people liked this.

Close the barn Door the horses have left. this entire discussion is moot if we were to go the FCC route (<http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-lazarus6-...>)

1 eliminate the proprietary decoders (reducing waste and the onerous financial impediments of changing content suppliers)

2:Allowing the kind of choice most consumers want but cannot get due to CRTC content regulation and the defacto monopoly that exists due to geographic and equipment costs.

Time to show some real long term vision that will benefit CONSUMERS by introducing current technology that will alter the landscape and make the networks and Carriers responsive or redundant.

Never mind, what was I thinking? This is Canada where someone else decides for us,

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markpomero ★ [1 month ago](#) 2 people liked this.

If the CRTC got their nose out of this business we would all be better off in a free market.

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Mike J ★ [3 weeks ago](#) 1 person liked this.

1)

The majority of Canadians also live concentrated in the major markets, so one would think over-the-air transmission is most important in the major markets. Why leave that to cable or satellite monopolies? [I get 9 great HD stations with my mom's 1970s set of Acher rabbit ears.]

Local stations' business model at first was to make revenue from the commercials inserted in content. If there is any value-add to be had from having local stations present in a cable/satellite signal, let the stations decide if/what the cable/cable companies should pay for that. Remember, as in any other industry, the cost of input materials (stations & content) and the sale price of the output product (cable service) occur in two completely different supply/demand markets - the cost of inputs doesn't always affect the cost of outputs. If there is an additional cost to consumers, then in the end consumers will decide if any additional cost is worth it - or switch to rabbit ear antennas for that portion of their content.

I still would like to see the CBC be assigned a set of satellite frequencies and allowed to operate the only satellite free-to-air (FTA) service in Canada. Let the CBC earn money leasing channels (or even individual shows!); revenues could be used for development of CBC programming and other Canadian content development. Shows on the medium would be visible across the entire country. What a way to keep us informed. What a way to let us learn about each other. What a way to bind us together! It's the 2000s version of the rail from coast to coast.

2)

Money for transition to digital/HD transmission? No. Not to private businesses; the world is forever changing - they need to keep up.

Following the "airwaves are public property" mantra, I would very much like to see the CBC be granted large swaths of satellite, microwave, local transmission spectra for rent/lease to private broadcasters - and all the revenues funding CBC / Canadian content development, and transmission of these.

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Anon ★ 1 month ago 2 people liked this.

All I know is that local stations are folding and the quality of programming is rapidly going downhill while Cable TV and Satellite companies flourish. What's wrong with that picture? something has to change or we'll all be watching the same 5 channels in the near future. I've got lots of different places / ways to watch movies, but only TV does local news, local weather, local road conditions, local politics. And huge parts of this country can only access any TV via satellite. It's not as though they even have the option of switching to rabbit ears. If the only way a local station is going to be seen by enough folks to keep it afloat is to go HD on satellite, then we need to help them get there. That is why CBC is so very important - not because it carries the hockey games.

Flag

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jamespulle ★ 1 month ago 2 people liked this.

If the Government, via the CRTC, mandates transition to digital, it should provide some relief in the form of tax breaks or other incentives to make sure that most stations remain viable. If not... no big loss. Local TV has nothing left to give except maybe local news (which as shown by the CBC could easily be done on a regional basis.

Gone are the days when network programming would be re-emtped by high school sports or local elections. What happened to the local children's shows and local afternoon talk shows? They all moved to the Cable Community channels! I would rather invest in cable than in a major network affiliate that has no choice in programming.

The industry is moving more and more to an 'on demand' system of programming anyway. Live video streams, PVRs, and internet sites like YouTube and Hulu are changing what we watch, and when. I rarely watch anything 'live' anymore... it's usually been recorded and watched at a later date.

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DavidRep ★ [1 month ago](#) 2 people liked this.

NO to a carte blanc tv tax on consumers!

This request for additional tax by TV Companies is a naked and aggressive request tantamount to a bailout of already very prosperous Companies....just like their cousins in the USA.

If they cannot make it as - is, then they, like anyone else, should shut down.

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Dushan Divjak ★ [1 month ago](#) 2 people liked this.

I refuse to give the Big Networks a \$2 billion bailout over the next five years.

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Tommy ★ [1 month ago](#) 2 people liked this.

If we have to pay extra for local programming then I would like us to be able to opt out of these services and therefore not have to pay any extra fees. Why should we be forced to pay for something we seldom want or use and then pay a tax on top of the regular fees? It is ludicrous!

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frmichaud ★ [1 month ago](#) 2 people liked this.

I am opposed to supporting local TV stations with an extra fee collected by the cable company from it's customers

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John ★ [1 month ago](#) 2 people liked this.

Free enterprise should be allowed to dictate who survives and who does not. If local providers can produce products people want they will find ways to sell them. If not, they will fail.

I do not want the government to tell me what I can watch and I have no interest in paying additional tax to support industries that cannot stand on their own merit.

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Maureen Rieger ★ [3 weeks ago](#) 1 person liked this.

Local TV stations need to support themselves. If they can't make money, then they like other businesses either need to change their practices or they need to fold.

The industry needs to be self supporting

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Bob ★ [3 weeks ago](#) 1 person liked this.

I am against paying a monthly fee for local TV stations. They are business and should be able to operate without a bail out. CTV and Global bought all sorts of stations with money that they didn't have. They made that decision and now want the little guy to pay for it.

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cseiler1telusnet ★ [1 month ago](#) 2 people liked this.

Local TV is vital. I want and need to know what is happening in my own community. I watch local news everyday. It connects me with my community. It alerts me of danger and of problems. It gives me an opportunity to help in my community.

If there is an impact on business plans, then they have to incorporate them. Local stations must be allowed to negotiate the same as all other channels. The support required is from the CRTC to ensure that all stations are treated equally. If cable companies are paying for feeds from the US, then they must also pay for local feeds. The CRTC is the only one that can look at equity and ensure that local TV has the same support and payment as feeds from the US and other cities.

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Theresa ★ [3 weeks ago](#) 1 person liked this.

There is no question that local stations must be protected. I believe that it is every Canadian's birthright to have access to a local station. The financial challenges of doing so must be equally shared by the broadcasters and cable/satellite companies.

It appears that, to date, cable and satellite companies are offering only one solution - charge the customer more. However, that is not the only solution. Just like television owners have and will spend to deliver a better signal to every Canadian home, so should the cable and satellite companies bear some of this responsibility. Along with the privilege of unfettered charging for their services, now comes the responsibility of serving the Canadian public.

Also, the Canadian government should not be absolved of any responsibilities in this matter. Local television must survive, and if funds must be allocated to do so, then it becomes a budgetary issue.

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DaveA ★ [3 weeks ago](#) in reply to Theresa

I reserve the right to pay for it or not. Why do you feel I should have to pay for your want of local TV? Work for them?

The best part is if I cancel it, go underground with a US dish I don't have to pay for local TV. Get it off air for free. It is lunacy to force us to pay for them.

You are right about only getting one solution from Canadian operators, they don't compete much, CRTC backed monopolies and price fixing. Content is fixed too. Hazards of government knows best mentality.

If local stations want paid access, they must in my opinion give up their "must carry" clause and be like any other TV package and give me the no-cost option of opting out.

Seems like the local stations have friends and employees visiting this discussion and slanting the opinions. Either that or soaps must be the way of life for idle Canadians.

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red5 ★ [1 month ago](#) 2 people liked this.

Fast track the proposed FreeHD.

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Like



wildwolf ★ [1 month ago](#) 2 people liked this.

I live in rural nova scotia so I only have the choice of satellite TV. As far as I know the only local television is Breakfast television news/talk show and the 6pm news. Neither of these I watch on a regular basis as I am usually commuting to/from work. I certainly do not think we should pay anymore for a couple of local news broadcasts. Everything else is just the syndicated shows that

the national networks offer. It used to be the local tv actually had some different programming like local sports teams games but now with timeshifting and pvr's I watch what I want when. Local is insignificant in the modern age. Local Radio is much more important.

TV costs too much as it is for all garbage that is on it.

Flag

Like

 Moose57 ★ 1 month ago 2 people liked this.

1. If the OTA signals are FREE, whether analog or digital, then they may have 'value', but may not have a price associated with them.
In Canada, we DO NOT charge for AIR! Breathable or carriers of electromagnetic infotainment that serves the PUBLIC interests.

2. As a BUSINESS, they are NOT entitled to ANY form of support or incentive.
If so, then ANY and ALL business MUST be entitled to the same offerings.
That is a can of worms we do NOT want nor can we afford.

Flag

Like

 dannies ★ 1 month ago 2 people liked this.

Let's all be honest here.....no one and that includes the tv networks care about local programming. If they did they would have a plan setup for it now. They don't and never will they just want the cash grab.....Shows that are watched stay on tv. That's the reason local programming is not watched...it's not popular. The biggest problem here is that the cable guys and the networks are full of LIARS, protecting their own interests as the consumer gets screwed again thanks to the CRTC..

The cell phone industry has been ripping Canadians off for years ...thanks to the CRTC. Little guy pays again.....

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Like

 lweasel ★ 1 month ago 2 people liked this.

No, I do not see that the coalition of broadcasters seeking this should be entitled to these new charges. The CRTC has been correct in rejecting previous requests and should do so now. Priority placement, simulcasts, access to production funds, LPIF, loosened regulations in 1999, and the elimination of hourly advertising restriction are some of the things this industry has received over the years from its regulators. What have Canadians received in return for this access to public airwaves? Program schedules that are still, due to simulcast, dictated out of New York or Los Angeles. Canadians have seen \$740,000,000 sent abroad in program purchases, some 14,000 people laid off over the last decade or so due to cuts to local stations and woefully inadequate planning for digital conversion.

At every turn these same broadcasters have sought protections by filing against new OTAs, filing against low powered community TV, pushing & getting advertising restrictions placed on specialty channels and the list goes on.

When does it stop? When does the commission draw a line in the sand?

Flag

Like

 dishguy ★ 1 month ago 2 people liked this.

What local content???

The local content is so watered down on 95% of the broadcast station in Canada that there is very little value to the consumer to warrant any large infrastructure or business model changes. I would suggest that all the locally produced content in Canada could be aired on three stations and even then not even 24 hours per day.

How about the BDU's offering a couple of channels for local content that rotate through all the local content that the stations wish to submit?

The broadcasters have moved their advertising revenue streams from local programming to purchased American programming with the support of the CRTC.
To ignore that when discussing this issue is ridiculous and makes any changes without this in mind a waste of time and my money.

The only required incentives I see are mandates for Canadian content in prime time and maintaining the substitution rules to simulcast only.
If Canadian broadcasters can't broadcast Canadian shows when people will actually watch them then should they really be protected at all?
The CRTC has solidified mediocrity in Canadian productions with their protection of these broadcasters.
You have done this with my money and I am about to pull the plug on all Canadian broadcasting because of it.

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Kevin ★ [1 month ago](#) 2 people liked this.

1. I am a little confused by the way this question is asked. "Do you think allowing local stations to negotiate for the value of their signals...". They should definitely be allowed to negotiate however the cable and satellite providers should in no way be forced to agree to anything. These stations are coming cap in hand with no significant values to offer at the negotiating table. Their revenue is largely ad based and cable providers give them free access to a huge market, without which they would not get any ad revenue at all.

2. The switch to digital over the air was not needed for any reason whatsoever. Paid programming over cable/satellite was already going digital, what was the justification for forcing this on local broadcasters? So maybe they should be supported in that regard since it was forced on them however it is not up to the cable/satellite companies to support this. This was government mandated, maybe the CRTC should pay for it.

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NecessaryEvil ★ [1 month ago](#) in reply to Kevin 1 person liked this.

Did you read the questions they asked about net neutrality earlier this year? They were all loaded, just like the ones here. You can't ever count on a government agency to be impartial.

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gwallis ★ [1 month ago](#) 2 people liked this.

The market is demanding digital broadcasting and if the demand is sufficient in support of particular programming then it should be available. No legislative requirement should be necessary.

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Like



Darren Haber ★ [1 month ago](#) 2 people liked this.

Currently cable companies are required to rebroadcast the networks' signals and offer them in their basic package (giving them a larger advertising base and more revenue than cable channels) and the networks get perks like simultaneous substitution. The networks can't have it both ways: if they want a fee-for-carriage, then cable companies shouldn't be required to rebroadcast their signal and put their channels in the basic package.

Customers should have the choice if they want or don't want these channels, just like any other cable channel (especially if the cable companies start charging extra for them). The good thing for the networks is most people will probably still want the channels. I think this is the fairest solution. If people want to support local TV, they have the choice to pay for the local TV channel.

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*kenhalenb* ★ [1 month ago](#) 2 people liked this.

Allowing "local" stations to negotiate a fee for carriage would definetly have an impact on the industries current plans, they would continue to oversaturate certain markets with too many channels at the expense of people not evenly remotely associated with those markets. Let's face it a fee for carriage proposal would be much like the EI contributions made to the government of Canada, once the money hit the bank account of the network there would no means of ensuring that any of it went to any local stations rather it would be a means to fatten the bottom line of the network. Can we say more bonuses for the executives? Really, the industry has show that it has no good business plans available, a bit of trouble in ad revenue and they reach out their hands for a bail out. Who do they think that are? GM or Chrylser?

If the industry has not put together a viable business plan for the switch to digital by now there is nothing that can be done for them at this stage of the game. Besides isn't switching to digital supposed to require less energy for the same broadcast radius thus being a savings in the long term for the networks?

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*dknee* ★ [1 month ago](#) 2 people liked this.

1. Of course it will have an impact, however, in the interests of "free trade" the negotiating table needs to be level. You cannot fairly negotiate a value if you also have a requirement that this is a "must-carry". In my opinion, if a broadcaster wants to charge a "Distribution Fee" the distributor must have the option to say "No thanks." or negotiate until an acceptable value is determined. Also if a broadcaster wants a fee they should no longer be considered a "must-carry" in that market, no longer be guaranteed a prime place in the channel lineups and no longer qualify for commercial substitution. In other words they become a Discretionary Offering.

2. As for support or incentives, I don't recall subsidizing the conversion to colour from B&W broadcasting so why do I need to subsidize any other new technology that comes along ? As for an incentive, I feel that any current open-air broadcaster that decides to not offer a Digital OTA transmitter should no longer be considered a local broadcaster in that community or region. As a consequence they lose must-carry status, guaranteed channel placement and local commercial substitution.

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*mikeberi* ★ [1 month ago](#) 2 people liked this.

Local channels make money through advertising revenue! If they cannot sell ad space then put programming on that people will watch so they can then get ad revenue.

They already broadcast FTA digital transmissions. The US is already digital, the Canadian companies KNEW this was coming a long time ago. No excuses. Change is constant and must be budgeted for. Forgive me but how many years has it been since DTV was announced?

[Flag](#)

Like

*pcb4* ★ [1 month ago](#) 2 people liked this.

1. Yes it will have an impact. This is not news and anyone with a sound business plan should have been ready for this change to free up the broadband spectrum. Didn't do it? Tough. I run my own small business and government is not ready, now or ever, to help me when I am both stupid and lazy.

2. No. The industry needs to stay on target. If anything, and this does not affect me, individuals who do not have access to alternatives should be assisted to that they can pick up the new digital signals, should that ever happen in this country. Any government monies should go in that direction. Weak sisters who can't cut it need to move on. Did anyone save AM radio? The telegraph? The typewriter manufacturer?

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 *Ross Jeffery* ★ [1 month ago](#) 2 people liked this.

The industry should be able to do the transition without outside help

[Flag](#)[Like](#)

 *nomorefuckingfields* ★ [1 month ago](#) 2 people liked this.

Paying more for television service is ridiculous!

There's more channels, more ways to access TV shows, more competition and new technologies. Supply is going up and since the number of subscribers is about the same, the simple law of supply & demand says prices should fall.

If companies can't make money in this environment, don't expect me to cough up more money because the executives can't run a business.

GM, Chrysler, Nortel, Global... all losers & dinosaurs. Extinction is nature's way of culling the weak & stupid.

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 *roncad* ★ [1 month ago](#) 2 people liked this.

Let the market do its job. Stop making the public bail out failing businesses. Let the local stations come up with a better method for making money. Better programming will bring in more advertising. How have they pulled this off for the past 50+ years? Suddenly NOW they need to be bailed out. And as for the cable companies' solution of simply passing the fees off to their customers - well there is absolutely no surprise there. With their monopoly they can get away with anything they want. There is no competition and that is the root of the problem there. Bottom line is the only people that will be impacted by this fee is the customers. We need a complete overhaul of the system and the CRTC is in the way of fixing it all.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)

 *Riny van Someren* ★ [1 month ago](#) 2 people liked this.

By all means allow the local stations to negotiate. They would likely discover that their current product isn't worth very much. Maybe the answer is for the broadcasters to get out of broadcasting and instead become producers of programs that can be sold to satellite / cable companies.

The downside of that of course is that all our programming might then come from foreign sources, so a subsidy may be required to keep some Canadian content (which I believe is already being done).

Along with this, the cable / satellite providers should be forced to offer more flexible packages. Right now I would have to buy two separate packages to get the two channels I am interested in (so I don't buy any).

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 *Carl B* ★ [1 month ago](#) in reply to [Riny van Someren](#) 3 people liked this.

The only way this negotiation could have any chance to be fair is if the stations were to lose must-carry status, lose any ability to engage in signal substitution or other tampering with US local station programming and stand to have their prime spots on the cable lineup taken away from them and given to competitors the moment they get a little too greedy.

That does not appear to be what is being proposed?

Flag

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 *NecessaryEvil* ★ [1 month ago](#) in reply to [Carl B](#) 1 person liked this.

Of course that's not what is being proposed. It makes way too much sense. The CRTC is not used to being fair in their decisions. Their track record shows it all too well.

Flag

Like

 *edwin_longueville* ★ [1 month ago](#) 2 people liked this.

As we are a customer of one of the Sattelite providers, with basically no other choice as we live in the country in a hilly environment. I of course have an opinion on this matter. We currently have access to 300 plus channels of wich we only watch 5 or 6 , We are not able to make an arrangement with our provider that we want a contract for these 6 stations only, We are forced to pay for a whole buch that we NEVER watch. If the rules change, and I totally agree that resellers have to pay for the product that they resell. Then the CRTC " HAS" to prevent the resellers to oblige their customers to buy something that they don't want. So far the CRTC has allways protected the businesses and never the consumer, and it is time that changes

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 *Suzanne Michal* ★ [1 month ago](#) 2 people liked this.

Isn't this the 3rd time the CRTC has been petitioned to add this tax? I can't afford to pay more.

Flag

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 *Mel* ★ [1 month ago](#) 2 people liked this.

Yes, allowing "local" media giants CTV and Canwest to negotiate for the "value" of their signals would allow them more profit - a small portion of which would be used for the digital transition by which you mean HDTV transmitters. But the internet is here and doesn't require MEGAWATTS of wasted RF energy.

No, the industry does not require support or incentives (via taxation) to implement the digital transition. Technology is constantly evolving and this is a fact of doing business in any business. This technology change cost must be built into their business model just like it is for any other business. Media companies should not be treated different because they are media companies. If I want to watch local TV let me choose it on the web.

Flag

Like

 *Carl B* ★ [1 month ago](#) in reply to [Mel](#)

The digital transition is a huge one-time expense but, once built, a digital OTA TV station actually requires fewer megawatts (or kilowatts) to cover the same audience compared to an analogue station.

The proposed TV tax isn't a one-time expense. It's a gift that keeps on taking. That deregulation has already given cable companies free reign to gouge consumers only worsens the problems. It's clear that the CRTC is not in this to protect Canadian consumers.

Flag

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 *Rob* ★ [1 month ago](#) 2 people liked this.

I want local programming to remain as diverse and available as it currently is. Whatever it takes to do that is what I am in favor of. I don't know for sure if the Canadian networks need more money or not to survive in an increasingly competitive industry, but if they do, then the CRTC

needs to do whatever it takes to ensure their survival. I am counting on the CRTC's expertise to make it so and to decide what the correct approach will be.

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Sean W ★ [1 month ago](#) 2 people liked this.

Why does local programming/news need to be broadcast over TV? Just because that's the way it's traditionally been done it doesn't have to stay that way. We need to ask the question, is there a better option?

No portion of an industry should need a governing body to ensure it's sustainability. If it does require this then it is no longer viable. We can try to govern it to make it sticks around but for how long?

This isn't to say that local news is dead but maybe it needs to find another conduit. As many people turn to the internet and other forms of media for news and resources local news/tv should be doing this as well.

Many video feeds on the Internet today now even have commercials (that you can't skip before you see the content). that kind of structure could help support such an effort. This could even support local advertising.

The fact of the matter is small towns have a small market. They are not viable for big broadcasters to broadcast at no charge. And they are not sustainable on their own.

The internet is the place for this content. The small markets that want it can then find it and find it on demand. Everyday I see so many industries locked into tradition. They need to look forward and adapt to changing technology. They need to turn it into their own successes not cower from it.

Times are changing, find a way to change with it or become obsolete.

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



rstse ★ [1 month ago](#) 2 people liked this.

The Secretary General,
CRTC,
Ottawa, ON, K1A 0N2.
30 November, 2009.
Sir/Madam,

Cable charges

Up to the 1970s, high rise residential buildings used to erect their own TV antennae on their roofs and distribute the signals internally. The costs were mostly absorbed in the management fees.

Then the cable companies bribed the developers of such buildings by offering to pre-lay internal cables free to the developers. Both the subsequent professional property managers and condo boards washed their hands off from providing TV signals, and shovelled the liability to the individual residents to negotiate individually with the cable companies.

The cable companies charged a fee for delivering the originally free TV signals to each household. They have made profits without paying anything to the TV broadcasters. Since they charge the households for delivering originally free signals, they should themselves pay a fee to the TV stations. But they now consider making a profit from originally free TV signals to be their right.

In addition to such unfair practice, they also conspire to fool the public in order to increase their profits. One such example is the treatment of HD signals. Now all US stations and some Canadian ones are broadcasting in HD. The cable companies degrade the digital HD signals and

remodulate them into analogue CATV/satellite carriers, thus depriving the consumer of HD signals. Then they sell to the consumer a set-top box and charge for reconverting the HD signals.

They appear to conspire with HD TV retailers. All HD TV sets carry NTSC/ATSC/QAM tuners, but retailers do not always sell the sets that are complete with a coaxial antenna connection to those tuners, thus negating their use. The retailers would like to sell a set-top box that connects to the HDMI input of the TV set. So the original broadcasted HD signals are degraded, remodulated, scrambled, and reverted to the HDMI signal; unnecessary, cumbersome, costly and unwieldy.

When I bought our HD TV set, I had spent considerable time looking at the details, ensuring the availability of the three tuners and a coaxial antenna input. We now have a rabbit ear antenna at the window and connected to the antenna input of the HD TV set. We regularly pull quite a few local HD TV digital broadcasts. Digital signals do not need to be as strong as analogue signals; digital circuitry ensures good quality. We use Bell TV for Condos for the analogue signals.

Rogers, in particular, has propagated other false information in its advertisements/promotional materials towards the consumer.

Attached are two .pdf files(if I manage to attach them here) obtained from scanning both sides of a card that has been shovelled into every household in the area. At the bottom of the card is printed the name of the area representative and his/her representative number. I had cut out the name before scanning.

I have circled in red the false information. Rogers Cable supplies CATV signals, which are analogue, and uses the traditional NTSC tuner. Digital TV signals need the ATSC/QAM tuner.

In addition to refraining from making false claims, the cable companies should pay for their program sources, and stop fooling the public with their set-top boxes.

Regards,

Yours truly,

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Jesse ★ 1 month ago 2 people liked this.

1. Local stations should produce content that the people want and thrive as a business based on this fact alone. If they dont produce content that people want then they will fail, just like any other business that does not produce a product people want. We should not pay for the mistakes of these companies.

2. Absolutely not. The consumers are the ones that need support with the prices we have to pay for TV service from the monopolistic companies we have now.

Flag

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John B ★ 1 month ago 2 people liked this.

There is no purpose to added a tax to local tv. Honestly if their business model is flawed and they cannot make any money then please just shutdown. The only thing that local tv provides is local news which is free only and available in newspapers. And please dont let the govt step in and bailout these local tv companies.

Flag

Like



John ★ 1 month ago 2 people liked this.

The transition to digital is not the issue. Yes it is a great deal of money, but so was the transition to colour. It's a part of doing business and remaining competitive. Perhaps, more to

the point, OTA broadcasting has reached a point of near obsolescence. Markets where \$million dollar HDTV transmitters service 5% of the market make OTA an unreasonable business plan. Other options need be seriously explored.

Create suitable infrastructure for broadband internet to carry programming is one example. Some people live in areas where cable and satellite are not possible, but Wi-Max is possible and the low power transmitters required are cheap in comparison to broadcast. Internet fees are far too high in this country and bandwidth caps much too low. This will have to be dealt with. Broadcaster subsidized satellite receivers is another. The cost of purchasing and maintaining a transmitter, antenna and tower would buy/subsidize many satellite dishes or similar.

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Carl B ★ [1 month ago](#) in reply to [John](#) 1 person liked this.

Just build one or two digital transmitters in each community and use the digital subchannels to provide five channels of DVD-quality standard-definition OTA TV from each.

While multiple HDTV signals won't fit on the same channel at once, if the objective were merely to replicate existing analogue services digitally there would be no need to force every station to build its own digital facilities. Build one transmitter, lease the individual subchannels to local broadcasters one by one, and a small city would have its OTA DTV.

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franciedennison ★ [1 month ago](#) 2 people liked this.

The local stations do all the work for what they broadcast and bear all the costs. It is inherently unfair that cable and satellite providers can re-broadcast these signals at no cost to them and no revenue for local tv stations. The entire industry strikes me as unfairly skewed towards the benefit of networks and cable and satellite, and internet and phone, service providers in a manner virtually unaccountable to the consumers. It's as if the only thing they and the CRTC view consumers as is a bottomless money pit with little to no thought for the quality of service provided.

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jmhm2003 ★ [1 month ago](#) 2 people liked this.

Local, over the air, is free. The cable companies should not charge anything for this, and if they do it should be paid directly back to the local channels.

Canadian content must be funded by a percentage fee, based on what is charged by the cable companies, in order for Canadian culture to survive in a medium that is swamped with poor American content. We, after all, are not Americans and should not be "entertained" as such.

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angela adams ★ [1 month ago](#) 2 people liked this.

Once again, the cable companies just are greedy and want to make money on something they are currently not paying for and turning around and selling. There should be NO EXTRA COSTS to the consumers and the cable/sat companies should quit padding their pockets and actually PAY for the local programming they pirate.....

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Lee ★ [1 month ago](#) 2 people liked this.

The local stations are needed to provide service to those millions of us who refuse to pay for television. They need to be kept viable, so allowing them to negotiate for their signals would be one way of doing it. Providing service only to major markets doesn't fly with me, as many of the people using antennas are rural.

Maybe we need to supply some sort of incentive to install better(more powerful) transmitters so that more of us can receive the new digital signal.

Does the government feel free TV is important? Don't we get weather warnings etc. through our local stations? Does the government want a TV in every household or do they care one way or another? I can always find a good book.

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Like



spbrunner ★ [1 month ago](#) 2 people liked this.

The idea of allowing local stations to negotiate for the value of their signals has really gone nowhere. All we got was TV advertisements, with both sides not really telling the truth about what was going on. I think that going digital should be mandated, but I do not think that the cable companies or local stations should get government money. Both are currently making money. If they cannot make money, maybe they should get into another line of business.

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Like



Wynn ★ [1 month ago](#) 2 people liked this.

1. Let the local stations sink or swim. If they have a product worth something, then they will be able to negotiate via the marketplace as do all other businesses. Why should this be the business of a government agency such as the CRTC anyway?

2. NO!

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Like



Ed ★ [1 month ago](#) 2 people liked this.

Since the cable and satellite companies have to pay for the rest of the channels that they offer, why should local channels be any different? They charge their customers plenty of money for their basic package and yet these channels are not costing them anything. The broadcasters should receive some compensation for their channels.

But in exchange for this compensation, the broadcasters need to have strictly enforced rules which require them to provide not just Canadian content, but local content. If they want money, then they have to spend it in Canada and not just re-broadcast US shows. If I want to watch US shows I will watch the US channels.

There also needs to be a requirement that local stations provide HD and not just the Toronto stations like the current situation.

The switch to digital is a valid reason for them to require additional funding. But with the federal government giving everyone else and their dog money, I don't see why they are not helping the required (by the federal government) transition.

In a few years the cable and satellite companies may have trouble competing with the internet. Why pay for both cable/satellite and the internet when you can watch "tv" online with a high speed connection?

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mikestott ★ [1 month ago](#) 2 people liked this.

I am not an expert on this but I do feel the cable companies have been free riders for way too long. Local channels should be compensated for their signals just like any other business. I feel that the system as it is set up now discriminates against local channels as their markets are small, but they must compete with every other channel for viewers. The money required to compete with big market channels on production values is prohibitive and not available through local advertising. They have the advantage of being local, but that is not enough to compete with all the other stations.

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Frameboy ★ [1 month ago](#) 2 people liked this.

Why in the world would I want to pay for local programming... IF I needed it (but in the GTA I don't...) I would maybe pay for it as a specialty channel. Since I do NOT need it, I shouldn't have to pay for it.

It's bad enough I have to subscribe to a bunch of channels I don't want to see the few I do want.

The fact is the networks should have factored this in as part of the cost of doing business. The cost of local TV is not new, it was simply ignored. Now that Global is hurting and CTV spent millions on the Olympics, they want more money. Well, that is what ad revenue is for.

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Philip P ★ [1 month ago](#) 2 people liked this.

There is no need for these local broadcasters, unless these companies (CTV, Global, CityTV, etc) can actually start making some of their own in-house content. More then the Local News (I get that online) and more then the regionalized versions of international programs (Canadian Idol, SYTYC Dance Canada, etc). All my programming I watch comes from the US Networks, and I watch their direct HD feed (as Shaw provides on their Basic HD package) and I never watch it on the Canadian simulcaster. Only 'Local' programming I watch is sports on TSN, Sportsnet, Score, etc. If they want to charge for these local channels, then they can become a specialty network and not protected by the CRTC as a 'must carry' channel.

On a side note... I love the idea being suggested here where everything would be a la carte. The current 'tier' system, and 'must carry' channels system is B.S.

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lenmatthews ★ [1 month ago](#) 2 people liked this.

The industry should be made to walk on their own. No help should be provided by my monthly fees or tax dollars.

[Flag](#)

Like

James ★ [1 month ago](#) 2 people liked this.

1. Yes, providers are obligated to carry local station signals. You cannot negotiate for a service which you are mandated to carry.
2. Yes, remove obligation of provider to carry signals if local stations are unable to support themselves.

[Flag](#)

Like

MartinDz ★ [1 month ago](#) 2 people liked this.

Charge the damn cable companies, they are extremely rich and greedy. It (cable & satellite) already operate as shared monopolies. People have some choice, but Rogers and Bell are they big players in Ontario at least. Force them to be a little bit more responsible and willing to give to the communities from which they profit so much. Its time some of this crap stops, and Canada becomes a much greater country than it already is, and realizes its potential in all types of sectors and spheres of influence.

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Darrell Woods ★ [1 month ago](#) 2 people liked this.

I subscribe to satellite television and pay a lot of money each month for this privilege. Local TV and any related costs is an issue that should be sorted out between them and the cable providers, and without additional costs to the consumer. It seems to me that the cable providers are asking us to shoulder costs that the providers should already be shouldering from their enormous profits.

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[Dan_H333](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) 2 people liked this.

1) I believe that given the direction and market pressures, these private companies should have factored in the well established and publicized move to digital as part of their business planning. If they truly want market forces to rule, then they will find a way or perish. If they want some form of bailout/corporate welfare to compensate them for (possibly bad) business decisions in the past they should deal with that with their debt holders and stockholders. If the wholly commercial companies want to be compensated then they should be unbundled and the consumer allowed to pick which of the local channels they want and allow the market to decide.

While the cable companies are making profits from their signals, there is no way that these near monopolies across the country will not pass the cost directly on to consumers within a matter of months.

2) The CBC should be the only one eligible for support as they are partially taxpayer funded. Their funding needs to be stabilized as the national broadcaster and support put in place for their transition. Private commercial interests do not deserve to be supported unless they are willing to increase the amount of locally produced programming for their affiliates across the country and dramatically reduce the amount of parroted US programming. By local in this context it means that they produce in the immediate geographical area of the station and do not simply repeat a feed from Toronto.

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[Jon_Q_Public](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) 2 people liked this.

1) Local stations generate revenue via advertising not via fee for carriage. This is the current and correct model. The value of their signals to cable companies is ZERO. Cable companies provide a service carrying their signals. If anything the cable companies should receive a fee from the tv stations for bringing eyeballs to the advertising that the tv stations are already compensated for.

2) The only incentive necessary is the will to survive. Evolve or perish, but don't ask the public for subsidies for private businesses.

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[Disgusted](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) 2 people liked this.

Existing Network television already distributes their signal to local affiliates via satellite. These satellite feeds should be made freely available to the public. There is no need to subsidize the transition in technologies to the networks. Content providers including Local Television stations should be allowed to charge any and all a fee for providing this content. This includes the Network itself and any Cable Television or Satellite aggregation companies such as Bell Expressview.

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[chris](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) 2 people liked this.

1. I have no idea. If they can make a deal with the carriers, good luck to them.

2. The industry has known that this was coming for years and has had plenty of time to plan for it. I don't have any sympathy for the major players. In the case of the rural areas where it may not be economical for stations to install new transmitters, there should be subsidies from federal and provincial governments, IF the majority of people in such areas want to keep these

services. I suspect that, in rural and remote regions, there is far more likely to be support for local television than in the big centres. This also emphasizes that it doesn't make much sense to force cable companies at least to pay for local TV because there is no cable service in most rural and remote areas.

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[Carl B](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to chris](#) 1 person liked this.

The rural community problem could be addressed by allowing municipal-level organisations to build small low-power TV transmitters to pick up and rebroadcast distant stations. This system is widespread in mountainous states such as Montana, Colorado and Utah - to the point where the US has about three times as many LPTV transmitters as full-power stations. These stations are not required to go digital, although they do receive federal subsidies to pay for conversions needed because the station they're rebroadcasting has converted. I believe the municipal-level "TV translator district" structure also exists in México, albeit on a smaller scale and licensed as ordinary TV stations.

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[Eva](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to chris](#) 1 person liked this.

I agree with Chris on point 2. Let's make sure that the rural/nothern/remote areas access to communications is protected.

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[marklenn](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) 2 people liked this.

1. I think we should allow the free market to decide, whatever stations get the most viewers should be the one that should be shown. there should be no requirement for local tv as most canadians watch american television stations like fox, wutv, tln, bet, a&e, spike, bravo,hn, disc, nationl geographic, mtv, or ifc. Showing all these local channels actually make canadians dislike tv, as we do not like shows like weather network or cooking channel we would rather see dancing with the stars or american idol

2. The government only role here is to make sure that prices do not go up and should go down, while getting more for consumers. I feel that big companies like rogers, are shaking down consumers with high cost of cable. There is no reason we pay so much for cable and we do not even get all the channels we want. We pay \$70 a month and 90% of the stations consumers do not want. Customers or tax payers should not pay one single cent, the companies like rogers have been getting rich off us for years and its time they spend there own money.

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[F durham](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to marklenn](#)

we are paying \$95 a month, plus tax. I watch local programming, especially for news and some local productions.

[Flag](#)

Like



[F durham](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to marklenn](#)

we are paying \$95 a month, plus tax. I watch local programming, especially for news and some local productions.

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[F durham](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to marklenn](#)

and yes, most of the stations are useessand I cannot get the ones I want because it not part of the package and it would cost ANOTHER \$20 per month to get them, not worth it I

say
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Doft F ★ [1 month ago](#) 2 people liked this.

If TV stations are failing under the current set up, how will they afford to build digital towers everywhere? If the CRTC wants every square kilometer of Canada to be covered by digital signals, then they should pay for the areas that have too few people to make it practical for TV stations to build on.

Flag

Like



Peter ★ [1 month ago](#) 2 people liked this.

I am of two minds about this as I have a cottage in an area of Ontario that I can only receive one channel and that is fine I can get the news and weather and that is all I need but after 2011 I will be forced to get a satellite dish for this, what is the reason for forcing this issue? I would like an explanation for this please

Flag

Like



Carl B ★ [1 month ago](#) in reply to [Peter](#) 1 person liked this.

The reason for forcing the issue is that digital TV compresses more signal into less bandwidth, allowing UHF TV channel 52-69 to be auctioned to the mobile 'phone companies. The US has already made the transition as Congress welcomes the billions of dollars in revenue.

Unfortunately, none of the digital TV systems have shown acceptable performance in the presence of impulse noise if used on low-VHF channels. This has pushed many longtime NBC and CBS affiliates onto UHF channels, where the maximum distance which can be covered from a single transmitter is significantly reduced. VHF channels below 6 are in most US markets becoming a digital wasteland; the digital TV's will still display the old channel number (as "3.1", for instance) but these are UHF stations now.

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calvinhc ★ [1 month ago](#) 2 people liked this.

What added cost, at this point in time, is there to the broadcasters? In my area, there are nine local stations, and only one of them (the provincial public broadcaster) is not currently broadcasting a digital signal. The other eight already have the transmitter in place and turned on.

The sooner the analog transmitters are shut down and the digital transmitters turn up their power, the better.

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Carl B ★ [1 month ago](#) in reply to [calvinhc](#) 1 person liked this.

I presume you are in Toronto. The situation in the rest of the country is that a few large cities (Montréal, Vancouver, Ottawa, Calgary, Edmonton...) have an incomplete set of digital OTA channels and the rest of the country has no domestic OTA DTV. Mexico has twice as many digital stations as Canada, even though their DTV transition ends at the end of 2021 and ours at the end of August 2011.

Odds are, the only way to stop retailers from dumping obsolete analogue-only TV sets in Canada without warning consumers (now that they're banned from US interstate commerce) or to convince broadcasters to broadcast anything digitally is to legally force them to do so.

The CRTC's prohibition of a digital transitional television undertaking using the digital subchannels to broadcast more than a couple hours a day of anything that isn't on the analogue station is also a hinderance. Allowing OTA broadcasters to use digital TV's full capability and turn off analogue now would likely speed conversion by providing an economic incentive for the switch. Merely broadcasting the same old content, but in HD widescreen, doesn't bring even one cent in additional advertising revenue for a station.

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Like



[gbrousseauandrwoak](#) ★ [3 weeks ago](#) 1 person liked this.

I am very concerned about local television becoming a thing of the past. Already we have seen the A Channel cut back on news shows----this has been the station that I watch because they put our community first in the broadcasts----I kept up to date on events as well as news within our city. If something is not done soon we will no longer have this station much longer. The cable companies need to step up and pay thier share and not at thier customers expense as they have been making great profits from us for many years. They come across as being very arragant at the meetings with the CRTC. Lets get this situation settled now before we lose local television.

[Flag](#)

Like



[StanF](#) ★ [3 weeks ago](#) in reply to [gbrousseauandrwoak](#)

The A channel is owned by CTV which is actually a network across Canada. They bought out CJOH in Ottawa and other former affiliates of CTV who also own the Globe and Mail. I'll bet you didn't know that Rogers cable owns Mcleans - that formerly fine news magazine.

[Flag](#)

Like



[Vivers](#) ★ [3 weeks ago](#) 1 person liked this.

why don't you allow users to select the channels they want to watch instead of having to pick from packages. That way we won't feel like we're paying for channels we won't ever watch and will feel as though we are paying for what we do want to watch.

[Flag](#)

Like



[drkdakshinamurti](#) ★ [3 weeks ago](#) 1 person liked this.

CBC is the real face and soul of Canada; but for CBC Canada would be a satellite of American broadcasters such as Fox network. Canadian networks other than CBC will be only glad to be the customers of American trash. We have to avoid this abomination by strengthening CBC so that the real Canadian interests are served. They should be allowed at the bargaining table like other Crown corporations are allowed to, should be able to sell their signals and not make private networks free loaders. This is a nation-building and nation-sustaining endeavour. CRTC should look after the interests of Canada and canadians rather than those of for-profit private net works.

[Flag](#)

Like



[peeler](#) ★ [4 weeks ago](#) 1 person liked this.

The industry already has far too much support at the taxpayers expense. Let them operate as a free market... The strong will survive while the others will fade away. Just like automobiles...if they don't build a decent domestic product, consumers will and do look elsewhere for their needs. No more bailouts for any industry.

[Flag](#)

Like



[Rose](#) ★ [4 weeks ago](#) 1 person liked this.

No, I don't think we as consumers should have to pay extra for TV Stations. They are in business and they should be able to compete as well as any other business. I assume it would be charge a flat rate across the board and I don't think anyone should pay for anything they don't watch. There only certain few programs I watch on TV Stations and I am totally opposed to this, we as consumers are being charged for enough as it is.

[Flag](#)

Like

 *muhammad1* ★ [4 weeks ago](#) 1 person liked this.

I think cable/satellite companies should pay to local TV for their programming content without asking any money from consumer and also pay them the maney for the years they have not paid but charged customer with different technical terms. It is so simple to understand. CRTC role should be in favor of overburden consumer. When it comes to programming I should be charged what I want to watch and that will make everything fair for any TV station.

[Flag](#)

Like

 *zee c* ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

Digital cable has taken away my choice to use only local TV Stations. These local stations are more than enough for me as I watch limited TV and I am picky about what I watch. Most important is that I chose what I want to watch, the monopoly companies choices should not be interfering in my life.

DOWN WITH MONOPOLIES and MASS POLICIES. Give me my right to choose back!

[Flag](#)

Like

 *Anon* ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

An awful lot of you keep pointing to the internet as an option. There are millions of Canadians who either have no access to the internet or limited access via dial-up. It is a vast huge country we live in and only Toronto gets to be the center of the universe where all things come to them on bended knee.

For large portions of the population, the ONLY option for television and a view of the world is via satellite TV. These folk aren't on this forum because they have NO ACCESS!

I will presume to speak for at least some of them, for there is a portion of every year when I am one of them.

It is not unreasonable for Canadians to expect to be able to get a local weather forecast, local news, and events via television. For some of us, local means within 300 miles, not the same city. And yes, programming like North of 60 was a lot more meaningful than 90% of American crap we are forced to allow into our homes if we want to see anything made in Canada.

Please take a second or two to consider those who don't have all the options you have.

[Flag](#)

Like

 *Kamiki* ★ [1 month ago](#) in reply to Anon

Well Anon, you are right of course. Local programming is important and probably just as important in big cities as in small communities. I think that all contributions to this debate agree on that. Most seem to be saying that the existing structure isn't doing a very good job of providing local programming throughout Canada. There also seems to be agreement that having cable/satellite TV subscribers pay more so that additional money can be paid to the broadcasters isn't going to accomplish anything more than improve the profitability of the big broadcasting corporations.

I don't believe that anyone expects conventional television to be abandoned overnight such that we will all have to rely on the internet. But it is realistic to consider that during the coming years, digital transmission using internet protocol, (or similar encoding structures) will replace current transmission technologies especially analog.

I have lived in the North (Goose Bay, King William Island; Cambridge Bay; etc.), at a time when radio and television technology was rather primitive. I have also spent over fifty years in the telecommunications and broadcasting industry and so I am familiar with the

difficulties that you describe. However, almost all remote communities are much better served by technology today than 40 or 50 years ago. There has been a tremendous increase in the variety of program sources available. But during the same period, I do not see that local programming has improved and in fact, by some standards it may be worse. Hopefully this dialog will influence the CRTC to disregard the misleading advertising campaign by the broadcasting networks and move on to policy and regulatory reform that will embrace the future.

[Flag](#)

Like



Bilal ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

Deregulation is the answer. If there was no rules or at least rules governing broadcasters they would adapt. More choices would be out there on more services for less. Local channels would receive their fair share from their holding company either Bell Globe or Rogers. The fit would survive and the unwanted would leave.

As a country we may of urbanized in such a way that provinces like Manitoba might simply no longer have the population or finances to maintain local TV. Not to say local coverage isn't alive and well in radio and newspaper. Frankly, a group of local community members could easily create a web-cast to replace a newscast for little to no cost.

In 5-10 years carrier are going to move to web broadcasting at which point all discussions of who regulated what will become irrelevant. Why not open the flood gates now and have an eased transition to the deregulation of web media that everyone is preparing for?

[Flag](#)

Like



Betty Geier ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

In my opinion, all Canadians should have reasonable access to local programming. My favourite tax dollars fund CBC and local programming. I think that local TV is under severe threat, and I believe that cable monopolies should pay for the local signals they distribute. I don't think that these monopolies should be allowed to pass these payments along to subscribers. In my opinion, rates for basic service should be re-regulated and the compensation to local broadcasters for their signals should be allocated based on each broadcaster's total audience for Canadian shows.

[Flag](#)

Like



revelebreton ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

If the broadcasters get their way then I want the option to be able to remove those channels from my service to make sure they do not get any more of my money. They have failed consistently to provide local content and have hacked and slashed their way to record profits, especially in Atlantic Canada where reporters have been seen carrying their own equipment. This is disgusting, if they want to preserve local television then they better give us something to save.

[Flag](#)

Like



TK ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

Local stations negotiating for the value of their signals would have an enormous impact on consumers. The cost, and another few percentage points for profit's sake, would be handed back to the customer.

Cable and satellite companies are about to see an enormous decline in their respective customer bases. The internet has a plethora of sites willing to send you the latest and greatest in terms of television. Realistically speaking, consumers are already taking advantage of what's available. Much like the music industry, television is about to fall victim to peoples' increasing desire to cut costs.

This site is available because the industry is being forced to change, to keep up. Now it's time to face facts and realize those consumers are technologically savvy enough to avoid cash grabs by corporations unwilling to meet today's demands.

[Flag](#)

Like



Helen Merrell ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

Local broadcasters should be able to charge the cable companies for carrying their broadcasts and, I believe, the cable companies can cover the costs themselves without billing their customers.

[Flag](#)

Like



NecessaryEvil ★ [1 month ago](#) in reply to [Helen Merrell](#)

You 'believe' they can cover the costs themselves? You really live in a fantasy world if you think they're going to cover these costs out of the goodness of their hearts, because they can very easily increase their prices some other way to make up for it.

[Flag](#)

Like



DWright ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

1. The impact on the industry could be that customers go back to OTA reception due to increased costs and taxes (LPIF is here and HST is on they way).
2. If they don't convert to DTV themselves (with their own resources) they should leave the industry.

[Flag](#)

Like



dave_v ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

1. Yes, if the local stations can negotiate about a fee, it means that we have to be able to choose the channels individually for it to make sense. A TV station company with owns local stations in multiple markets can collect the fees for all of those local stations from the cable and satellite companies and then redistribute it to the local stations it owns.
2. The only incentive acceptable would be tax credits, that may be carried over the years if a company is not profitable at the moment, for the upgrade needed for the transition.

[Flag](#)

Like



Mavis DeGirolamo ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

Local TV is incredibly important to receive local news and capture the events of importance in the neighbourhood... this helps to keep communities alive and flourishing.

[Flag](#)

Like



robertscott ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

My wife and I had satellite TV for a year and cancelled it because we were watching local tv which we could get over the air just as clearly.

If the local stations go off the air we won't be able to watch them over the air or on cable or satellite because they won't be broadcasting.

Please arrange it so that MONWEY doesn't run this show too.

[Flag](#)

Like



R Grant ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

I welcome FreeHD having experienced the same in England with great satisfaction.If subsidies

to the broadcaster to the channels are used to subsidise the cost of the service this is fine by me as long as the cable subscribers are not allowed to download their extra cost onto the cable consumers. Cable companies make very handsome profits already and can afford this. FreeHd should include all the public service channels, (Knowledge, CBC (three channels,) C.P.A.C., PBS, weather, traffic, emergency information and local tv stations.) They do not need support - they need legislated pressure. Otherwise they will do the minimum instead of doing their best. That is (regrettably) the way of most self-regulated commercial operations. The incentive to the channels would be that they are allowed to show their own advertising (and get revenue) rather than being pre-empted by the cable companies' inserted advertising.

Flag

Like

 *laurich468* ★ 1 month ago 1 person liked this.

I can see that, as analog TV becomes obsolete, the 'local' stations will need to invest in digital infrastructure if they want to remain available nationally. However, that's the cost of doing business. They've made billions in profit for years, so maybe instead of spending that money on buying sprees in the US, they can put some of those bucks into some broadcasting equipment. Personally, I don't want to pay for 'local' stations, as I don't think I have any. The versions of CTV, Global and CityTV that I see in my region have a nightly news content (oh yeah, and one of them has a breakfast show), and that's it. They might call themselves 'local' but they are not. I get better News and Entertainment coverage through my local paper and the internet, and my cable provider's VOD section is where I go to watch truly local TV, as MTS commissions a number of local documentaries and music shows each year. The TV stations and cable companies that are currently fighting in the court of public opinion are multimedia dinosaurs that dug their own graves. They drove themselves into debt trying to be bigger and scarier than the other dinosaurs, and now they are crushed under their own weight and want us to come to their rescue. Many of the local stations that are being ditched now as unprofitable WERE profitable at a local level - they are just not profitable when your definition of 'profit' starts at six figures.

I currently pay about \$150 a month for cable (mostly for bundled channels that I don't want). I once calculated that, if I just bought all the shows I like on DVD, I would actually be \$200 ahead by the end of the year. And, of course, there are ways to access geo-blocked American websites from within Canada, which you can quickly find instructions for on the Internet. If my bill goes up much higher, I'll just buy DVDs and/or watch on the Net.

Flag

Like

 *gregfo* ★ 1 month ago 1 person liked this.

Soon most Canadians will have a PVR. Since getting mine I have not watched commercials, I just skip past them. It will not be long now and we will see advertisers pulling TV ads as their effectiveness fails.

TV networks will have to adapt or close their doors, they should not be given the opportunity to raise revenue through Cable companies, (who pass their costs on to the viewer). Opening that door will lead to an ever widening dependency instead of innovation and evolution.

Greg F.

Flag

Like

 *M. V. Harpe* ★ 1 month ago 1 person liked this.

Local TV is important, and needs to be financed properly. The cable companies make enough money as it is, and should pay, without extra charges to customers. The CBC is in dire straits financially. Why should they not be allowed to charge the cable companies for the signals they give them? And, why should the cable companies receive their signals free? In our economy, you pay for what you buy.

Flag

Like



Jean Chard ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

I am concerned that local television find a way to continue to bring us local news and programming. I do not believe, from what I know, that the cable companies need to charge the consumer anything more, even if the local stations are given a fee for their signal. In any case, any additional cost passed on to the consumer should be minimal. I believe that the CBC should receive some of the revenue and not be shut out because they are a "public" broadcaster.

[Flag](#)

Like



dlc ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

1.no

2.no

[Flag](#)

Like



robin_D_68 ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

This campaign by local TV stations is very misleading. For the most part, local content seems to be local news at 6 and eleven. Some stations, like City TV offer multicultural programming but in all honesty, doesn't Rogers already provide viewers in the GTA with a wide variety of community-based TV programming? Why is there this great pressing need to save local TV? Do we really need 3 or 4 competing local TV stations reporting the same news or we will suffer some great cultural identity crisis in Canada? I think not. I believe this is a convenient way to top up profits for CTV & Global. The only truly fair way to impose (yet another) tax on Canadians for local TV would be to give the cable companies the option of offering a service with and without local programming, making it a fee for services rather than an outright tax. Sorry, but I don't watch your local Canadian stations that seem to run mostly American shows anyhow and I still fail to see how this will greatly affect Canadian identity. Of course, this is a double edged sword. were that to happen, viewership would certainly go down and so would the rates that they were able to charge advertisers. Maybe CTV and Global should be happy that Rogers is forced to carry their signal in the first place?

[Flag](#)

Like



Susan Rankin ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

It is important to remember that originally cable television sold itself to the consumer because unlike broadcasters they wouldn't so they claimed have advertisements. What happened to that?

[Flag](#)

Like



stanfockner ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

Mr Moore

While I applaud your response to the government demand that the CRTC conduct a survey of what Canadians want, the CRTC is ill prepared to respond to our needs.

Remember it was the CRTC and Industry Canada that demanded the over the air stations convert to digital TV and not Canadian taxpayers.

New technology is great if you want it and if you can afford it.

But please sir, don't regulate it down our throat and expect us to pay for it too.

[Flag](#)

Like



harywood ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

If we are talking local-station value, they why did CTV - TSN's parent, decide to broadcast the Grey Cup only over cable and satellite? Obviously, they also perceive that the local stations offer very little broadcast value, especially for such a high-profile event. CTV's decision has certainly deep-sixed the validity of local station broadcasting.

The business model has changed. In 1960, broadcast TV and radio were the only venues available for information, outside print media. It's much different today. Today (for the most part) we choose to subscribe to programming or sift through internet-available information streams.

Our household of four tvs and six computers rarely, if ever, watch local broadcasting. It's too poorly produced and mostly inaccurate.

We don't condone additional fees for something we consider useless.

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



stanfocner ★ [1 month ago](#) in reply to [harywood](#) 1 person liked this.

I hope you don't expect a reply from the CRTC to your pithy, pointed and appropriate comments. Well spoken sir.

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



ericvc ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

What do you think will happen if Local TV gets to charge cable for its signal, the cost will once again be billed to consumers. It is getting to the point that when these changes occur, I expect to have the EXACT SAME cable SERVICE for the same price OR LESS. Any thing less will result in a cancelation of my cable.

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



andyyaworski ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

Wouldn't local TV negotiating the value of their programming be a zero sum negotiation? The Cable networks offer distribution through regular and digital signals on their networks. They would be equally justified in negotiating the value of their distribution services to local TV.

Ironically the incentives already exist for the transition to digital TV. Local TV is NOT paying for signal usage on Cable networks and Cable networks are NOT paying for local TV costs. To tip the balance in either direction would create an unfair market environment for either service.

If one were to examine the costs associated with maintaining the infrastructure of a cable network vs local TV production and then deduct "typical" subscription and advertising revenue (including any subsidies for local TV), I'd suspect they'd be comparable.

The reality is that this sudden "inequity" between Cable and the networks came with the onset of the Recession. One must wonder how exposed either party was to the damage of the recession and the resulting consequences.

I am one of the many who feel that had the networks been more prudent with their debt loads, they wouldn't be coming to the CRTC for a back handed bail out.

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John Soutsos ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

1. While I appreciate the opportunity to speak in this matter, most Canadians and I really do not fully understand how the system works and the financial challenges associated with its functioning. From my perspective, advertising pays for programming and capital expenditures are a necessary part for any business to maintain its' competitiveness in the marketplace. If broadcasters require more income, they should charge more for advertising. Therefore allowing local stations to charge for their signals would unfairly download the cost to the consumer.
2. By transition I'm assuming to 'digital television'. If the government has mandated the transition, then a 1-year tax holiday or equivalent could be provided to mitigate the financial

impact. Otherwise if this is a competitive requirement, then no incentives are necessary.

Flag

Like



greg ★ 1 month ago 1 person liked this.

I am amazed and appalled at the complexity of the CRTC web site, the vast wastage of resources, the difficult to navigate web site. The issue is simple the local private broadcaster has been given an exclusive rights to a geographical market. They are given the right to charge the advertiser and have been successful for years. Now the market is changing and they feel compelled to seek more compensation from either the government, the cable companies or the consumer. Lets be realistic the source of all funding is the consumer. We the consumer want a free choice of access to television from off air, sat, cable or internet. I am tired of been told what I can watch, when I can watch it, to whom I have to watch and how much I have to pay. The CRTC has protected inefficient cable companies and broadcasters.

Give me the choice of where, when and how I want to receive my TV signals. Whither it be Bell, Telus, Rogers, DirectTV, re local programming I live in Vancouver and besides news and sports there isn't anything of consequence.

We already subsidize the CBC and as the Government of Canada is the largest advertiser we already subsidize the other networks and stations.

If I have not been clear I refuse to spend another penny to either the broadcaster nor the cable companies or the other suppliers

Flag

Like



detlefblankschein ★ 1 month ago 1 person liked this.

1. Local TV, like any other business should negotiate for the value of their service with whoever they can sell it to.

2. The industry does not require any support to implement the transition and should not be forced to make the transition.

Whoever required the transition to be made, should pay for the additional costs.

Flag

Like



MarcJOuellette ★ 1 month ago 1 person liked this.

Allow me to be frank here, in saying that I don't believe either side between the cable companies or the big chain stations. I think the best and most equitable way to save 'local television' is for the chain stations to divest from them, and then have these local stations become supported by a combination of carriage fee and advertising revenues. This way, any money going to local television would go directly toward local television stations rather than in the general revenue coffers of the chain that owns them.

Flag

Like



ray_s ★ 1 month ago in reply to MarcJOuellette

Certainly, and cable companies should also not be tied to production companies in the same way as in some places gas and electrical production is separate from the transmission of those products. Some degree of government funding will still be necessary.

Flag

Like



Glenn J ★ 1 month ago 1 person liked this.

FTA satellite works just fine... And I already have killed my service.. it's a ripoff as it is and more BS fees like this is just more crap on the pile.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*harries* ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

This survey is allowing the customer to evaluate the value of local signals, and frankly the value is very low. Let the local stations function like any other private business. Make a profit on your own or go broke.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*PaulyK* ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

Local channels do little to contribute anything useful. Other than producing substandard programming or shoving Toronto-centric news down our throats. If they want to be compensated then it should be part of a separate package that we can choose to subscribe to. If they are not making money, then they need to look at the way they do business and not expect the public to bail them out.

Will we then start having to pay a tax for the US stations that are included in cable packages too? As far as I know they are not compensated either.

Just a money grab by greedy companies that can't produce any decent programming and instead of trying to fix it, they want the public to bail them out.

Give them the tax they are whining for and they will have no incentive to improve their programming because they will be getting money to be mediocre.

I pay enough for cable already. Being forced to pay for more, for channels I rarely watch is NOT acceptable

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*stanw05* ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

Local TV should be allowed to close like any other failing business. We cannot afford to support every failed industry.

Tried Canadian content being forced upon us.

Signal substitution should not be allowed.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*Crystal* ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

I agree with everything everyone is saying here. We should not be charged but in the end we always lose. They are going to do what they want to do and they will charge us and there really is nothing we can do to stop them.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*Crystal* ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

Corporate welfare, corporate bailouts, taxpayer-funded incompetence... that's not supposed to be how government works. I am NOT paying for inefficient, unpopular, dead business models. DON'T TAX US. Ordinary Canadians should not be the ones to foot the bill, whether directly or through higher cable prices."

In all honesty it doesn't matter how many people complain on here; they are going to do it anyway. Our comments don't matter to them; all they care about is getting the money. I WILL CANCEL MY SERVICES AND WATCH NOTHING if I am forced to pay more

[Flag](#)[Like](#)



Bill Davidson ★ 1 month ago 1 person liked this.

The industry show NOT receive support for the transition. Local stations should not be given the the right to negotiate fee for carriage. They get many more views from having access to cable than they would from OTA and are therefore receiving equal benefits for getting on the cable supplier.

[Flag](#)

Like



snair ★ 1 month ago 1 person liked this.

The TV channels shall, be made available to the consumers free, there shall not be any charges. All charges shall be to the advertisers, period. It is to be understood that you are wasting the time of the consumers by all the advertisements that are being shown one after the other. In a 30 mnt programe the advertisements are more than half the time. In fact the consumers should be paid for their time for sitting through these ads.

[Flag](#)

Like



Lawrie ★ 1 month ago 1 person liked this.

I oppose any added fees for these companies, as much as I oppose the current model of signal substitution allowed by the CRTC.

[Flag](#)

Like



Debra ★ 1 month ago 1 person liked this.

TV is a business. They should be in touch with what their consumers want and supply it. If their local market wants local content, then they will support it. Like any other business, if their business model is flawed and they do not make money, then they close. They do NOT try to stay afloat by increasing their fees to a captive audience.

[Flag](#)

Like



mrhuffman ★ 1 month ago 1 person liked this.

Question 1: Yes it likely would have an impact. It is questionable whether it is a good or bad impact. If the station is not economically viable let it go out of business. Local programming for the most part is weak & we can see US programs in many other stations.

Question 2: The industry does not deserve any support!! If the only reason to convert is to go to HD, then the reasoning is all wrong & the government is out to lunch. Let all decisions be based on a business need. Keep the government's stupid regulations out of the decision process.

[Flag](#)

Like



Jason Davidson ★ 1 month ago 1 person liked this.

1. Local stations shouldn't be allowed to set there own worth, cause there is no one else for them to compete against, unlike any other product/service available for purchase/use. Cable/satellite providers automatically bundle these local stations into the default/basic packages, so unless they are going to put the local channels as a seperate option then we have no choice but to pay what they say they want.

2. Yes they may provide support/incentives to implement the transition, but what about the average person and there house hold that has to buy/upgrade there equipment as well cause of everything going digital. So if we say that the one deserves it wouldn't the other one deserve it as well. The local stations have mulitple revenue sources, where the average person only has what they make from there job(s).

[Flag](#)

Like



Gilles Bricault ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

Why should we pay to support local TV, it's their business to find ways to make money. It's a jungle out there, may the strongest win. The government should set the boundaries to make sure everything is fair and let competition play it's role.

[Flag](#)

Like



Brandon ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

No. Why would I pay extra for local stations when Im already being taken to the cleaner by the cable companies? If they can't produce enough profit to stay in business themselves, then I guess they shouldn't be in business...would the local stations come to your business and pay MORE for something just to ensure your business didn't go under? I highly doubt it - let's get real, business is business, learn it or get out of it.

[Flag](#)

Like



R L ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

If local television has become a non-viable enterprise for traditional broadcasters than those particular markets will have to go without local news coverage in the traditional sense. There are many other media forms that can fill the local "void" of information experienced by many residents who are no longer able to receive television broadcast signals. Internet news and information is quickly replacing network news outlets as a preferred method of gathering information.

While it cannot be supposed that the internet is a perfect fit for those accustomed to interacting with the simpler technologies of television or radio it will certainly exist as a low cost, low maintenance, open access media outlet for smaller townships who feel they are out of the loop. Combined with this option, a second, less obvious, form of media capable of replacing free over-the-air television signals is the local newspaper. Residents who believe that they have lost access or contact with the rest of the nation can renew the forgotten art of gathering local news and publishing local news papers themselves. These grassroots papers can rely on the internet for national or international news information which can then be published for those who are unable or unwilling to become wired to the web. The combination of 21st and 19th century technologies can defiantly provide citizens outside of the larger spheres of media influence with a means to obtain and distribute information within their local populations.

Traditional broadcasters are asking for a large sum of money to offset their costs of operating local news outlets in remote communities. While the goal of keeping these citizens in the loop is admirable there is also the question of whether or not the commercial advertising and often biased, wire fed corporate clap trap which comprises the bulk of network news will distract from the "local" stories. What provisions are in place within the CRTC's plan to enforce a certain level of local reporting, and in fact, what does the term "local" actually mean? Will broadcasters be forced to hire extra journalists and camera crews to regularly scour small towns for hard hitting and relevant news? What percentage of the evening news will be set aside to present these enthralling stories? Are the citizens outside of the large city's broadcasting ranges really clamouring for a return to farm reports and live coverage of the local talent show? This picture sounds a lot like the Canadian television landscape in the late 1970's before large media interests bought out their competition and shut down their LOCAL operations. In a nation where large media outlets are solely responsible for the systematic dismantling of dozens of smaller television stations how can anyone be asked to hand money over to the greedy fools who are saying they will fix what was once done in the name of profit and efficiency.

How can CTV, Global or any other traditional broadcaster really be trusted to make amends for their past indiscretions by sapping the profits of another corporation or increasing the cost of service for the majority of Canadians who already subscribe to cable or satellite? Does the CRTC really think a "TV TAX" will solve the, what seems to many, trivial problem of local television coverage? Or will this fund simply drain more resources away from the already starving Canadian media industry?

The small percentage of over-the-air television viewers have the option of remaining in the past

in regards to their media consumption. They can whine that their 40 year old antenna no longer works or that they just don't understand or trust the internet but the reality of the situation is that they will be no better off if the old system is put on life support and innovation and progress are pushed to the wayside. If the TV Tax is indeed implemented it will galvanize the younger generation's belief that the domain of the internet is the only place to go for information and entertainment while the archaic television industry finally has its veil removed, exposing what it truly is...an outdated technology with nothing more to offer than bad sitcoms, bland irrelevant news coverage and the delusional promises of a brighter future in the form of endless adverts and product placements. A Tax is not the answer to television's woes. Investment in the future and hard decisions are the only way out of this media black-out now known as the Canadian broadcasting industry.

Signed

A Canadian Television employee who does not himself watch television

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



[nomorebailout](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

1) We live in Canada and last time I checked this IS a country based on a free-market economy, agree so far?, so in a free market economy not everybody survives, some do, some don't, and in TV/Broadcasting business in order to make it you need to always stay on top of the news (or programming), if you do that lots and lots and lots of SPONSORS, so big \$\$\$, will come aboard your TV station and you will certainly flourish, so it's up to you, the local TV station, how to attract those sponsors, THEY must be the one and only source of revenue for you the local TV station and in no way the Canadian taxpayer, never ever!!!
 2) While I am a hardcore opponent of any type of bailout (taxpayer money), TV business included, I have no problem if CRTC orders cable/satellite companies to bailout local TV stations, I do not like it at all but let's go with it, but in the same time, so the very same order and not just half measures, CRTC to order cable/satellite companies NOT to charge their customers, and they are ordinary people that work hard to make a buck and put food on the table, any penny more for this bailout!!!
 3) If CRTC orders cable/sat companies to bailout local TV stations but in the same time does not order cable/sat companies NOT to charge customers for this CRTC-approved bailout, well, I will have no choice but to CANCEL my Rogers Cable TV subscription, my money will never go to any kind of bailout, never ever, and I wish everybody will do the same!

Thank you very much.

Chris, an independent truck driver

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



[DaveA](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) [in reply to nomorebailout](#)

I can tell you Canada's media and communications is NOT a free-market economy. It is a government enforced monopoly. Pure and simple. Unless you have enough money to bribe your way through the bureaucracy and legal minefield, getting into play with the big boys is for all practical purposes impossible. This is intentional to keep more competitive options out of the market. It isn't about protecting us, it is about protecting the incumbents Shaw/Rogers/Bell/Telus. Keeps rates high, profits and political contributions high.

Just try to setup a cable company in your neighborhood to find out.

The fact is Shaw/Rogers/Bell/Telus are a cozy bunch just raking in the windfall profits. Now the local stations want a piece of the action to subsidize their failing model.

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



[A>S>K](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

I am opposed to supporting local TV stations with an extra fee collected by the cable company

from it's customers. They already make enough money from advertising. This new proposal amounts to nothing more than another way to gouge the viewers in this stressed out economic times. Shall we stop watching tv, or do we install huge unsightly antennason our roof tops to circumvent these outrageous demands from these greedy hihg income scrooges?

Flag

Like



GeraldChristie ★ 1 month ago 1 person liked this.

There is nothing wrong with analog television. Cable providers and Television Manufacturers are forcing Digital Technology (HDTV) via legislation. If they want to force change then they should pay for the change out of their own pocket. Local Television providers would still make a profit if they were allowed to continue with their current technology and be paid for their signals being re-broadcast. Cable companies and the manufacturers should provide the broadcast equipment to local television broadcasters to upgrade them if they insist on forcing the switch to digital. I am tired of the American Ideal of Profit or Die, I want canadians to have access to their community and county's broadcasters without additional fees. When local matters in remote communities is no longer relevant to large population centres we as a society will fail and might as well start singing the star spangled banner! Cable and TVManufactures want to force change let them pay out of their profits. If they can't do it then they should fold and go bankrupt and leave our local systems alone!

Flag

Like



Hugh Moore ★ 1 month ago 1 person liked this.

No to the local stations. They are stowaways on the signal from cable and therefore reach more households and increasing their advertising revenue as a result.NO SUPPORT, NO INCENTIVES IF THEY NEED THESE TOOLS THEY ARE NOT DOING THEIR JOB AND IT IS NOT THE CONSUMERS PLACE TO HAVE TO SUPPORT AN INDUSTRY THAT DOES NOT LISTEN TO US AND THAT WE ALREADY FUND. SEND THE MONEY TO ME!!! IT IS MINE TO START WITH AND I WANT IT BACK

Flag

Like



ericberube ★ 1 month ago 1 person liked this.

I will support local television if ONLY they offer good programmation..they can be more specialize television...and providing good info. Therefore, I don't expect to support businesses which don't offer good product just because they are locally.

Flag

Like



M Rawn ★ 1 month ago 1 person liked this.

The only way the consumer will get a break is if there is competition in the industry. This won't happen. The Government has allowed monster companies to combine, buy-out, overtake to the point where there are only a few providers in any area. Sounds no different than Oil, (remember Petro-Can?), Banking, Cable, and so on. Lets have put a cap on Big business profits. Anything over the cap would be taxed to the hilt. Result: Higher revenue to the government to pay for social programs, or in turn lower prices for Canadians when the companies decide there is no use jacking the price up to make another Billion.

Flag

Like



nomorebailout ★ 1 month ago in reply to M Rawn 1 person liked this.

"Lets have put a cap on Big business profits. Anything over the cap would be taxed to the hilt. Result: Higher revenue to the government to pay for social programs"

This is SOCIALISM in case you wanted an independent truck driver to spell it out for you!

In love with Messiah Obama, aren't you?

[Flag](#)[Like](#)[ray_s](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) in reply to [nomorebailout](#)

Big business has always supported socialism for them in bad times, and completely free markets in good times.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)[ray_s](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) in reply to [M Rawn](#)

It was interesting to note with recent US bailouts that when rules were brought in to restrict high-level salary as a bailout condition some of these companies soon learned how not to need bailouts. Make salaries in the top 10% publishable and not deductible; that would put the cat among the pigeons.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)[sergelascelle](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

1. Yes, the quality would augment as funding would. The consumers choice to select each channel individually would force positive change in quality.

2. Mandate the choice by consumers to choose each channel.
DON'T WANT BUNDLED POOR QUALITY CONTENT, THAT IS NOT SELF
REGULATING BY CHOICE!

[Flag](#)[Like](#)[sergelascelle](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

Let the industry be self regulating by mandating the right to choice of each channel by the customer.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)[Don Bayerle](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

Yes it does. Local TV was caught with their pants down. Digital changes have been on the forefront for years. Everyone else was prepared and moving ahead. The ostrich approach does not work. LocalTV has to manup that they missed the boat and now are playing catchup.

The local industry does not need government bailouts or the taxation of the public. They need sound management practice and maybe a new board.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)[Dabber](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

I think that local tv stations are already getting a profit from cable companies and satellite companies, why should I have to pay for it? In Saint John NB, there isn't local tv. They pulled out years ago and went to Halifax NS. So technically, local tv is already out of my area.

Does the industry require any support or incentive? No! It's a business, and if they are not making profits, they should have to reorganize themselves. Why should I use my hard earned money to bail them out? If they can't keep afloat, I should have to keep them going? No, this extra charge from the CRTC shouldn't have happened nor keep going.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)



Carol ★ 1 month ago 1 person liked this.

If you charge me even a penny more on my cable.....I will cancel and use 'rabbit ears' again....I do not watch enough TV right now and paying WAY TOO MUCH for it as it is.... so...go ahead.....make my day!

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



Anna M ★ 1 month ago 1 person liked this.

I do not support the idea of a TV tax funding local television stations. Cable companies have not allocated their funds properly to support these stations in the past and that is why they are suffering. Perhaps local television simply do not have a good product or business and hence they are not worth supporting until they change their strategy. In any case, the costs of their support should not be levied from the general public, especially since they are not the ones responsible for the competitiveness of a given station.

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



blanchad ★ 1 month ago 1 person liked this.

No more tax, let the networks survive by themselves or die.

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



PWChessman ★ 1 month ago 1 person liked this.

Local Stations can charge what they want, but there should be no guarantee the public will see them if it is not affordable to its customers. The wishes of the customer should always be paramount, and local channels will live or die on their own merit.

No support should be offered if it means the public has to pay more. We already pay too much, and these businesses (tv stations/networks/cable&satellite providers) should operate more efficiently rather than receive any incentives or supports. If these parties are the geniuses who created this mess in the first place, let them figure it out and quit looking to the public to bail them out of their own mess. Otherwise, let other players in and maybe they will shape up real fast...I can assure you.

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



Frustrated_consumer ★ 1 month ago 1 person liked this.

Do like the states did and offer a discount coupon, make it for at least 50 % of the cost of the converter box (for older TV sets) or a new antenna necessary to receive digital programming.

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



weehotpie ★ 1 month ago 1 person liked this.

i cannot afford to pay another penny for out T.V. services. Things keep going up....but not our pension. If they can't run a successful business, then perhaps they should fold.....just like the honest hard working small business owners are forced to. Get rid of all the useless execs and C.E.Os and watch things improve.

All these taxes are going to break the back of the every day citizens....ENOUGH.

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



Henry J ★ 1 month ago 1 person liked this.

Both sides suck.If cable and satellite use it then pay for it.Cable would be upset if I went out side right now,open thier box on the side of my house and hook up without paying for it.But they think they can use something with out paying???? That said,I would love my tax money go

to health care, armed forces and helping the unemployed instead of the CBC like WTF. Where are the governments' priorities? No where are ours? The CRTC should be shut down, all public funding to TV, radio, and the arts should stop. Let the free market speak. If it can't make money then not enough folks want it!!!!!!!

Flag

Like



Adam Camery ★ [1 month ago](#) in reply to Henry J

Good analogy. Local TV stations need to be paid for their signals. That's how it's done in the states

Flag

Like



Karen Schmocker ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

If the industry requires support or incentives let them get the money somewhere else. I can't afford the new digital technology. Why should I pay to help them upgrade so they can supply other people who can afford it. I do not want to change my existing reception nor be forced to buy new equipment (not even to get my local channel which I would miss for news and weather etc.). I do not need another cable, another box, more equipment and wires and buttons and remotes.

The television network owners are trying for a money grab from a captive group and I think the CRTC should protect the consumer. This year it will be 10.00 and next it will rise...there are never enough controls and still the local TV stations will be starved for Canadian content because the money they are taking from the public will go into private corporate funds to be distributed without controls any way they see fit including big money bonuses for CEOs. CRTC is there to protect the citizens not to cater to big business.

Flag

Like



loucifer ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

Hey CRTC - you need to allow for more competition in the marketplace - that's the issue here!

You need more competition - then the voters/consumers will get the best value!

You are stifling innovation and competition by the COMMUNIST Idealism you have imposed on Canadians and we all know that does not allow the best value for the dollar - we know that!

Stop trying to frame the question in other ways.

How about this - rather than tax the consumer more like a King/Queen/Communist/Dictator would do and simply give the local TV stations big tax incentives (i.e. tax breaks) to put up new equipment - how about that idea, eh?!!!

But no...you guys never worked in business before - you are just a bunch of bureaucrats that never ran a business yourself or had to handle a Profit and Loss statement and get creative to make a buck!

We need politicians that will run on the platform to remove your restrictive communist power over the voters - that's what we REALLY need!

Flag

Like



Mark Kuczynski ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

I am already paying for access to the so called "free" TV stations on my satellite through the basic service fee. Satellite service providers have to include the local TV stations in their basic package and I do not have an option not to pay for this service even if I do not watch these channels. I am strongly opposed to paying additional tax or fees for a service of little value to me, a service which is available to general consumer off the air without any cost. What happens with all the money collected by satellite companies for their basic package, which includes only

the "free" TV channels? Should they share some of this revenue with the local TV stations? I disagree with imposing additional costs on the consumer. There is so little competition in Canada for satellite TV service that consumers don't have much choice. It is left up to CRTC to protect us and not allow both the TV stations and satellite companies to rake in unreasonable profits. These companies will always complain about insufficient revenues and profits and will never be satisfied. I don't mind paying for something that I want to buy but I want to have a choice not to pay for something I don't need. In case of the local TV channels I don't have a choice and this is why I am opposed to this new tax.

Flag

Like



Petros ★ 1 month ago in reply to Mark Kuczynski

"What happens with all the money collected by satellite companies for their basic package, which includes only the "free" TV channels? Should they share some of this revenue with the local TV stations?"

So true. What happens with that money?

Flag

Like



peter333 ★ 1 month ago 1 person liked this.

1. I do think that allowing local stations to negotiate for the value of their signals would have an impact on the industry's current or future business plans, especially as it prepares for the transition to digital television. I THINK THAT THE CRTC SHOULD CALL THE BLUFF OF THE LOCAL STATIONS AND TELL THEM TO TURN OFF THEIR SIGNALS. I FOR ONE WOULD NOT MISS THEIR SHOWS ANYWAYS! I'M A UNIVERSITY EDUCATED PROFESSIONAL, AGED 49, WHO IS AGHAST AT THE FEES AND TAXES BEING RANDOMLY TOSSED AT THE CANADIAN PUBLIC. ENOUGH ALREADY!
2. The industry does require incentives to implement the transition. DISCONNECT YOUR TRANSMITTERS OR LEARN TO PRODUCE BUSINESS PLANS BASED ON A CHANGING COMMUNICATIONS ENVIRONMENT WHERE THEIR RELEVANCE AND IMPORTANCE MAY BE IN THEIR OWN MINDS MORE THAN AN ACTUAL NEED. In that sense the last thing that this country needs are more pork-barrel broadcasters like the CBC which is no more than a propagandistic arm of the federal bureaucracy.

Flag

Like



Sandylns ★ 1 month ago 1 person liked this.

The move to digital TV in the USA was achieved without broadcasters going to users to pay for the change. The feds took most of the upfront costs. They even provided a generous subsidy to buy a converter box. The cost of upgrading transmitters was likewise, mostly paid for out of federal funds.

The CRTC must require the federal government to implement the same system here. In addition, those outside the local viewing area must be given access to TV signals if they are adversely effected by signals change. Again, the feds must take responsibility.

As for local station upgrading their transmitters. This is the cost of doing business. Upgrading is a given and must come from general revenues. Cable has converted a great many of its old lines to fibre optic. It has done this without going to the public trough.

Flag

Like



Stacey del Fabbro ★ 1 month ago 1 person liked this.

the way I see it, I am already paying my cable company to watch tv channels they provide access to. I cannot receive them unless I do so. THAT is their mandate. to charge me for the accessibility... fee for service. IF I AM WATCHING those channels right now why must I NOW need to pay additional costs? The cable company must figure out how to access those channels in a cost effective way to deliver their goods. I should not have to pay a secondary site for this.

It also concerns me that I have no other options for cable than the one carrier assigned to me

area unless I go satellite.

Flag

Like



sharonosmond ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

my name is sharon osm0nd I do't want to bay the tv tax.

Flag

Like



sharonosmond ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

I do't want to pay the tv tax.

Flag

Like



d720 ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

TV access in Canada is already relativu expensice as compared to the USA and other countries. I am not convinced that even as a shareholder (who might gain in this tax) that there are any benefits likely to result in terms of programming.

As an economist, I am also aware that there is a burden on society any tax (and it is fair to say this is a tax). I remember reading in the 1990s about the transition happening and I have had digital for that lenth of time. It seems to me that in the period since it was first announced back in 1997 that just normal upgrades would have taken the transition into account and if the firms did not, then they should bear the cost themselves.

Flag

Like



ray_s ★ [1 month ago](#) in reply to d720

It is indeed relatively more expensive here, though the maintenance here has been over a somewhat shorter time than in Japan. We are technically tied to US broadcast standards, but HDTV here was delayed because the Americans wanted an American system that did not depend on paying patent royalties to the Japanese.

Flag

Like



Anne-Louise Gagner ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

I am opposed to supporting local TV stations with an extra fee collected by the cable company from it's customers

Flag

Like



Garyj905 ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

If the local stations signals are of zero value to me then I will be most happy to pay that exact amount. If we are forced to pay more then people will just cancel their cable, what will that do for these local stations.

The industry makes enough money, they can pay for the upgrades themselves because I sure that in a few months the good people at the CRTC will allow them to charge us more regardless if they get a bail out now or not, just wait and see.

Flag

Like



Sean ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

1. There is no value for these so-called local signals at least to the consumer. Networks earn revenue from advertisers who would not be spending their money on these channels without

viewers. The networks must bear the full cost of any technical changes, including switching to digital signals. The CRTC should mandate the networks to do this and to draw funds from the networks' complete inventory of channels, not on a channel-by-channel basis.

2. No, networks must be responsible for the business model they created. If they cannot continue to serve markets, then advertisers will abandon them. Clearly from a business perspective, the networks would be foolish to cut off consumers and risk this loss of ad revenue.
Flag

Like



Tom Murray ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

I think that it is time that the government of this country let the market decide who makes it and who goes the way of the ki ki bird. We suffer in this country from a government with a big nose.

Flag

Like



ray_s ★ [1 month ago](#) in reply to Tom Murray

Big noses provide an easier target for punching. :-)

Flag

Like



RENÉ GUERIN ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

NO, NO AND NO TO THE TV TAX. HOW MUCH CLEARER CAN I BE.

Flag

Like



Norma ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

Just get the cable companies and TV companies to settle their problems and leave us out of it. We are already paying the cable company and that said company should pay whomever they have to pay as long as we don't pay more !!!!!

Flag

Like



Russ ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

Yes I think local stations should be allowed to negotoate for the value of their signals. After all the signal IS theirs right?

The CRTC has a history of giving the best seat to the second fiddle. One company does all the work, another comes in and gets the work the first did for next to or less than nothing. We saw it in Saskatchewan with Sasktel and all the newbe's. I have no faith in the CRTC to do the right thing.

Flag

Like



Carl B ★ [1 month ago](#) in reply to Russ 1 person liked this.

How is this "negotiation" if the cable company is forced to carry the local station?

You have a better chance of negotiating with terrorists.

Flag

Like



mbjordin ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

I think it is unreasonable for cable companies to expect local channels to broadcast free, when they pay for other services. The playing field has changed. These stations can't depend on advertising to pay for them any more, but I think it is important that local television stations stay around. I also want to mention that I was tricked into giving my support to a cable

company's side of things. When I went to their website, I clicked on something thinking it would allow me to express either side of the argument, only to be told that my vote for cable's side would now be sent to the CRTC.

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Like



nowoolinis ★ [1 month ago](#) [in reply to mbjordin](#) 1 person liked this.

Smoke and mirrors!!! Please. No trickery, maybe misunderstanding or not reading all the print.

[Flag](#)

Like



Frank ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

Under no circumstances should any type of signal distributor be allowed to take a broadcast channel, being given freely to consumers, and distribute it without compensation to the broadcaster. No distributor should ever, right from the earliest days of cable (and satellite), have been permitted to take broadcast channels for nothing. The cable/satellite companies pay fees - not taxes - to all the specialty, ie non-broadcast, channels, even those based in the US, and they pay fees for the broadcast channels that they pick up from other Canadian markets, eg for a Calgary station shown in Hamilton. So, why should a Hamilton station not collect a fee for its product being picked up, and sold, by the cable/satellite companies operating in Hamilton?

It is not a tax. It is a fee, and a cost of doing business.

[Flag](#)

Like



Carl B ★ [1 month ago](#) [in reply to Frank](#) 2 people liked this.

If you don't want cable "taking broadcast channels for nothing" then quit FORCING them to carry the broadcast station through must-carry legislation. There should be no government-imposed "priority programming" based on anything other than stations earning their place on the cable by showing nonduplicative programming which viewers actually want to watch.

[Flag](#)

Like



Angela Szeto ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

I am in full support of providing incentives to keep local TV alive. Please pursue this vigorously as a economic development strategy. I would prefer greatly to have money that I contribute through taxes or through additional cable fee to go directly into maintaining local employment opportunities for Canadian artists and creative workers.

[Flag](#)

Like



Carl B ★ [1 month ago](#) [in reply to Angela Szeto](#) 1 person liked this.

How exactly does forcing viewers in Kingston to watch US-originated network programming on a Toronto station instead of a Watertown station go directly into maintaining local employment opportunities for Canadian artists and creative workers?

[Flag](#)

Like



Glen Strathy ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

I believe allowing local stations to charge for their signals would make it easier to encourage the production of Canadian programmng - especially drama - which I see as very important.

Moreover, I fear that without such a system, the Canadian voice and identity would disappear from television. There would be no Canada.

[Flag](#)

Like

*Carl B* ★ [1 month ago](#) in reply to [Glen Strathy](#) 1 person liked this.

There would be no Canada? Huh? There was a Canada in 1867 with not a single TV station in it.

[Flag](#)

Like

*Joel Lafleur* ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

1. Local broadcasters should not receive incentives that will lead them to consider BDU's as their primary form of carriage. If anything, we want to maximize canadian exposure to canadian content throughout all of Canada. To properly serve rural areas, and indiscriminately provide culture to both the rich and the poor; over the air broadcasting should be maintained in all current areas, and, in fact, expanded to include even more rural areas. Forcing the customers towards mandatory BDU's will only serve to cripple the open access Canadians now enjoy. If a new cultural, specialty or local channel is added, it could be potentially squeezed out by the BDU's through refusal of carriage. Since infrastructure is set to move away from OTA, then their voice, despite being approved by the CRTC for broadcasting, will be stifled.

2. The industry needs support to identify a leader in over the air antenna installation. The lack of technical support makes it difficult to properly install a functioning over the air setup. Additionally, the government should take steps needed to promote over the air. A fee for carriage scheme, if implemented, should be forced to be used exclusively for either Canadian content, or, expansion of OTA transmission.

The CBC, Radio Canada, and other Canadian broadcasters are supposed to be facilitating the spread of Canadian culture, entertainment and news to all Canadians. Unfortunately, it seems like neither side is interested in improving access or committing to Canadian culture.

Joel

[Flag](#)

Like

*DFletcher* ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

Local stations must remain viable and sustainable. We are under cultural attack from the mass media of the US and the local/Canadian stories are being lost. Whether through a TV tax or improved digital technology to reach all Canadians (through a form of digital rabbit ears), Canada's local stations should/must be supported.

[Flag](#)

Like

*chris campeau* ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

the question has been distorted by the signal providers. the CRTC is responsible for protecting Canadian content. the signal providers put nothing back into Canadian programming despite making 4x the profit the broadcasters do. my provider does not care what I want to see they just want my payment at the end of the month. I live in Windsor Ontario but cannot get local programming. I can watch London news or Boston but not Windsor or Detroit because we are such a small market. The signal providers need to pay a fee and it should come from them not the consumer. the Canada I knew in my youth is disappearing because the government will not stand up to business. if there is a fee for carriage if it is passed will be handed down to the consumer. if there is not local broadcasting will die away because we have much smaller markets here than in the United States so some support is needed.

[Flag](#)

Like

*Carl B* ★ [1 month ago](#) in reply to [chris campeau](#)

Have you considered moving to Ottawa? Rogers loves force-feeding Detroit stations into that

market despite the existence of more-local alternatives.

Flag

Like



wcameron ★ 1 month ago 1 person liked this.

Local television stations, at considerable expense - create a product; a drama, a music programme, a comedy, news presentation, etc. That product has traditionally been provided free - over the air - to anyone with a TV receiver.

It is surprising in the extreme that Cable companies now believe that they have a right to take that completed 'product', re-package it - and send it down a co-ax cable to their customers, and then have the 'jutzpah' to charge us for someone else's creation. And all without compensation to the companies that created the product in the first place.

It is inconceivable that the CRTC or the Government of Canada could allow Cable companies to use the product of local TV stations, without compensation to those stations.

Given the great disparity in the costs of production by TV stations, and the simple distribution of programmes by Cable companies, a reasonable compensation for the use of the created product is absolutely necessary.

Cable Companies do purchase a product from other organizations, and why in the World they have not been required to do so with TV 'over the air' is quite amazing.

The vast majority of Urban dwellers now utilize Cable services, rather than 'over-the-air' transmissions, and the volume of revenue realized by Cable companies - and presumable substantial profits - does not justify an additional cost to the customer for a fair payment by the Cable companies for local TV products.

The current Cable Company policies - of providing 'packaged' channels, with no real choice is annoying, to say the least. For most of us there is little interest in things like 'Much Music' and other similar channels - but we have to take this trash if we want The History or Discovery channels.

Flag

Like



Richard Leitner ★ 1 month ago 1 person liked this.

I believe allowing local stations to negotiate fees for their signals can enhance their local programming and economic viability, but only if the CRTC requires such fees to be dedicated to this, rather than allowing the money to go toward the purchase of yet more U.S. programming. I strongly urge the CRTC to use its power as a regulator to enforce this requirement and to ensure that the cable and satellite companies don't simply pass on the bill to consumers, who are paying ever more for already overpriced TV packages.

Flag

Like



Chris ★ 1 month ago 1 person liked this.

1. I think maybe the free OTA broadcasting model is dead. Local stations should stop broadcasting and instead only be paid fee for carriage. This works in a market where consumers are allowed to choose only the stations they want to watch.

2 For rural areas that may not receive signals in the digital future I think the government should support the infrastructure like it is doing for the Broadband Canada program. In that program the government is subsidising the infrastructure to areas that the free market is not interested in serving. Once the infrastructure is in place then the consumer can choose what to watch and what not to watch. I don't think consumers in rural areas need to have free access to Local TV, just make sure they have access.

Flag

Like



lawrence1957 ★ 1 month ago 1 person liked this.

The producers of content should be paid for it. Anyone who makes money using that content should pay some form of royalty. It's true everywhere else why not for local TV? What we need is a more flexible subscription model so I don't have to pay for the channels I don't want. I am happy (sic) to pay for the ones I do want to watch and if fee for service would reduce the number of inane ad's that would be even better.

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jsmythe ★ 1 month ago 1 person liked this.

We must never submit to blackmail!

If networks cannot see an economic return broadcasting in digital then I suppose they will do what every business does when faced with capital upgrading. Find a new solution!!

If consumers or government just subsidize the networks they have no incentive to innovate.

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james ★ 1 month ago 1 person liked this.

If local stations are not able to survive in the competitive market, they should not be subsidized by television viewers who do not watch their televised products. Allowing local stations to negotiate for their value will have a huge negative impact on the industry. Viewers who wish to subscribe to these local stations should foot the bill and those who do not subscribe to these stations should not be burdened with unfair charges (i.e. for services not requested).

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F Bergeron ★ 1 month ago 1 person liked this.

The way I see it, the general public are in a loser position either way. If the cable company are asked to pay for broadcasting local TV, the increase in operational cable cost will be passed on to the user (general public) OR the cable will drop the broadcasting of the local channels. If the local TV is not receiving financial compensation for broadcasting their content, we (general public) will either lose our local content (closing of local channel) or the local channel will not be distributed via the cable company.

Either way I think we are all losers at the expense of the profiting private industries, eager to make a profit. The unfortunate thing in all this is that there are less and less companies looking after the greater good of a community and actually looking after their customers instead of their stakeholders.

Gone are the days "the customer is always right" Now are the days "The stakeholders are king and shareholders want more profit"

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Darren W. Wood ★ 1 month ago 1 person liked this.

Allowing local tv to negotiate their channels with cable/satellite like any other channel cable/satellite carries is only fair. Many locals are already carrying a digital signal in the larger area's and providing great viewing for free. If cable/satellite won't pay for the channels they should have to supply them to the end user for free.

CRTC/Federal government should allow the end user by regulating pay tv companies and by issuing certificates for updated equipment for those that refuse to be extorted by cable/satellite. Many do not have upgraded digital tv ready units.

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dianluco ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

I never asked for digital television, I am very happy with analog cable. Why is digital television being pushed down my throat I don't need it.

The industry should get support or incentives to implement the transition to digital television from on;y those cusumers who desire the transition -- its not me.

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Little Viewer ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

Look, if truth be told, CBC is the only station that I watch and I pay for it already. Oh, yes, I watch the Shaw channel but I pay for that too. You hit it right when you called local TV an industry. That means private enterprise and it's a jungle out there. Their predatory predisposition is evident in their attempt to extract more money from the consumer. Sure, they can negotiate the value of their signal but I should be able to accept or reject the signal and, therefore, the payment. Let's not get these guys on Welfare because we'll never get rid of them.

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Stephen L. ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

I currently do not subscribe to either cable or satellite companies, as I do not agree with their packaging pricing model (ie. forced to pay more for a "higher" package of channels, of which I don't watch all of them).

Instead, I use an antenna and built-in digital TV turner to receive free local TV stations - many of which transmit HD signals/programs. Because of this great option and picture/sound quality, I find that I do watch and support the local TV programming, and especially do not feel like a "hostage" to the cable and satellite companies.

We need to find a way to better communicate the value of this local TV option to all consumers so that:

1. consumers know that they have a free and quality option
 2. local TV stations know that viewership can support their business plans
- Therefore, there needs to be support/incentives to implement the transition for both consumers/local TV stations. Financial support/incentives would be ideal (eg. coupon for a digital set top box and antenna), as well as a consumer support/information line to help with the transition.

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StanL ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

The local stations should have no right of negotiation. The have made numerous bad business decisions in recent years and it should not be up to the consumer to bail them out.

The industry needs to stand on its own. They can't keep running back to government for more handouts to make up for lack of foresight and planning. The internet is changing how people view programming and no amount of handouts will change that. They must adapt or perish and unfortunately in most cases by perishing they will actually be performing a public service.

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Mark ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

If you do not live in a major metropolitan centre, there is no longer such a thing as "local" programming in this country, unless it is provided by the cable carrier, such as Rogers. In the case of metropolitan-based television stations (Toronto, Montreal, Regina, Calgary, etc) why should I as a resident of an urban centre in rural Canada be required to subsidize the local

programming of a television station which is based (and focussed on) a major centre which is hours from where I live? "Local" network-affiliated stations focus solely on the metropolitan areas in which they are based, leaving those tight geographic centres only in cases of major death or disaster, since such events, unfortunately, make for the best coverage. Within the past 15 years, truly local non-affiliated stations have been acquired by the major broadcast conglomerates and have proceeded to close local bureaus - essentially abandoning the geographical majority of the country.

In the case of carrier-based local television (such as Rogers Community TV) why is there even an argument when the local broadcast station is already owned by the carrier and wholly funded by my basic cable rate?

Most local and cable-based television entities in this country are at least partly owned by companies which also own a stake in (or are owned by) signal carriers. The level of cross-ownership of content providers by the carriers is such that there can not be a truly two-sided debate on the issue. The same interests own both sides of the debate, and are using that to deflect attention to cross-ownership in a blatant attempt to further line their balance sheets with taxpayer and customer dollars.

The current CRTC chairman formerly served as a Justice within the Federal Court of Canada. I am absolutely stunned that given his past history, the Chairman has failed to order full disclosure to the public record with respect to the degree of cross-ownership between carriers and content providers, and the manner in which this cross-ownership is impacting on both the nature and direction of public advertising campaigns. Full disclosure of fact is a basic tenet of our legal processes, and is a necessity to a fair and honest debate on any topic. How is it that some of the corporations involved are not being held to this basic standard?

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 *johndstrang* ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

It would definitely end up costing consumers more regardless of what happens. As a matter of fact, just talking about it, I can sense an impending pre-emptive increase by Videotron coming any minute....

Most "local" stations have very little local content, the rest is rebroadcast from someone/where else.

There needs to be more variety and competition in order to have fairness for the consumer, but the government subsidized itself into supporting a few big business monopolies and now we'll forever pay for it.

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 *Jerry Chenswisk* ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

What is the point of these Canadian networks anyway - to rebroadcast American content with Tim Horton's ads - is that their mandate?

[Flag](#)

Like

 *colinbrittan* ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

Let 'local' stations negotiate for the value of their signals with anyone who wants to pay for what they provide. Why not? Let market pressures decide who lives and who dies. But I won't pay no matter what the TV stations want to charge me for 'local' stations. If forced to pay, I will reduce my monthly cable package by an equivalent amount. Does anyone really think I would willingly pay for what TV station CHCH presently broadcasts. Even if I could get this station with a tower antennae, I wouldn't bother. You get what you pay for from a \$2.00 TV station.

Support or incentives to move to HD broadcasts is just another way to argue for 'pay for local TV'. TV is a commercial, profit making enterprise with shareholders who expect to profit from their investments. Why not treat TV like any other industry? The strong survive. The weak die. It's high time the federal government got out of the business of deciding what I can see on my TV, and from whom I can get my programming.

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*Ed* ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

I have actually canceled my cable as I am tired of paying \$50 just so I can watch ads. I am forced to pay for numerous stations that I do not watch. I also think that the purpose is not directly related to supporting the local stations. The national TV networks have overspent on purchases of local TV and now are looking for some way of getting out of debt. I think that the over paid CEO's that got these stations in trouble should pay for the keeping of local programming. Why should we be forced to pay for stations we do not watch. I guess we don't as I have canceled my cable services.

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*Ian* ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

I do not think industry requires support to implement transition. Any business wants to stay relevant will find their own way of making the transition.

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*Brad* ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

I have no problem in allowing OTA stations to privately negotiate carriage fees with BDUs, on one condition. BDU's are forced to offer all channels a la carte. If a broadcaster charges too much for carriage, less subscribers will pick it. This would also weed out all the niche cable channels that would die off with no subscribers.

The OTA broadcasters complain that viewership is down. No wonder with all the market splintering brought on by the multitudes of 'specialty' channels they spawned.

As far as support/incentives for the transition, I think relaxing the I.C. rules form some transmissions would help speed & reduce cost of transition. In Toronto for eg. Rogers is currently running 4 transmitters for their 4 (2 dig/ 2 ana) OMNI channels. They could shut down both transmitters on F.C.P, & run OMNI.1 & OMNI.2 digital on RF 47 as two 720p subchannels. Use PSIP to remap one to 47-1, & one to 69-1. Both Omni digitals using one transmitter - shut down the other 3.

CTV is in a holding pattern with it's A Channel assets. Allow them to carry their 2nd tier service as a subchannel of the local CTV affiliate. CFTO could carry CKVR as a sub, using PSIP to remap to 3-1. If they ran 720p on both feeds, they could even get A-Channel going HD OTA immediately, until they get around to upgrading their A-Channel stations.

The FCC allowed such setups in Buffalo, while the U.S. was doing their transition. Lin Broadcasting carried the CBS & CW feeds on their transmitter, as they owned both stations, and the CW affiliate studios weren't HD ready. WKBW carried WNGS as a subchannel, and they didn't even own WNGS, it was only a management agreement.

Loosening restrictions like this, could find TVO for eg. leasing subchannel space in each market, instead of ever upgrading any of their own transmitters, which could then be shut down to save money.

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*avshook* ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

If local stations want to increase revenue, they are going to have to greatly increase the quality of their programming. The "value" of their signal is very low because the quality of their programming is very low. If they want to make more money, they will have to produce content that the public wants and demands to see, then they can charge as much as they want for advertising time. Any subsidy for local stations only funds poor quality programming.

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dave ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

1 Don't subsidize local in any way (or cable).

2 no.

[Flag](#)

Like



Chandler ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

Every "local" network I have access to runs US feeds from 7pm to 11pm every weeknight. Same for most days from about 9am to 5pm. At best, "local" programming means news, a weekly news magazine show that runs on a Sunday a dinner time when no one is watching and maybe a morning show or weekly dose of Corner Gas or some such. So I'm being asked to subsidize what, exactly? If the answer is the ridiculous array of "Canadian" specialty channels, then my answer is simply - tough.

To answer the question directly - if they want to negotiate for value, then fine. Negotiate. Don't implement or dictate or decree some fee, tax or levy. Negotiate - just don't be surprised when the value for your product is FAR less than you anticipated. Incentives should be implicit in the marketplace - early adoption of digital should have inherent advantages to the consumer and should be rightly be rewarded in the market, but the CRTC allowing a deeper dip into my pocket is hardly incentive to go FASTER!

I do not intend to subsidize the short-sighted overreaching of the Asper and Fecan families, nor the fat oligopoly of the cable companies. The economy takes a dive and everyone who made crappy decisions is in my pocket - government, banks and now broadcasters and cable companies. Enough is enough.

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FairIsFair ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

1. Absolutely not. Their current pricing model fringes on piracy and they charge atrocious fees for mandatory set-top boxes even if all you get is basic cable. Each and every channel should be "pay if you want to watch", reasonably priced. An average Canadians' pre-tax bill should not have to exceed \$40.

2. No support. They should be paying the consumers back for over charges. Their current fees should be more than plenty to fund this transition.

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juany ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

I don't care what their arrangement is but it better not a consumer anything because we are overcharged. If Canadian providers cannot bring cable to us at \$30 then they should let in Americans and foreiggners to compete.

2. ZERO support from the government aka taxpayers for any tv. If they cannot compete they deserve to fail. If I start a tv station tomorrow, the taxpayers should not be forced to give me money. If they cannot implement the change on their own they deserve to go out of business.

Most canadians are on the border of just dropping all cable or satellite and any more price raising will break the camels back

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JG ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

1. Local stations should use advertising to fund it.

2. Stop subsidies - they're addictive and promote mediocracy

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*Ed Epstein* ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

I do believe that Canadians, both in small communities and large ones, have a right to have free, over-the-air programming that is based in their communities. Local community media is important and ensuring that local programming exists is part of the CRTC's mandate IMHO. If not in letter, then certainly in spirit. There can be no doubt, however, that letting two major companies control almost all of the broadcasting antennas and programming in the entire country was completely wrong, and the blame for this falls on the CRTC.

The current license holders of spectrum aren't using it according to its capability and certainly if their right to broadcast is tied to their ability to broadcast local programming then rather than get handouts the spectrum should be taken away from them. The CRTC should give the spectrum to companies who will live up to their moral responsibilities of being licensees of that spectrum.

In Vancouver, for example, CTV has an antenna on Mt. Seymour from which they could conceivably broadcast high quality, high definition digital television at a reasonable signal strength. However, they are broadcasting at a signal strength far below their licensed strength and so most people can't get a respectable signal. Everyone who I have spoken to regarding this issue claims that CTV is doing it intentionally because they don't want to eat into their Bell ExpressVu satellite business. They also fear OTA HD signals because they don't want American network television shows to end up on the Internet on peer to peer networks, or the American networks won't sell them the "hit" shows.

We need to strengthen over-the-air broadcasting, but it won't work if we ask cable subscribers to subsidize the over-the-air infrastructure. It's a self-defeating plan because once the public taps into the high quality OTA broadcast, they will dump their cable, thus cutting off the flow of money that broadcasters claim they need. Even worse, we would be forcing cable companies to pay for their own demise.

If anyone is going to be forced to do anything, certainly it should be broadcasters paying for their own success, which they would undoubtedly achieve if they had the signal strength and quality to undercut the cost of cable.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*Mark* ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

Best Idea below:

Both sides are lying.

Therefore, my solution is to charge the cable companies, mandate that it comes out of their pockets and not their customers, and then instead of giving it to the broadcasters, give it back to the consumers as a small tax break. That way, both sides lose, and then learn their lesson about trying to trick people into believing their lies.

-Some Guy on Web

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*gerrycurry* ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

I don't care what the private networks do but the CBC is supposed to be Canada's national public broadcaster. They should be providing over the air service to ALL Canadians, wherever they are. If they have to replace all their old, archaic analogue equipment, so be it. It's about time. But if they are going to continue to receive funding as the nation's only "public" broadcaster, then the entire nation must continue to be able to receive their programming FREE OF CHARGE.

It's high time the CBC was adequately funded so they can provide quality programming with

little or no advertising.

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[murrs](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

I think local stations deserve the right to negotiate the value of the content they provide and if the market isn't there, then they need to go quietly.

There should be no subsidies for switching to digital. These are businesses. If they can't afford to fund themselves then they need to find a different business model.

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[james_a_l](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

It borders on the bizarre that broadcasters believe that they should receive a fee from cable and satellite providers/subscribers. If not for these distribution methods, the viewership for local programming would be small indeed. Surely the broadcasters include cable and satellite viewership when negotiating rates for advertising; if so, then they ALREADY receive (indirect) compensation for the use of their signal. It's truly disingenuous for them to claim that the cable and satellite companies are getting something for nothing -- they provide significant value-added for both the broadcasters and the viewers. Threats that they will withdraw their signals are childish. Again, without cable and satellite distributing their signals, exactly how many viewers would they have left? They may as well shutter ALL of their stations, as their ad revenues would quite quickly dry up.

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[larrylau](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

1) No. Local TV does not matter and is not worth paying for.
2) The industry does not require support, incentive, or tax breaks to implement the transition to over the air digital broadcasts. If it's too expensive, then they shouldn't do it.

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[Dave](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

1 and 2. I think it's ridiculous that you're asking the consumer to help define and shape the business planning of companies. Clearly, if these companies had managed themselves better regarding revenue generation and investing in their own growth, we wouldn't be at this point. This discussion point is nothing more than an exercise in justifying a bailout of local TV programming.....bottom line, if you end up asking me to pay any more money, I will cancel services.

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[Stevan Zupanic](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

It is simple, every other company on earth must create profit and change business models in order to stay in business. Bailing out local TV is only sending the message "We don't care what you do because the CRTC will force Canadian's to pay for bad management choices".

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[Michael](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

1. If they continue to broadcast free signals, they can charge nothing obviously.
2. No, incentives are not required. They can innovate or go bankrupt. The fear of death ought to be incentive enough.

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Like



Adamg ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

Points 1) yes - its yet another ploy by Canwest and CTV to milk money out of Canadians while doing the absolute minimum. They should not get one red cent since they are not upgrading to HD OTA for all local areas. Their licenses are a protected prillidge not a right - if they dont like the options they should lose them.

2) No let them either meet requirements or go bankrupt - they do nothing for canada.

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Like



Michael ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

1. If they continue to broadcast free signals, they can charge nothing obviously.
2. No, incentives are not required. They can innovate or go bankrupt. The fear of death aught to be incentive enough.

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Bert Defasko ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

If the cable and satellite companies don't smarten up and start allowing consumers to pick their own channels then there won't be a problem anymore. People will pull the plug on these companies. I know I will. That's the impact the Industry will face. TV is just about a thing of the past. Internet and "Free to air" is the way to go.

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Like



Barry ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

I think local stations are gaining far more value from the cable/satellite companies than the other way around. Poor business models cannot be sustained. I see the fees the local channels seeking is the last gasp at hanging on.

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Like



ThinkRationally ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

1. Aren't all of the "local" stations owned by a couple of national companies? How many local stations actually have 24 hours of content to broadcast every day? Are we really talking about the major Canadian networks here?

If the networks/local stations MUST be carried, how can there be a fair negotiation? Either they enter fair competition such that users can choose not to have these channels, or they continue to enjoy nation-wide guaranteed carriage and the advertising audience that goes along with that without charging for that carriage--how can they be given both??

2. I have no idea. The cable industry is semi-monopolistic as it is. The propaganda from both sides is enough to turn me off of TV forever. A little competitive incentive for both might not hurt the consumer.

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Glenn D ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

If you look at the credits for a lot of "Canadian" programming there is a lot of taxpayer support in this industry whether the content has anything to do with Canada or Canadian culture. This industry's addiction to the taxpayer has to be stopped.

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Like



Adamg ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

One further comment with regards to this thread.

The various broadcast groups - CTV, CanWest, (previously Chum, now Rogers) City years ago set about purchasing dozens of small broadcasters from local communities using the argument that "synergies" existed which would make delivery of local content cheaper and easier. Now that they no longer need to do OTA (since the CRTC caved on that) they want to do away with the smaller stations - since its infinitely cheaper to simply generate a single channel out of toronto or vancouver and broadcast it to the entire timezone.

Thank you crtc, now that everyone will be required (if they want tv) to pay a minimum of \$30 dollars a month for endless rebroadcasting of US programming. Good choice that.

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sharon0806 ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

1. For a company to stay in business and competitive upgrades from time to time are required to keep a customer base happy, it is NOT the responsibility of the customer to continually absorb the cost(s) so they can make mega bucks! They need to tighten their belts just like the rest of us and learn how to run a business properly, even if it takes cutting salaries to remain profitable.

2. No support required unless they can learn to run their business properly!

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Jay P ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

I don't think they deserve any extra funding. They should get their money from advertising like every other station, including those in the US. I rarely watch TV, nor do I want to be forced to pay for it. If the ruling comes in that they do need to have fee for carriage I would like to have the option to unsubscribe to all local programming. They can keep their own useless programming. Besides, the only time I watch them is to watch the programming that they purchase from their US counterparts.

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Ed Epstein ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

As a follow up to my earlier post, the CRTC could revoke the spectrum license from current broadcasters, since they seem unwilling to invest in it and use it to its full capacity. The CRTC could then take that license and re-auction it, allowing its true value to be negotiated in the marketplace. The companies that then buy that spectrum would not be saddled by the baggage of the conventional non-broadcasters.

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Like



timlocke ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

Let the low powered stations stay analog for a few years as per Carl B's comment.

Perhaps provide a subsidized converter box as the US has done.

Then leave it all alone.

[Flag](#)

Like



thomas ★ 1 month ago 1 person liked this.

I am really opposed to how these television stations are claiming that this is a mission or about saving 'Local TV' when I turn to any of these stations there is little to no actual 'local programming' on any of these channels. All of these stations are filled with nothing but American Programming and National Canadian programming (national news, ect) there is such a small percentage of actual local programming and I find it insulting that these companies are trying to fool the consumer into the belief that their local news is at risk.

I think these stations should stop spending millions of dollars on American programming and spending instead on local and Canadian content. If these companies are so concerend with their local stations then why didn't they offer the grey cup broadcast on their CTV network and instead offer it only on the cable only channel TSN.

Smarten Up guys, stop wasting money.

Flag

Like



Rusty S. ★ 1 month ago 1 person liked this.

Local TV does NOT need more funding. They make plenty with commercial advertising. As for DTV, digital may be pretty good for people in the metro area of whatever city you live in, however not good at all if you live farther away.

DTV has a weak signal that rarely works at all if you live to far away from the transmitter.

For Example : Lets say you are watching a TV station with an Analoge signal that reaches aproxamety 150 Kilometres in distance (strong station). Well cut that distance in half and you have the maximum distance of the DTV signal.

Im not saying there wont be exceptions, on a clear day the signal will probably be stronger and travel farther. But on a Stormy day there will likely be no signal for citizens 50 kilometres away from the transmitter.

In the Analoge world, a tv signal gradually gets worse over the amount of distance away from the tv tower you are. In the digital world, you have a great picture for a period of time until you reach a pointe called the cliff effect. The cliff effect works this way, you have a great signal for a part of time, then you fall under the edge (fall off edge of cliff). When you fall under, your picture no longer works AT ALL.

With digital Television, once you loose enough signal to display a picture, there will be no picture. Unlike with Anolage, you will discover a frozen picture with no sound at what so ever. Frozens pictures are a very common flaw with dtv reception.

Think of the people out in central canada who realy on the the (usually not so great) anolage signal to get important news along with local programming. Digital TV will simply not work in some areas.

The USA has alredy used digital for some time, and of course some people like dtv, however dtv has been a flop to the majority of Americans who cant view channels they could view with Anolage reception.

To sum up what I have said, digital is not what the government says it is cranked up to be.

As a normal Canadian who spends time repairing tvs and messing with signals (AM, FM, Shortwave, you name it) I can honestly say I expected digital to be great for the way we watch TV, untill I went to a friends house in the USA and saw dtv's true colours. For my friend, well, lets just say he now has to listen to the radio for entertainment (untill they take that away)

I could go on and on with all of the little technical details that make DTV what it is (im talking about signal and technical tv terms)but I had better leave it at that.

Flag

Like



W.L. Graham ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

This is the crux of the matter. CTV/Global do not want to pay for High Definition equipment for their local channels. So yes, allowing them to 'negotiate' will have an impact. Businesses must adapt to new regulatory environments without asking for the consumer to fund it! Bottom line. No subsidies! Sink or swim and let the best network survive!

[Flag](#)

Like



josie erent ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

I hate the CRTC and its on going mission to ram Canadian Content down people's throats. Democracy is about being able to watch and pay for something that you want to watch. Its not about accepting decisions from useless Federal Government Bureacrates who want to force angry Canadians to pay more money for Cable in order to impose Canadian Local Programming. I watch alot of American Television such as the Food Channel which is now owned by Global Television which is also having financial problems This horrible company only runs reruns....How many times can a consumer watch Canadian Repeats...Lets make another more important statement. Cellular consumer rates and Cable Consumer Rates in Canada are the highest probably in the world and you expect us to pay more money for Canadian Programming Crap? If you do this CRTC...I will simply cancel my cable...You can take your Canadian programming and stick up the CRTC - member asses.

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Pauline J. ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

I have no idea whether this is fair or not as we don't have access to the business models. Perhaps it would be more informative for your research, if you sent out more detailed background on these issues. However, we do feel strongly that TV will not be available for free in the future through rabbit ears etc. There once was a public service model for television and there still is for radio. Why not try to figure out how to keep that alive.

[Flag](#)

Like



vassellebarber ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

I would be happy not to have cable service if I could receive high-quality programming (local or otherwise) over the air for FREE. I would even be willing to pay a small fee if it meant more flexibility in my choices. I think that it is a shame that the digital revolution will kill programming for those people outside of large urban areas. This should not happen. An alternative (like free TV over internet) should be put in place before analog signals are discontinued. It is our local stories that preserve our history and culture, whether communicated by radio, television, orally, or through the written word. I do not want to be sucked further into the American culture. I salute Quebec for preserving more of its local culture through Quebec content regulations (yes, mostly due to language content regulations).

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Like



kaptaan ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

current free-to-air t.v. channels should be available for free to anyone with any kind of set top box. consumers shouldn't have to buy the providers set top box. we should be able to use any set top box available in the marketplace.

regards,
Mr. Singh

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Like



MaxPower77 ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

"Local" stations are garbage...wouldnt even notice if they disappeared off the face of the planet...not to mention they dont broadcast in HD.

Flag

Like



Peter ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

Let me have Direct TV or the Dish Network. If I lived near the U.S. border, I could get free H.D. programming with a roof top antenna and wouldn't have to endure the gouging by Shaw, Bell, Rogers which is all sanctioned and supported by the CRTC

Flag

Like



micahg ★ [1 month ago](#) in reply to Peter 2 people liked this.

On that note, you would have it where you are now if local broadcasters were not dragging they're feet in the transition!

Flag

Like



vicswan ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

There would be no impact other than increasing their profits at our expense.

The broadcast industry does not deserve any support or incentives. If they cannot provide a product people are willing to pay for, they should go broke just like other business operations.

Flag

Like



rogetreloar ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

These questions stink of over-regulation. When TV began in Canada, no one other than the original investors, paid for their broadcasting equipment. Why should it be any different now? Because they are being ORDERED to change to digital? If they were not so ordered, those channels in major markets which lagged in such conversion, would lose out in the market place and the investors would be faced with the issue of conversion to digital versus losing market share to competitors which have made such conversion investments. Hence, too much regulation distorts the marketplace.

I note that the only source of funds for carriers such as cable companies is from the end customer. Hence, such proposed negotiations are not between the affected parties. The carriers are only the carriers. Such negotiations should be between the consumers/viewers and the stations and such negotiations can be easily done if viewers are allowed to choose whether or not they value these channels to the level desired by the broadcasters.

I do not know how the original analogue bandwidth was awarded. I think it was just given to the local channels. Hence, they are squatters. Perhaps they should have some squatters' rights. That is, if the government subsequently auctions off this analogue bandwidth for other purposes, the current users of the bandwidth should receive some of the proceeds, provided it is used solely to aid in transition to digital broadcasting.

Flag

Like



Ian M. ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

What "local" tv? The real local broadcasters pretty much disappeared years ago - now it's really "regional" broadcasters - and thats pretty much only for news & weather - the rest of the programming is pretty much the same as you can find on another channel/network. Why should we subsidize something we don't get anything out of and don't want to watch? If it was really local I could get it "off the air" with an antenna - and not worry about cable. But, for the most part Canadian-based programming is not what I want to watch - and I think I speak for most people - so why should we have to support the interests/desires of such a small group of

people? We pay enough already for our TV - regardless of what method we subscribe too.

Flag

Like



roosevelt99 ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

No..... to support for local channels.

If Canadians are forced to bail out TV stations then why shouldn't we bail out all failing businesses?

I have my own business. Will the CRTC bail me out if I start to go under??

Flag

Like



James Staples ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

Local broadcasters offer their signal over the air for free. It does not make any sense to charge a certain number of people for the signal that others can pick out of the air for free. The industry should have some support from the government to install transmitters in smaller markets otherwise you are creating a two tier system of distribution where large markets can have access for free where as smaller markets have to pay for the same thing. The US government subsidized converter boxes for households. I think the Canadian government should give some financial assistance to the broadcasters to install the transmitter equipment in smaller markets.

Flag

Like



schooner2000 ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

I've little to no interest in local channels, never watch them, I can get local info from radio and Internet faster and easier.

Flag

Like



Paul ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

It would probably have an impact, but that's what commercials are for. They could also go pay per view. Pay per view is alright as long as I have _MY PICK of channels. I do not agree to paying for something that is thrown in because a minority wants it. I cancelled Rogers 10 years ago for that very reason. I have Rogers internet only. If the local channel cannot get enough support, it should close. If I am paying for a channel I do not expect commercials every few minutes. Commercials belong at the start and finish NOT IN THE PROGRAM. I currently have an antenna and that is satisfactory for me. I do not watch much TV. I will never have Canadian satellite either, because I do not want basic Sat to consist of CTV and CBC about 14 stations of each. Totally unnecessary and useless, but it is foisted off on us by the CRTC under the name of Canadian content. Sorry it won't happen in my house. I personally think the CRTC is redundant anyway.

Flag

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Earl2002 ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

The industry should try making it without subsidies. Then they'd either have to offer programming people want to watch or go out of business. That's the model that works for me.

Flag

Like



Ryan ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

Let the local cable companies sell their packages to the Cable companies based on content and customer demand.

CRTC needs to interfere less, and let the natural order take over, rather than subsidize bad businesses with my money.

I will not pay any more \$\$ for TV (local or cable or satellite) than I am currently paying. Enough is enough.

Actually, if this new proposed fee structure goes ahead, I will be dropping my Satellite TV subscription completely, then I will access US based channels instead.

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)

 [fung0](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

I'm certainly in favor of "allowing local stations to negotiate for the value of their signals." Broadcasters should be allowed to charge whatever they think their service is worth - as long as I, the consumer, am allowed to choose whether or not to pay for it.

Personally, I NEVER watch local TV, so I'd happily drop this component of my cable bill. Others currently have the option of not paying for the premium channels that I prefer; why shouldn't I have the corresponding option of not paying for services that I don't use?

As for "support or incentives?" Absolutely not. Broadcasters are businesses, they make money. If they make too much money, they don't send it back to me. If they haven't got enough money to make an obvious and inevitable technological transition, how is that my problem?

At one time, there MIGHT have been an argument that local content was somehow vital to the fabric of our society. But that content is freely available on the Internet now. Bottom line, if consumers really want local TV, they'll pay for it willingly. If they don't want it, there's no conceivable reason to subsidize it.

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 [R H](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

I was disappointed when I found out the content of this question. By the title, I had hoped it would refer to broadcasting over the internet. For example, I plan to emigrate to Hong Kong, but would love to be able to watch CBC once in a while over the internet, just to keep in touch with my culture. I couldn't care less whether or not over-the-air signals are analog or HD. The last time I watched TV was election results. And I watched on CBC over the internet, because we can't get an analog signal at my house.

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 [Daianto](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

Broadcasters have no idea what is happening in the digital world. They are far too conservative, financially and technically to be ahead of the curve. The hard fact of the matter is internationally small, local, independent media is gaining ground in the age of the Internet while traditional media stagnates.

If anything the CRTC should be investigating how to assist small independent producers in rural and remote Canadian locations. As we saw with those that established Canadian media over the last couple of generations, it will be there that innovation will be embraced and deployed.

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 [brentt](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

1. Only as long as it is full and fair negotiation, with all that entails. In other words, if the price claimed by TV stations is not acceptable to viewers/distributors, then that should end the matter and the channels should not be carried. As far as the transition to digital television itself is concerned, I do not believe it is necessary. The transition in the US did not go smoothly, with an approximate 6-month delay in the switch because of poor planning and roll-out of converters and new antennas. It is my opinion that anyone going to the expense of a new antenna and converter box is probably likely to just transition to satellite in any event. All the switchover

really does is render useless the tens of millions of analog-tuned sets.

2. As I do not support the transition itself, neither would I support incentives to implement it. Digital transmission is important, but it is impractical over terrestrial VHF/UHF RF.

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Like



Florin ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

1. I am working for a business company in a certain field. This is how I get paid. I don't force my company's customers to buy something unless THEY WANT IT! The same with the TV business. Why do we have to give them "ideas"? Do they pay us???!?!?

2. Ask the TV company's CEOs. They should know better what they have to do to make a change (without firing people!)

[Flag](#)

Like



Richard ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

1. The local stations can negotiate whatever they please, they should be grateful to cable/satellite companies for picking up their signals and increasing the market penetration and signal quality. There is no way that TV broadcasters should expect to be paid by the cable companies for the right to carry their signals on cable. That's why viewers have to endure god-awful advertising on commercial channels.

2. Let the analogue industry die if they can't or won't switch to digital, don't force me to subsidise it either through user fees or my taxes. How many TV stations still broadcast in black and white?

[Flag](#)

Like



E-Willy ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

The local stations programs are only news weather and sports 3 times a day = 1 hour of programming after the adds. I would not pay!

[Flag](#)

Like



CB in BC ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

Survival of the fittest please! The industry does not require support or incentives, nor do local TV stations. Enough handouts and bailouts in this country.

[Flag](#)

Like



Earl Reed ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

I do know this. This whole discussion is about MONEY. Who pays is what it boils down to. The viewing public already pays enough in monthly cable and satellite bills as it now stands. Those bills expand at the whim of the providers and that doesn't account for any changes such as are presently being discussed. Every time a new development comes along, a new box has to be bought or rented, a new bunch of programming at an extra cost to us comes along, etc., etc. You can be assured that whatever the outcome, we the public, will pay for it through the nose. What's the limit? \$300.00 to \$500.00 a month to watch TV? Unfortunately, at present, there is NO LIMIT.

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Like



gabe ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

I have satellite service and local programming is not available to me because I live in a rural part of Canada so why should I pay for something I'll never get. I rely on local newspapers/radio stations to give me local information.

Also, if I have to pay for local TV stations I should be given the option of opting out. The Canadian TV industry is getting worse and worse by only re-broadcasting US TV programs which I don't want to watch.

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Like

 *farley69* ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

Really are the local stations struggling, the don't seem to have a problem buying some of the most expensive US programming available. At the end of the day Local TV is a business, and if their model is not profitable, they need to adapt, and make the appropriate changes - sink or swim. Other than news what local content is really there?

As for the fee for Carriage, this can only be fairly negotiated if there are no CRTC rules mandating that Cable must carry these channels and where. If the cost is to be passed on to the public they MUST have the option of declining the signal, and avoid the cash grab.

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Like

 *T Boydell* ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

As person who lives in northern mb. why would i want to pay more for something i don't get in the first place. The networks don't care about me,why should i care about them! I haven't watched any Wpg. stations in yrs.If I have to pay more I'll just cut back on what i get now and nobody wins. Heck i can't even believe the CRTC is asking are opinion on this matter they didn't care about us when it came to sports blackouts! I live in the middle of nowhere nothing should be blackedout.So lets keep tv as cheap as possible! I have no local TV now!

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Like

 *34244* ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

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 *Guest* ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

1. Local TV should be judged by the market place, not supported by the public purse. A tax is a tax. The CRTC should not be in the business of assisting "local TV" businesses by setting tarrifs on transmission media! If local production is necessary/adds a value to the information content/self supporting, then it will grow on its own merits.
2. NO support or incentives are required. Look at how newspapers are getting free contributions from readers and TV stations (CITY & CTV) get video and digital images from viewers of current local news events. Take the high road and stay out of the public purse!

[Flag](#)

Like

 *galbraw* ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

Local stations are carried by cable companies as part of the government laws to protect Canadian content. If they are allowed to charge for their signals we as consumers should have to right to subscribe or not to these signals. I believe this would cost local tv advertising revenue as there would be no guarantee to reach their intended audience.

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Like



jeja1 ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

Local Tv is already free.
This a money grab regardless of which side your on.

Cable fees are way to high.
The ridiculous packages we pay for are a money grab as we have to get channels we never view.
Remove the packages and allow the consumer the chance to purchase individual channels.
At least I would get more enjoyment per dollar spent.

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Like



John Smith ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

I subscribe to cable to receive channels not available locally (and free).
The cost of cable is too high and there is no competition.

Let subscribers receive and pay for any channels they want. Let them take only the channels they want. Let the broadcasters and cable/satellite providers charge whatever they can get.

If Canadians really care about local television, it would thrive under such a regime. If they don't, then this is another tiresome attempt to gouge consumers.

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Ed Gray ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

I believe the both sides in this argument are skewing the truth their way playing the fear game with consumers. I do not believe the consumer should pay more for something they can get free over the air, but I also believe the local TV companies are getting the short end of the deal pending that cable providers charge their end users for the signal they get free.
In the end, the CRTC needs to examine both parties and find a way to settle the dispute without having the viewers to foot the bill. If cable companies claim the local TV benefits from reaching in markets outside of broadcasting range of traditional over the air signals and local TV stations say they need a new source of revenue, than they should sit together and hammer a new advertising platform charging companies for the advertisings aired and splitting the revenue. This way the local TV stations would get the much needed money while benefiting from expanded reach for their signals while cable companies would get the quality programming offered by local TV stations without the claim by local TV stations that they are being treated unfair by cable companies.

Playing the blame game and scaring the viewers is cheap tactic no matter who uses is. And I do not need a celebrity of one kind or another to tell me that.

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rehfer ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

"Access to local programming may be available outside major markets through satellite distributors, such as Bell TV and a proposed FreeHD Canada service". Let Bell TV charge a network fee for the hardware to receive the network and let the consumer pay a la carte for the channels. If Joe in Moosenee wants to watch CTV Toronto let him pay not me. Who is the CRTC kidding about digital broadcasting. Its already on air for free in Toronto. 10% of the Canadian population can get 15 HD channels by mounting a HD antenna for a one time fee of \$20 and having a digital tuner in their TV or buy a digital to analog converter for \$80 online. CRTC should mandate local programmers stream news online. In Toronto only Rogers streams their newscast from CityTV. CTV should be forced to provide local news for NB and PEI in the Atlantic provinces. If you live in NB only the CBC provides a local newscast (from Fredericton) and we (every Canadian) are paying for it already. CTV only broadcasts from Halifax and the news is mostly about Halifax and nothing else.

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Like



carlb613 ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

Local stations have already been given the ability to run unlimited quantities of advertising; this was supposed to pay the cost of digital transition. Furthermore, most local stations serving Kingston ON are based in Watertown and their transition is already complete; all but one of the remaining signals are simply not "local television" in that they're rebroadcasters of Toronto or Ottawa stations.

Certainly the cost of transmitting digitally could be mitigated by making use of digital subchannels (a typical PBS member station carries three or four channels on subchannels of the same digital signal, domestic stations could cut costs per channel were they allowed to do likewise). Nonetheless, the domestic stations have been treated more than generously by being given two extra years to transition (compared to their FCC-licensed in-region counterparts) and by not being required to simulcast both analogue and digital during transition.

I see no reason why viewers in Kingston should be subsidising a rebroadcaster of a network-owned station from another region (CTV in Ottawa, Global in Toronto) given that the bulk of the non-news programming budget is already devoted to needless duplication of in-region digital TV stations such as WWNY, WNYF, WPBS-TV and WWTI. That CTV has zero commitment to our region (they were planning to shut us off Aug 31, 2009 after all) and Global is worse (they've never provided a watchable A-grade OTA signal to Kingston) doesn't help.

Want to fund local TV in my region? Donate to WPBS. CTV and Global have no local studios.

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Like



David H ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

There should be some government assistance made available towards the one-time costs of upgrading to digital where companies can demonstrate a need for such funds. This does not imply ongoing support from the taxpayer or from the consumer. In the final analysis, broadcasters must stand or fall on their ability to attract viewers and advertisers in a free market without any cross-subsidies produced as a result of the anti-competitive bundling of channels.

The FreeHD service is a good idea and works well in the UK. It should be encouraged.

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David H ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

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Like



Sean ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

The cable and satellite company's make millions a year off the consumer... Charging us for local stations is just an excuse to steal money from our wallets - if they cannot afford to pay the local stations - then they are spending too much money elsewhere - 60 bucks or so a month minimum fees from every subscriber = alot of freekin dough. They have more than enough money.

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Like



Chris ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

1. I think it only affects their profit margins which impacts their shareholders whom the hold about their customers.

2. No.

[Flag](#)

Like



Bernard H. ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

I want to continue to get my local TV from my cable company. Cable companies have built their distribution system off the back of the content provided by local TV. I expect that part of what I already pay my cable distributor for a basic cable package should serve to pay for the local news and shows that I watch.

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dongibsonednasobchuk ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

I do not want to pay one cent more .

They do not need any further support than what they receive from advertising.

[Flag](#)

Like



Robert V Stull ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

why not just go to the crtc and screw over canadians for more money. thats all the stations are good for. go a la carte or i am going grey. i have a drop box in the states and it would be real easy.

[Flag](#)

Like



Bill MacGregor ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

Why would they need support to implement the transition? The big cost is to me. I have to buy or rent my cable box to get anything. Again, no competition - no choices

This country is behind the rest of the world in telecommunications and no one including the CRTC seems to care. When you compare our internet speeds and related cost to the rest of the world we fare badly. I think things are even worse with cell phone plans. If you were an American in a big city you could actually get a number of HD channels with an Antenna if you were willing to forgo specialty channels. That would not be too painful. I did not spend to extra \$10 to get these channels in HD because the programing is not good enough

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Like



P Griffiths ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

If local television stations are allowed to charge cable operators to redistribute their signal, then cable and satellite operators must be allowed to offer subscribers the option to avoid extra fees by choosing not to subscribe to local television.

At the same time, if local channels broadcast a high quality digital signal then Canadians who do not wish to pay cable and satellite fees will still be able to receive high quality network programming with a great picture at no cost. This will increase the competitive pressure on the cable and satellite companies and lead to lower cost and more consumer choice.

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Like



Matthew Harper ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

Local signals are supported by advertising. They should not be coming after cable subscribers. This won't solve the problem of rural areas having locally produced television anyway. If the CRTC thinks that is important, they should get the Federal government to subsidize it from The

Action Plan.

Flag

Like



theninjasquad ★ 1 month ago 1 person liked this.

Is think the negotiation is only going to lead to higher prices for consumers and I certainly do not want that. Prices are already way to high already. It doesn't help that the cable companies are basically saying that they will pass the costs onto customers if they negotiate, so they are holding us all hostage here.

Flag

Like



Paul ★ 1 month ago 1 person liked this.

Allowing local TV to negotiate rates only makes sense if you are talking about an open market free of government regulation and a market where there is broadcaster competition. The current market has neither of these two things.

The only way to get broadcasters and TV stations to more over to the digital standard is to force them to. History shows us that unless a competitor implements a service upgrade do others follows suite. Since we don't have an open market with competition this isn't going to happen on its own. If left to their own devices broadcasters and TV stations alike would rather spend as little as possible.

Flag

Like



Carl B ★ 1 month ago in reply to Paul 1 person liked this.

Many domestic stations do compete with US OTA broadcasters which do already transmit free digital HDTV. In most markets, this has not been enough to encourage anyone to go digital.

For the domestic networks, an OTA signal is merely a means to an end - that end being "must-carry" status on local cable TV. Except in the very largest markets, too many of those still watching the station OTA are likely too poor or too rural to be of much value to advertisers.

Flag

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debi_sidneybc ★ 1 month ago 1 person liked this.

1. Should you allow local stations to negotiate for value of their signals this would be a negative impact on the consumer which already pays excessive fees for the current services provided. This should not be allowed.

2. You are requiring the industry to make significant cost prohibitive changes, so it only stands to reason that you should be providing some incentive to help them bear the brunt of these costs. Whether that be from tax credits or other measures to be determined, they should not be forced to take on these costs alone.

Flag

Like



R Morrison ★ 1 month ago 1 person liked this.

I think we should transition to digital services as soon as possible to take advantage of better signal quality, better signal compression, HD capabilities, etc. If a signal supplier wants to continue to supply a signal they should comply with the upgrade schedules and make sure their equipment is ready and available. Digital signals may also give the local TV providers a better avenue to charge for their signal once the over the air signals largely go away.

Flag

Like



FairIsFair ★ [1 month ago](#) [in reply to R Morrison](#) 1 person liked this.

Digital and OTA are NOT mutually exclusive. I get about 17 OTA HD transmission from Canadian and US broadcasters in the GTA.

[Flag](#)

Like



jim45020 ★ [1 month ago](#)

1. I believe that extra revenue is necessary for local stations as they transition to digital television. The cable companies have already made a cash grab on Digital signals and charged the consumer extra money to subscribe to these services and for the digital boxes required to receive the signal. The consumer has been dunned to cover the cost.

2. No. Consumer demand will be enough of an incentive. In addition it will be impossible to acquire tvs that can accomodate non digital signals in the future.

[Flag](#)

Like



Bill ★ [1 month ago](#)

Allowing local stations to negotiate for the value of their signals would force them to put out quality programming. It might be fewer programs but they would be worth watching. Since the CRTC is regulating television stations and networks they should also regulate providers, namely Rogers and Bell. The CRTC with the networks and providers can come up with a fair plan instead of a senseless monopoly it has allowed for the providers

[Flag](#)

Like



lawsonkristen ★ [1 month ago](#)

I tend to watch CTV, CBC, and CITYTV on the timeshift channels on cable which I already have to pay for. I rarely watch my local channel.

[Flag](#)

Like



Michael Ribeiro ★ [1 month ago](#)

I think there are a few issues, I think as the owners of the distribution channel the industry should provide access to channel/TV Stations, including all local channels. The CRTC should enforce what channels are allowed.

The consumer should then have a choice for what channels they wish, rather than forcing it on the the consumers as cable/satellite would propose now.

Public funded channels should be provided by the industry for free however to "pay" for the monopoly that the cable and satellite customers have. In fact the local channels should be part of that basic agreement with the Cable/Satellite cusotmer to have the monopoly that the have on providing TV signals. I really don't feel like I have a choice like I do for phone service, so this really constrains my answers to the questions asked.

1) Yes I do, however I feel that without choice the industry needs to be in the public trust to open it's network up and provide fair compesation for the re-selling of their content.

2) No the industry gets more than adequate compensation for what they provide. I feel the CRTC should set the channel line up required based upon location of the purchaser as a "basic" level of service for that location. Additional channels should be optional and available a'la carte.

[Flag](#)

Like



Fiona Durham ★ [1 month ago](#)

Local programming is essential to Canadian broadcasting; there isn't any without it. Now, with that thought in mind, why is it that we are paying upwards of \$100.00 a month, forced to watch an aggravatingly large amount of commercials (eg last night we watched a movie, for every 4 mins of film, there 3.5 mins of advertisement) and yet with all the money the cable companies

are pulling in through the advertising and subscriptions, why is it that local programming is suddenly a new fee they want to add? How ridiculous. How incredulous. How greedy. From a consumer's point of view, should the CRTC allow the distributorships of cable services to get further funding from the consumer, we will no longer have a need for television, as no-one will subscribe. It will become a luxury only the rich can afford. The current economy could not sustain such frivolity.

[Flag](#)

Like



[tom51](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

I believe that local television stations deserve a level of support equal to what the digital stations provide. If the over-the-air stations disappear we will be in serious trouble in a time of natural disaster should we lose power and have to rely on battery power to receive updates. The local stations are invaluable in helping in times of trouble, look at the ice storm, the Ontario black out and their impact on local charity functions. Having said that they must also be a matter of choice. When I look at my satellite package I have probably 200 stations blocked several are local language specific stations, I resent paying for a service I don't use

[Flag](#)

Like



[Carl B](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) [in reply to tom51](#)

Many battery-powered TV's are not capable of directly tuning digital signals. An ice storm would be better covered using proven technology, such as AM radio... if you can find any left.

[Flag](#)

Like



[Justen](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

Local stations should be paid for their signals and programming. Industry should get subsidies to transition to DTV as it will free up spectrum and provide viewers with an HD option over-the-air.

[Flag](#)

Like



[jimphilp](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

I believe that allowing local stations to negotiate for the value of their signals probably would have an impact, especially to the cable and satellite companies. Despite the impact, I believe the CRTC should require the cable/satellite providers to sit down at the table with the local broadcasters and conduct negotiations. I believe that a variety of local television is vital to the cultural well-being of our nation.

[Flag](#)

Like



[cmlondon](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

NO to BELL TV or "FREE HD" providing a replacement for our current OTA Stations. That is nothing but Bell getting boxes into people's homes and then pulling Bell Bully Tactics to get you to subscribe to other channels while they're at it.

DMA's with under 100,000 people should be exempt for the transition for a maximum of three years. Over those three years stations should be allowed to create "Multicast" transmitters allowing up to 3 or more signals on one transmitter. Saving money and allowing free no strings attached TV. Once Bell knows your phone #, the call's never stop.

However, The DTV transition should have to still take place on August 31st, 2011 for Markets above 100,000 people, if not earlier. All stations SHOULD have to have their OWN dedicated transmitters. If you have not seen OTA HDTV (Most of Canada can NOT even RECEIVE these signals right now) it looks amazing. Cable companies screw us over with their over compressed

micro-blocked signals.

If All London's Reaming Local (Re-Broadcaster) Stations go OTA DTV (Omni.1, Omni.2, CBC, Global, CFPL, CBC, SRC and CTV) then I would likely drop all but one of my Digital Boxes and go DTV OTA for the rest!

* If you in London, Hook in some Rabbit Ears into your HDTV then Punch in Channel 19 (SUN-TV) and enjoy some Free DTV!

[Flag](#)

Like



Colin Bisset ★ [1 month ago](#)

1. Sure it would, if they had to negotiate with me, rather than the cable or satellite carriers. Right now they're doing everything in their power to prevent viewers (customers as we should be) from having a voice, and they're also working very hard to avoid having to change their business model from the current advertising-based model, which can't possibly be sustained in a world where viewers have the ability to avoid commercials.

2. The incentive they should have is the obvious one -- they should have to produce programming that viewers want, or go out of business. There is no benefit of any kind to society if a media organization is not producing anything that anyone wants. The only way to find out if anyone wants what they're selling, is to actually offer it for sale, and find out who is willing to pay. As for support, well, they've been getting support in the form of involuntary contributions through cable and satellite fees for decades. How well did that support system work in preparing them to confront the modern market situation? The support they need should be the knowledge that if they don't produce quality programming, they will no longer be in business.

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Marc Robichaud ★ [1 month ago](#)

Local TV stations should not be allowed to be re-broadcast by Cable and satellite companies if they do not pay LOCAL stations for it. But, as a customer of a local cable company here in Sudbury Ontario, I should not be forced to pay for the "locals" to the cable company if I do not want them included in my package from them. If I want local TV I can switch my television's input from "cable" to "air" myself. Paying for the "locals" to my cable company should be an extra option, for convenience, but should not be forced on me. I find already that we are paying too much for cable and satellite, and they do not offer competitive packages. They make up 5-10 different packages and we get 100 channels that we do not ever watch. We should only pay for what we actually watch (like a water meter) and not have to pay for those stations we NEVER go to.

[Flag](#)

Like



Peter vd Kloot ★ [1 month ago](#)

1. Yes, local stations need to be supported, thus payment is in order, especially with the change in digital.

2. As fewer users will be on regular broadcast, advertising revenue will decline, thus cutting into the stations revenue. Depending on the expected number of viewers staying on broadcast versus the number switching to digital, assistance maybe necessary for a defined time term, to keep regular broadcasting alive.

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David ★ [1 month ago](#) in reply to Peter vd Kloot 2 people liked this.

If enough people liked local stations there should be no problem for them to make a profit.

And just why do "local stations need to be supported"?

Let those who feel the need offer the support!

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*luke m* ★ [1 month ago](#)

build a canadian digital feed.im sure we can spend the money too or make the service providers put up some of the money since they have not paid back into local tv station feeds....

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*BIP* ★ [1 month ago](#)

1. Probably, but local stations are run as businesses and as a business they need to act like one. It's a sink or swim world out there right now and if you can't swim with the fish you're probably going to sink like the Titanic and I have to say so be it all of us are in a tight financial bind these days.

2. I can't say that it would be fair to give the industry support financially because on whose back would that eventually fall (us the taxpayers) and frankly we are all tightening our financial belts right now maybe those people who are in the "have" category can afford to pay more but those of us who are scrambling to keep our heads above the water can't and it will be us little people who pay the most. The fallout might be nasty but I truly believe this is a sink or swim situation.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*Rob P* ★ [1 month ago](#)

1. I subscribe to satellite TV because I do not want local TV as my sole source of television entertainment. TV stations should be able to generate revenue through advertising -- if the content that they are offering is in demand by the viewing public, then advertisers will pay to be seen on that channel. It is like any other business -- if your products or services are not in demand you will not attract any interest.

2. One can rarely even buy a non-HD TV anymore -- the loss of analog channels does not affect or concern me.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*Clement* ★ [1 month ago](#)

Having switched to a digital tv last year, I can see the tremendous improvement in quality and program availability that HDTV provides. Since, in Montreal, CTV and Global are not broadcasting in HD, I seldom watch them now. I believe all efforts should be made to encourage all local stations to switch to digital television.

I support allowing local stations to negotiate for the value of their signals. I believe they own the copyright to their programs and should be able to negotiate a fee for their signal. More important, I believe, with an extra source of income, the local stations would have a chance to stay in business and hopefully develop better local programs. Otherwise, we will all end up watching US stations.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*ErnieRichards* ★ [1 month ago](#)

1. Digital tv is supported by the cable/satellite companies solely so they can make more \$\$ off the consumer. Allowing the local stations to negotiate is a non-starter. But the cable/satellite companies have to step up and provide real choice and services to the consumer.

2. The industry requires no support or incentives. If they cannot provide their own funding, let them go out of business and then allow other businesses that are willing to invest the required capital to enter the industry. The current industry members are too busy lining their pockets and

wasting money on content that the consumer does not want.

Flag

Like



Greg Marshall ★ 1 month ago

Yes. As presently stated, the fee for carriage would get passed through by the carrier, and I would have no choice. In my opinion, the CRTC should force the carriers to unbundle so I can purchase only the services I want from them. Then if I have an option to watch over the air, I can. At the same time the CRTC should be much more rigid with regard to the digital conversion. No digital, no license. As well, all set-top boxes should be required to include digital tuners for off-air reception.

No cable carrier should be permitted to encrypt local digital channels if they are available in the region over the air. OTA reception of digital is going to be very problematic due to the greater requirement for line of sight access to transmitters, and poorer transmission characteristics of the UHF digital signals.

Flag

Like



carriem ★ 1 month ago

Ugh. I feel that the distributors are full of it. i have no interest in renting or buying anymore crap from the cable company. Their prices are steep and never-ending. And the technology is outmoded. The companies are pretending that everything isn't available online for free, and that you can't just set up a cheap antennae to receive the HD signals.

In other countries local stations have negotiated their pricing, so why can't ours? We should be able to pay for what we want - if you want local programming, you pay for it. Why is this so difficult?

2. No. All new TVs are being made with HD-able components. All old TVs will eventually die. If this wasn't mandated by the government, it will happen "naturally" over time. After watching HD channels on a new TV, the analog channels are not desirable. If the local stations do not switch to digital, they will eventually lose their market anyway.

Flag

Like



Michael Fletcher ★ 1 month ago

I think that the local stations should be able to set a price as long as I can choose not pay it. The bundling causes a problem here.

Flag

Like



Justin ★ 1 month ago

The days of a few broadcasters controlling what Canadians view for news and entertainment are over! They continue with outdated shows and laughable attempts at providing "good Canadian shows". It's the work of dinosaurs that modern Canadians no longer want to have to pay for.

If rural Canadians want their service then they can pay for it. However, my parents live on a farm and they've gone to satellite because CTV ,CBC and global just didn't cut it anymore. These broadcasters can charge for their service as long as no one is forced to pay for their channels. Everyone is moving to specialty cable channels or the internet, the CRTC should not protect this industry from it's own lack of creativity and ability to respond to the changing nature of the business. Instead let entrepreneurs take over and give Canadians what they want.

Flag

Like



Interested in BC ★ 1 month ago

1. I certainly think that the business plans of 'local staions' will be highly dependent on whether

they can negotiate for the value of their signals. Obviously local content should reflect the value that the market is prepared to pay for it. Tying local content to the rebroadcast of foreign e.g. US or British as the major networks do now cannot reflect the value the consumer is willing to pay for that content.

2. The first question to be answered in the transition to digital television is who benefits from it. Obviously, the majority of consumers now are not benefitting from the over-the-air broadcast of TV. Forcing everyone to pay to transition this service to digital format seems to me to be a waste of money. If the broadcasters can make a profit by broadcasting digital signals over-the-air to consumers than let them develop a business plan to do so. They can make the service subscription or raise funds through advertising, they shouldn't charge people who don't use their service to subsidise those who do.

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Alexander ★ [1 month ago](#)

I pay for cable so this SHOULDN'T affect me. If someone doesn't want/can't subscribe to cable or satellite and can't afford the cost of the OTA upgrade, then they should find other methods to entertain themselves. Is TV an essential service? If not, then it's not my problem.

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russellsawatsky ★ [1 month ago](#)

1. Yes. It is a matter of common sense that businesses that serve as "pipelines" for content, pay for that content. To continue as the cable and satellite companies do now is to support a parasitic structure.

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russellsawatsky ★ [1 month ago](#)

2. As for the need for incentives, I have no opinion. If incentives make the difference between this happening or not, then I would not be opposed to incentives.

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Like



A Lahey ★ [1 month ago](#)

I have no sympathy for either the cable stations or local tv stations. I beleive both of them have forgotten the consumer in all of this. I think that as we move to digital, local tv will become increasingly more irrelevant.

Well, I believe the cable customers provide plenty of support and incentives to the companies. Perhaps they could consider a more creative approach that doesn't automatically target the customer with higher costs.

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Like



mare ★ [1 month ago](#)

Local television should be allowed to sell their signal. Most currently broadcast in HD. Cable companies down convert to their customers or rebroadcast under the HD brand and charge us again. We all have to transition, are you planning on compensating TV owners who haven't crossed the digital divide. Bill me to buy them a new TV. Industry support, absolutely not.

[Flag](#)

Like



RON RAWLUSYK ★ [1 month ago](#)

LOCAL STATIONS SHOULD BE ABLE TO CHARGE IF SOMEONE PICK UO THERE SIGNSL AND REBROAD CASTS IT AND MAKES MONEY ON THISPROCESS. WE USED TO BE ABLE TO GET OUR

LOCAL STATIONS FREEW WITH THE USE OF AN ANTENNA OR RABIT EARS AND WERE NOT CHARGED. NOW WE PAY MORE TO A SECOND DISTRIBUTER FOR THE SAME TV.

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[Like](#)



[micahg](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) [in reply to RON RAWLUSYK](#) 1 person liked this.

Stop yelling at me!

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[Like](#)



[surely57](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

Considering the cost to local stations (and yes, there ARE in fact, LOCAL stations!), to make the transition, yes, added revenue would certainly help them to buy the equipment necessary to make the transition to digital. But to tell you the truth, I'm not sure why this transition is so necessary right now? The economical environment we are in these days is not exactly the best.

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[Carl B](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) [in reply to surely57](#) 1 person liked this.

As far as I know, most of the genuinely-local stations serving my region (WWNY, WPBS, WWTI) had to pay their own costs for this ridiculously-expensive transition. Have I missed something here?

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[surely57](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) [in reply to Carl B](#)

Not getting your point Carl

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



[Ken Ergang](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

I say let those greedy you know whats go bankrupt we all we be the better for it

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



[Kenneth Mulders](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

Yes, local stations should be able to negotiate a carriage fee, and there should always be a basic (HD) 'local' broadcast suite of programming available at no charge across Canada. However, both broadcasters and the CRTC need to think bigger in the digital age. For instance, in the conversion to digital broadcasting, what about offering network broadcasters the option of a digital 'super license' on a single frequency? CBC, CTV, Global, City, etc. could then combine regional programming (e.g., for southern and eastern Ontario) and negotiate broadcast coverage via low-cost, low-power repeaters on mobile phone towers.

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[Todd](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

Drop the CRTC requirement for cable companies to carry so called local tv signals, then let the two sides come to some agreement. Right now it appears one sided. Force the cable companies to broadcast local signals and then start demanding fee for carriage.

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Linda J ★ [1 month ago](#)

Local stations should be able to negotiate with cable companies, but cable companies should NOT be able to raise fees or charge extra to the public, who is already being ripped off with the high rates. There should be some sort of support for the local television stations for the cost of implementing the digital changes, but it should not be put on the backs of the public. Perhaps a temporary "tax incentive" since it does mean a capital expenditure for the company anyway. Provide a new capital asset category and an increased rate of depreciation on the equipment or something like that so the company is better able to manage the expense on their own without hitting the taxpaying public up for yet more money.

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Bob ★ [1 month ago](#)

If stations can negotiate a "Value" for their stations being rebroadcast then I want to be able to negotiate whether or not I need to get them. Seems like the broadcaster (and the cable/sat provider) are wanting it both ways. Of course, no matter how it's packaged there is only one "tax"payer.

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mikethomlinson ★ [1 month ago](#)

It makes no sense for television stations to be able to force their programming on to cable, and then turn around and say they should be paid for it as well. Certainly they should be able to negotiate for the value of their signals - and if they choose to charge for them consumers should be allowed to drop them from our cable subscriptions altogether.

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Mark O ★ [1 month ago](#)

I wonder?

How much have the cable and local TV companies spent on this fight campaign already.

Every spot time they can find, they run the fight ads.

They are wasting valuable ad time from real companies who have to paid to see their products rotate.

If anything... Ask them to stop running the fight ads. We are aware already!!!

And force them to start making ad revenue again. So that my TV bill won't need to go up again. Yeesh!!

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R. Cassidy ★ [1 month ago](#)

If my grandmother baked a pie and someone took it, cut it up and sold it off to customers by the piece and then kept all the money, we would call it theft.

If the authorities told my grandmother there was nothing that could be done about the thief, then my grandmother would have to stop making pies.

So now grandma is a local and the thief is called Roger, (that rings a Bell.)

Do the right thing CRTC, make it right!

Why do we have to spend so much money

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John R ★ [1 month ago](#)

I already have to pay in the basic package a substantial monthly fee for the native broadcast

and I have absolutely no interest in it. With a local news station I would at least get something of interest. I am surprised at the lack of comment about having to pay for some of the useless cable spots. Are people unaware of where so much of what they pay is going?

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[scott1515](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

Question 1: I think the industry will revert to form and do everything possible to use the regulatory body to cover its butt and I think the regulatory body will probably go right along with it like always.

Question 2: Does it want them, yes. Does it require them, no. They're going to do exactly what they want to do to meet their financial objectives and everybody knows it.

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[georginascott](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

Local TV (independent not network) should be given free access to cable distribution. Network (CTV, Golbal) TV needs to have all of their revenues counted including specialty channels before recieving any help from consumers or other companies. Because CBC provides Canadian content and programing it should recieve money from the Canadians. Why should I pay to watch ABC or other American programing on a Canadian station?

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[sjtigers](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

1. yes

2. only one time spending for infrastructure and only in grant or loan form. No continual taxes.

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[Like](#)



[JZ](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

Computers are the way to go. You can search the internet for knowledge, make phone calls from the internet and even watch some TV from the internet. Isn't it time to have total TV access from the web? Many broadcasters in the USA stream currently run TV show but here in Canada we are banned. I say it's corporate greed at it's best.

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[Denis](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

1. If they want to upgrade to compete then that is their decision and part of running a business. If they can't run it effectively and make money, then like any other business they tighten their belts or close.

2. The only support they need is good management and business sense. That is not the public's responsibility.

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[D Chapman](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

I am profoundly weary of the barrage of ads from both parties (each, very profitable services), apparently trying to get the consumer to take sides.

Clearly, cable and satellite services should have to pay for content. If I tried to pass along 'broadcasts', without proper licensing and (presumably) appropriate fees, I would be charged with a copyright violation.

Whether or not such fees ought to be passed along -- outright -- to subscribers, surely is something the regulator is supposed to decide. Nobody asks me if I want to pay more for hydro-generated power than I do for nuclear-generated power, or visa versa. It is the regulator's role to figure out the appropriate mix of services and costs for this 'information utility'.

As a consumer, of course, I wish to pay the least for the most services, and greatest flexibility.

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Nermal ★ [1 month ago](#)

Every "local" TV ststion should be completely protected and financially supported by the delivery systems. It should not cost us at all. If more cash is needed to support our Canadian jobs and stations then it should come out of the pool of cash used to shop over the border. Relax the "Canadian content" requirements on local stations and let them become a popular choice for Canadians. I would rather watch ANY american show on a Canadian station with Canadian viewpoints and commercials (since I can't get rid of those)

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Like



kirk ★ [1 month ago](#)

The signal belongs to the local tv stations. Anyone that rebroadcasts it for a fee should pay compensation the the tv stations.

Things change over time. The advertising revenue is down due to other souces of communication. We all have options for different services. Pay for local service or pay for cable / satellite for more options.

Having said that, local stations show popular programs which are usually American. I can watch that anywhere, even though the CRTC makes it difficult for me to do sometimes. Who know why !! The only value left is my 6pm news.

[Flag](#)

Like



dave archer ★ [1 month ago](#)

delaying the free to air digital free to air transition is going to benifit rogers not as usual the canadian citizen

the us did it, each staion can broadcast sub channels like 17.1 17.2 etc its awsome quality and free

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Like



JS ★ [1 month ago](#)

As I stated in question #1, I no longer have a local station, so I really don't care.

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Like



bellguy24 ★ [1 month ago](#)

If the minority of people who still recieve their signal OTA want to continue to watch TV then they can take a step into the 21st century and buy/rent a sat box.

There, problem solved.

Local TV can take the money they saved from not having to build out DTV transmission and use it to keep themselves from closing.

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Like



terryr305 ★ [1 month ago](#)

Local stations must go. We don't travel by horse, we use cars and even they are going to have to adapt to a changing world. HD and other digital delivery modes will make local stations a thing of the past. I want information that is important to me and I am not willing to pay for what I cannot use and do not want. In the future information in order to be economical and of value to the customer will have to be delivered in larger centers and distributed to smaller centers. I have to travel to a larger center for good car service and for information and entertainment I need satellite and internet service at a reasonable price. Advertisers will support good content only. Government should stay out and allow local stations and other poor services to die. I support government incentives especially to young people and new companies that will move communication forward and nothing should go to support companies that can't deliver any longer.

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rickrowe ★ [1 month ago](#)

let them negotiate but make sure the consumer does not pay more.

[Flag](#)

Like



christop ★ [1 month ago](#)

1.If their value is negotiated then they need to let me take it off my cable package,the only reason I need to watch local T.V. is to fall asleep.Even G.M. and others had to borrow the money the need to change their ways,not take it from my pocket literally.

2.They are a business , change with the times.If these channels weren't in the basic package , what percentage would pay for it.Other than the 10 % that like to watch boring television.snore

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Like



Ed Epstein ★ [1 month ago](#)

My view is that this sentence is the most telling: " new transmitters are expensive to build and the majority of Canadians already receive their television programming through cable or satellite. "

The problem is that broadcasters no longer broadcast in the format that consumers desire. When consumers went to buy new flat-screen HD televisions, they were told that they had no choice but to purchase a set-top box and cable or satellite service if they wanted HD channels. That's true. But in order to provide this service, cable and satellite providers have had to invest in their own infrastructure. Why should broadcasters get free money from cable providers when the broadcasters have let their infrastructure degrade and have not invested in their business?

There is a fundamental disconnect between the expectations of broadcasters who have decided effectively to stop broadcasting and their status as broadcasters. They are no longer broadcasters in a meaningful way. Based on this assumption, the CRTC has several choices. First, they can suggest to broadcasters to broadcast again by explaining that there are long-term financial rewards for investing in their broadcasting infrastructure. From a technical perspective, High Definition Over-The-Air digital broadcasts are of a higher quality than what is available over cable and satellite. If the digital HD content were available over the air for free, then in fact consumers would very likely stop buying cable service. I know I would. After all, with the OTA signal I could use my computer as a PVR and so I wouldn't need that feature from the cable company either. In turn, broadcasters would be broadcasting again and so could obtain advertising revenue directly from local advertisers. But this option assumes that broadcasters are willing to invest in their own infrastructure. To me, this is the most morally correct solution in a free-market economy. Broadcasting companies have the spectrum license, and they own the equipment and antennas. They have all of the tools needed to assert their substantial marketplace advantage if they so choose-- they just must be willing to invest in themselves. Clearly, however, they seem unwilling to invest in their own well-being. That is why it is clearly the free-market solution-- instead of looking after their own business plans and making sound business decisions with a mind to long-term investment, they are running to the regulating agency in an attempt to extort money from their competition. Thus the CRTC should not force cable companies to pay broadcasters for content.

Going further into the underlying assumptions, perhaps a significant reason for this conflict is that, through conglomeration and acquisition, content / programming companies that produce the television shows are also the same companies that own the spectrum and broadcasting equipment. Thus, another solution would be for the CRTC to force the companies to divest either their broadcasting license or their content production arms. By separating the two, the holders of the broadcasting license will be able to concentrate on the costs of broadcasting without bearing the costs of content production, and the content producers will be able to concentrate on producing content instead of paying for broadcasting infrastructure upgrades.

What has happened effectively is that cable and satellite operators have a de facto monopoly on how consumers receive their television signals, but this is only because broadcasters did not invest in their own equipment when they ought to have done so. Today, calling them broadcasters is ignorant at best and disingenuous at worst. Even in small markets, cable companies have invested millions of dollars in infrastructure while broadcasters have abdicated their responsibilities to their own business plans.

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ThinkRationally ★ [1 month ago](#)

1. Aren't all of the "local" stations owned by a couple of national companies? How many local stations actually have 24 hours of content to broadcast every day? Are we really talking about the major Canadian networks here?

If the networks/local stations MUST be carried, how can there be a fair negotiation? Either they enter fair competition such that users can choose not to have these channels, or they continue to enjoy nation-wide guaranteed carriage and the advertising audience that goes along with that without charging for that carriage--how can they be given both??

2. I have no idea. The cable industry is semi-monopolistic as it is. The propaganda from both sides is enough to turn me off of TV forever. A little competitive incentive for both might not hurt the consumer.

[Flag](#)

Like



dave604 ★ [1 month ago](#)

1. No. They will use any additional monies given to them for bonuses and dividends, and continue to treat their traditional broadcasting duties with disdain. The CRTC's allowing the shut down of transmitters across the country is NEGLECTING ITS DUTY TO CANADIANS AND CATERING TO THE BROADCASTERS BOTTOM LINE. This shows Canadians that the CRTC is owned and operated by the broadcasters solely for the broadcasters benefit.

2. Subsidized national transmission authority with all current fees and TV taxes going towards this.

[Flag](#)

Like



blackbane ★ [1 month ago](#)

Internet is the future, time to start converting them over. If they want revenue then they can get it from people who want it.

Internet is the future. And the CRTC needs to butt out.

[Flag](#)

Like



Patrick Mallette ★ [1 month ago](#)

1. Sure, let the local stations negotiate, but at the same time let us not have to have them bundled in a package. Stop making me pay for something I don't use.

2. Yes, the industry needs support from the CRTC to abandon the essential rules they have today for bundles, Canadian content and other outdated rules.

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Like



wayne ★ [1 month ago](#)

I think local tv should be allowed to negotiate for their signals, but on the same plane cable companies should not be forced to carry them.

[Flag](#)

Like



Uel_Canuck ★ [1 month ago](#)

1. I think it is essential that local stations be allowed to negotiate for the value of their signals. Smaller communities rely on local stations for their sense of identity and for local events. Non-profits would be adversely affected without local stations, as would local businesses. Advertising revenues have collapsed in the wake of the recession, and a new funding source must be developed if local stations are to survive. Cable companies should reimburse local stations for the programs they provide.

[Flag](#)

Like



retired ★ [1 month ago](#)

Give a temporary subsidy to individual set owners to purchase the converter. No more tax dollars to millionaires. End subsidy to CBC except in remote areas. Toronto and Montreal have already had enough of my money for drival and biased news.

[Flag](#)

Like



Chad K ★ [1 month ago](#)

1. The local stations should be allowed to negotiate only once the CRTC no longer forces the bundling of channels. This would likely allow these channels to be at a price point comparable to their value

2. No

[Flag](#)

Like



timw ★ [1 month ago](#)

If a cable or satellite provider wants to keep their pretty little monopoly/duopoly situation, they shouldn't even think about cutting off customers in the northern or rural parts of Canada. It is a non-negotiable need for Canada to have access to communications in all parts of the country. It is also a need for us to break up the duopoly power of the current cable/satellite providers.

[Flag](#)

Like



Jim ★ [1 month ago](#)

I do not think local stations should be allowed to negotiate for their value; rather it should be set formula by the CRTC. A simple formula would a base amount for the privilege to charge other people for local stations content and then a small royalty for each subscriber. I this is assuming I have a choice, as viewer, to have or not have their station - IE pay for only the station I want and NOT bundled.

I have lived across Canada and Some local stations I would pay for just to get them... most I would not.

[Flag](#)

Like



Branden ★ [1 month ago](#)

I'm sick of the bashing ad campaign on behalf of both the broadcasters and the networks.

The Savelocaltv ads are saying they need that money to support local TV channels. But the truth is we all know how incredibly obvious it is that in all these mergers and local network acquisitions on behalf of the big networks, that it is their intent to shut down the local stations, but maintain the branding, and then broadcast quote-un-quote "local" content from their headquarters in Toronto.

Meanwhile the stopthetvtax ads are trying to convince Canadians that the CRTC is asking cable to pass on the chargers to the viewers. But the truth of the matter is the CRTC told the broadcasters to find a way to implement that fee to their corporate structures. It was solely cable and satellite's decision to wage a war on their viewers with these ads.

Secondly, who cares if we have local TV stations when 90% of the programming consists of acquired US shows.

The CRTC ruling that forces the broadcasters to simulcast the Canadian feed of US programming when they air in the same timeslot is so foolish. Who cares if we watch "House" on channel 8 or channel 28?

Any forward movements on behalf of the CRTC should force the channels to produce more Canadian content.

[Flag](#)

Like



garfmarf ★ [1 month ago](#)

The whole country should not be held up in getting digital signals for a small segment of the population. At the same time the cable companies/networks are a business and are not responsible for ensuring that their services are available everywhere in this vast country. Many other services are not readily available. Other solutions/mediums are usually found.

[Flag](#)

Like



JonFuller ★ [1 month ago](#)

1) They should be able to negotiate, but Rogers/Bell should be able to balk at their price, and simply refuse to carry the channel.

2) The government should subsidize the cost of replacing the analog broadcasting equipment with digital broadcasting equipment. The expected windfall from the licensing of the now available band should more then cover the upgrade costs.

[Flag](#)

Like



peekabo0 ★ [1 month ago](#)

I have no problem with BDU's paying a fee to the OTA broadcasters for use of the broadcasters signal to in-turn sell to the BDU subscribers. The fee MUST be borne by the BDU's. NOT the subscribers! Also broadcasters MUST use the fees to fund local TV, NOT more US spending sprees!!

[Flag](#)

Like



chris ★ [1 month ago](#)

Question 1. negotiation is good, just not legislation.

Question 2. No incentives please. A working model will naturally take shape if it makes sense.

The Local TV market will just not sustain as many outlets as there are now. Some will have to go. What will be left will be less diluted and of better quality.

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



Charles ★ [1 month ago](#)

I Think the station brought them on them selves by buying tv channels were good at the time but now they cannot afford.

So they want the public to pay for they mistakes.

But the cable companies also already charge too much.

The public is the one who will lose in the end.

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barry ★ [1 month ago](#)

Local stations should be allowed to charge for their signals only if I am allowed to choose not to receive and pay for them on satellite or cable. Since they are available locally over the air for free, I am free to install an antenna and pick them up. If the station cannot afford to operate or set up the necessary equipment to broadcast the signal, then maybe they are in the wrong business. If my business is not profitable, I need to close up and allow someone else to fill the gap. No support at all for the broadcasters. It is the cost of doing business.

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Gary Stoutenburg ★ [1 month ago](#)

If local stations are allowed to negotiate the value of their signals the as a consumer I should have the option of refusing these signals and not having to pay for them.

The TV Industry has always had to upgrade equipment. Why do they require incentives. They already have traditional revenue sources as they always have.

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Dave ★ [1 month ago](#)

1 and 2. I think it's ridiculous that you're asking the consumer to help define and shape the business planning of companies. Clearly, if these companies had managed themselves better regarding revenue generation and investing in their own growth, we wouldn't be at this point. This discussion point is nothing more than an exercise in justifying a bailout of local TV programming.....bottom line, if you end up asking me to pay any more money, I will cancel services.

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SonicSputnik ★ [1 month ago](#)

1) They should be allowed to negotiate, as they are they are the bonnafied rights holder of the copyrighted programs. Problem is, the through restrictive programming policies such as prohibiting Digital multi-casting or programming specialization the CRTC has weekend over-the-air broadcasters market share to the point they have no value left to negotiate. The way the CRTC has ruined Over-The-Air broadcasting would result in the stations just get pulled off cable or satellite permanently. The CRTC needs to contact Ofcom in the UK and learn how to establish a Freeview like OTA service.

2) The industry requires support only as far as the conversion from analog to digital television in the building of new digital transmitter facilities of equal or better coverage of their exiting broadcast service.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*Vcity* ★ [1 month ago](#)

1. The only business plan of the Canadian TV/cable 'industry' is to maximise profit and minimise competition. The impact of allowing local stations to charge for their signal will be to increase my costs and the industry's profits. Local television is irrelevant today - why should we be forced to pay for it?

2. Sure - give them more taxpayer money; it's the Canadian way.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*H Jones* ★ [1 month ago](#)

I'm tired of every stupid American channel being pumped into my house. I want most of the Canadian channels, and I want a wide choice of original foreign channels. I am tired of having to take every American channel as part of a "tier" so I can get the select few American channels that I enjoy. Also, I should be able to get every Canadian channel without having to sign up for any foreign stations.

I still don't believe I can't get original British, Australian or NZ channels. I'm tired of getting only one foreign viewpoint.

I don't want "BBC America" or Australian or New Zealand TV repackaged for this "market." I just want to watch their channels as easily as I can watch every single station from Spokane or Detroit. I think CRTC regulations are part of this problem.

Also, iTunes is TV. There isn't enough Canadian content there either. I understand that some companies like CBC have been slow to release their excellent catalogues of old programs I'd love to download, but again maybe CRTC regulation could set some parameters.

And I think the cable companies should pay for local programming like they do for any other channel they carry.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*SCF* ★ [1 month ago](#)

Allow local stations to negotiate for the value of their signals - the only way to do this fairly would be to give the cable providers the choice of whether to buy their signals or not. Give both sides the leverage to run their own businesses as they see fit.

Open up the market to competition. Free the cable providers and the TV producers, make them compete like any other businesses.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*keithfinnie* ★ [1 month ago](#)

It seems to me that the Internet provides the means such that any 'broadcaster' who wishes to can make their programming available to anyone by paying for the appropriate network bandwidth into their place of business. This model of television service delivery is already available with CTV.ca, spacecast.com and globaltv.com. It allows choice of programming and viewing time to the public, the continued ability to generate advertising revenue for broadcasters, and continued bandwidth provisioning revenue to infrastructure companies such as Shaw, Rogers, Telus or Bell.

Broadcasters will make like Google and provide high quality programming based on ad revenue. Shaw, Rogers etc will focus delivering higher speed networks rather than selling TV packages that make viewers pay for channels they never watch. And viewers will have choice, and a single, internet access bill.

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Brian B ★ 1 month ago

Yes they should and subscribers should have the ability not to buy them. No more "basic package" full of junk most of us never watch.

No support or incentives except for a free HD service which could bring local tv to all regardless of where one lives.

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Like



Justin Fisher ★ 1 month ago

The ability to receive free local HD content is a fantastic benefit. It's especially important with the cost that the communication companies are charging for cable (including basic cable).

I think it's important for the CRTC to continue to pressure this this digital transition to materialize sooner then later. I also think it's important to ensure there is adequate strength in the signals being sent.

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T in AB ★ 1 month ago

Cable companies pay for all the other channels they carry, they should pay for the local services too. If local TV can't afford to pay for their rural services, well I guess they shut them down.

No public funding, more competition.

[Flag](#)

Like



bryanq ★ 1 month ago

Give FreeHD a grant to install equipment outside major markets. Let them or an equivalent "rebroadcaster" negotiate with the various networks on a fee for a particular market. If the networks want to reach that audience, they'll price themselves low; if not, the local market will have to pay. Basically, it's the same situation as it was before cable and the networks covered the entire country.

At least until we get high speed internet into the rural and remote areas and they can pull the programs from youtube the way city kids do.....

[Flag](#)

Like



James Fram ★ 1 month ago

I'll keep these answers short.

1.Yes

2.No. As in any bussiness, costs associated with change and growth should be borne by the company itself. Again, I asl that the CTRC alow more competition into the market. If that means some U.S. companies so be it. I am tired paying ludicrous rates for my satilite as well as my mobil phones.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)[jennifer](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

I think local stations should be able to negotiate for a fair and reasonable value of their signals at NO additional cost to the consumer regardless of who and where they get their cable from including Rogers. I think the best way to support the transition into the digital television is through cable companies paying for what they use, just like the consumer does but at absolutely NO additional cost to the consumer. I feel these companies must pay for what they use just like the rest of the world , and i feel it is more than time that they do just that. If Rogers can make 2 billion a year from cable subscribers like myself then they can afford to pay for what they use period.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)[Randy](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

I'll start with a comment. Based on the US experience, digital television is great -- if you can receive it at all. Like many Canadians, I live near the border, so I have experienced the US switch. The result is some channels come in better and have additional (mostly useless) channels associated with them, but also many other channels simply disappeared because the signal is too delicate to transmit over even short distances. The whole thing is absurd, if you ask me.

1. Obviously any additional income source would help pay for the transition. I'm not sure why you even ask this question. Cable and satellite are required to carry the local channels, and the proposed change would end up with subscribers paying for the local channels, explicitly or not.
2. The Canadian government imposed this ridiculous change to digital television, and therefore it should be picking up the cost. It's that simple. There's still time to stop it.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)[Quentin](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

Not only should it be mandatory for cable to carry local stations, they should be paid for their content.

The cable companies should be denied access to our airwaves and ground passages of their signals if they refuse!.

cable companies have enjoyed protection to establish their services, now they need to give back.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)[Randy](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

(My initial post seemed to have failed, so forgive me if this is a duplicate)

I'll start with a comment. Based on the US experience, digital television is great -- if you can receive it at all. Like many Canadians, I live near the border, so I have experienced the US switch. The result is some channels come in HD and have additional (mostly useless) channels associated with them, but also many other channels simply disappeared because the signal is too delicate to transmit over even short distances. The whole thing is absurd, if you ask me.

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[Flag](#)[Like](#)[Brian Fredericks](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

The Transition to Digital is something being forced on the industry. There is no financial reward what so ever for broadcaster to go digital! In fact it is a huge expense since transmitters all need to be replaced, analog transmitters cannot be upgraded to digital.
The Transition to digital is a CTRC/Government mandated initiative forced on the Broadcasters, in order for the analog airwaves can be used for emergency services.

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[Gary](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

1) Order them to negotiate. There is more than enough profits to share. They need each other, and they have to learn to play in the same sandbox.

2) There is always a cost to doing business. Todays challange is how to deal with everything without breaking the bank. If I had the definitive answer to that question, I would be rich. I am not.

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[Anthony2009](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

1. Yes. Allowing local stations to negotiate the value of their signals is promoting an environment of long term dependence on hand outs. It is not promoting the correct environment the stations to search for a viable and self-sustaining business model. It is about developing the programming content that will attract viewership. A revenue sharing model based on subscriber / viewer basis promotes the right incentives for local stations.

2. Yes. To mobilize the digital and HD transmissions the cost would be prohibitive to smaller broadcasters. Given the difficult economic environment that broadcasters are operating in today a 2011 date is probably ambitious. Support would be needed through financing (long term leasebacks) or cost sharing (equipment sharing) arrangements. Consideration should be made to delay the implementation date if financing or cost sharing are not options. Under no situation should the implementation be done on the backs of ordinary Canadians that are already saddled with high cable / satellite bills.

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[Ron D](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

1. If the cable and satellite companies are profiting from the retransmission of local signals then they should have to pay for them. If they are providing the signal for free as a public service then they shouldn't have to pay for it.

2. If the government or the CRTC is forcing the industry to transition to digital signals, then there should be some sort of support or incentive provided to the industry. Presumably the government is going to reclaim the analog bandwidth/spectrum and use it for some other services which they will be able to auction off and receive money for similar to the recent wireless spectrum auction which generated over \$4 billion for the government. The support or incentives could take the form of tax credits on the required equipment.

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[allancrowder](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

My local TV station CHBC in Kelowna offers a couple of newscasts a day with local news but it is mostly crap. they are so short of cash they have limited resources to do any kind of real reporting. This station should not be offered on cable as it is an inferior product.

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[David Guy](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

Firstly, the carriers should not be able to own the stations whose signal they carry. This is an obvious conflict of interest and should be stopped immediately. Secondly, as the recording industry constantly whines about their customers "stealing" their product by digital copying, the large carriers should be forced to pay for the signals they are apparently "stealing". Thirdly, most TV content is of value as to not be worth watching. Lastly, the cable and satellite companies vastly overcharge their subscribers for the use of publicly owned airwaves. There is literally, and legally, NO COMPETITION. You should address this issue as well.

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davidguy ★ [1 month ago](#)

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Al R ★ [1 month ago](#)

Local stations should be bundled into a package and sold by the cable/satellite company, just as the time-switching channels are. To be honest, I rarely watch local channels except for the news, because my "quality viewing time" is different from that of the local channels. I have no intention of adding an antenna to capture local digital channels, when I already receive them now, without the hindrance of "digital freezing" if the signal is too weak. In fact, if it were my choice, all local channels would be forced into the cable system, or higher frequency satellite spectrum, thus freeing up bandwidth for other services. Their programming is no different from what's already on cable or satellite in several timeframes. All I miss is the commercials (now isn't that a shame).

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Catherine ★ [1 month ago](#)

I think local stations should be able to negotiate a fee for their signals. This fee would allow those who have not switched to digital to do so and those who have to supply better programming.

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macisaak ★ [1 month ago](#)

Local programming? The Shaw community channel does a fairly good job of it despite the annoying commercials. But that channel is already subsidized by the cable subscriber. Our local news channels manage to create only about 6-7 truly local stories a day - the rest are network feeds. Judging by the relative sizes of these different production arms, I would surmise that the community channel produces stories for far less than does the broadcaster - and the quality is at least equivalent.

That said, I would happily pay to subsidize truly local programming, but only if the criteria were strict and the CRTC ensured that 100% of these funds were actually spent above and beyond the current budget.

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alexandra_a ★ [1 month ago](#)

I'm a journalism student and I believe that local television stations need more money to survive. So many small stations have shut down in the last couple years: CHCA in Red Deer, Alberta shut down about two years ago, which means that people in that community no longer have any local TV and must listen to news from Edmonton instead. CTV in Brandon, Manitoba also went off the air this year. Clearly these stations aren't surviving with the current business model. If nothing changes than pretty soon all the news we get will be from the big cities.

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dons ★ [1 month ago](#)

It's outrageous that local stations are unable to charge a fair price for their signal. Where's the incentive to produce quality programming unless there's compensation from the carriers and ultimately, consumers? A poor 2nd alternative seems wouldbe an annual television license fee, which does nothing to reward good programming. The worst option is to force local stations to depend entirely upon advertising: who wants to watch that sort of station?

Assuming they are allowed to charge a negotiated fee for their signal, there should be no reason to subsidize local stations.

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peter b ★ [1 month ago](#)

Local stations should be paid for their services. Do movie/ music/ or producers of any product want to be paid for their services? YES

Like any industry cable and sat. services have to pay to keep up with the times. We as consumers have updated tv's etc to receive new signals. Any help for us?

[Flag](#)

Like



eastwester ★ [1 month ago](#)

Gosh, I don't know anything about all that stuff.....I'm sure I can trust the corporate executives and the government regulators to make all those decisions on my behalf.

Transitions, as I understand them, can be extremely stressful and difficult..... is some government grant money required? Of course, give as much as they ask for to whoever asks for it. Some people, I understand, might not feel this way..... that's because they don't love their country.

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Mark ★ [1 month ago](#)

If all channels were a set fee, you'd find out pretty damn quick if anyone cared enough about local programming enough to pay.

Drop the cost of any bundles (and drop the idiotic requirement for canadian content), make every channel a \$2 or \$3 fee per month and see how many people but local programming.

If the cable companies can free up channels with crap people don't want and get some quality revenue generating channels in place, we might actually have a quality tv system.

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henrymcrandall ★ [1 month ago](#)

1. As a matter of principle, I oppose the notion of local television charging cable and satellite providers for local program distribution. If, however, the TV industry's current or future plans are crippled by this revenue limitation, the CRTC should only consider a local TV subsidy fully paid for by cable and satellite providers and not passed on to consumers.

2. Any support or incentives required to implement the transition should come from a

redistribution of revenues between the various sectors of the media/communications sector and not through higher consumer prices.

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[dscott](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

Any charge to cable and satellite will obviously be passed on to the consumer. TV stations have been making loads of money for years, why all of a sudden are they in financial ruin? Canadian stations need to shift focus away from purchasing American programming and need to instead use that money for local programming as well as developing original Canadian programming.

CRTC also need to regulate and control the costs on TV service provided by Cable and satellite. Companies are making record profits, yet prices seem to keep going up.

Any one more note stop simsubbing. Its not helping anyone.

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[Barry](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

If Canadians were given to option to vote with their wallet, I'm certain that local stations wouldn't be in a position to negotiate anything.

No more handouts! We get to choose what we want and not have protectionism forced down our throats.

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[timothymathews](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

This is absurd as you, the CRTC, already FORCE me to watch local stations via the signal substitution which, effectively ruins many programs due to poor timing and outright errors in the timing of the switch. In almost every case, the first few seconds or the final few are missed. If you want to allow local stations to charge the satellite company, then allow me the option to opt out of the local stations' part of the package AND as no local business is losing the advertising hit forced at me, STOP signal substitution.

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[ericmartin](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

You should minimize your interference with natural business models during the introduction of digital TV. If local TV's cannot afford the technology evolution, let them die. If digital off the air distribution is not financially viable, don't introduce it. Let analogue TV continue. I think, eventually, analogue TV's will die, as they seem to have already serious financial problems. Maybe we don't need so many off the air TV channels.

If off the air TVs is not viable in smaller cities, then it would not be available. They would have to buy cables or satellite and pay whatever it takes to make them viable. Smaller cities pay lower housing costs, they might have to pay higher TV costs.

Cable companies should not have exclusive access to the physical cables. The physical cable distribution should be owned by the city and cable companies should compete for access.

If remote regions need subsidies, it should be paid directly by the government. It should not be hidden in the rates paid in large centres.

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[David Moulton](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

I think that local channels should be allowed to charge for their signal, but that customers/users should have the right to not accept local channels.

I think the conversion to digital should be paid for by whomever mandates the change.

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Ted Sheckler ★ [1 month ago](#)

1. Just don't charge me, the end user for whatever you do. I already pay my share and then some.

2. TV companies don't need government money. You know who has 2 thumbs and needs government money? This guy right here...

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Paul ★ [1 month ago](#)

i support local TV by watching it, but the thought of paying an additional fee is ludicrous.

[Flag](#)

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JJ Gowland ★ [1 month ago](#)

Why are they (we) being forced to drop analog?

When the USA decided to end analog distribution they discovered that a lot of the population had no access to cable and could not afford satellite, and would be without tv communications and therefore offered a 'free' converter.

With more and more people unemployed, essentially broke, many will not be able to afford tv communications.

If you want to control a country, the first thing you do is take control of the communications network.

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timothyclethbridge ★ [1 month ago](#)

I think that local stations should see distribution by satellite, FreeHD and others as a way to expose a wider audience to their ads. Fee for carriage is just a way of grabbing at money. If a local TV station goes out of business because it cannot get enough ads, that is unfortunate but a fact of modern life. The cable satellite and siimilar companies no longer need local TV as there are vast reams of choice. They should be required to carry local TV for the benfit of the consumer who would otherwise have to put up an antenna and complex switching equipment, but they should not have to pay to carry local TV. And certainly the consumer should not be foisted with such a charge unless the local TV becomes commercial free (as in the BBC model).

As for the transition to digital. Let it go ahead as planned. It has happened in the US. I do think, however, that some subsidy for transmitters in more rural areas might be warranted. The TV stations have had many years to plan for this. If they do not put up a digital transmitter and take down their analog one, then they would simply lose access to a required spot on cable (they would no longer be a local station)

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Les ★ [1 month ago](#)

If local televisions want to make revenues from digital distribution, they already have the tools in their hands via the conversion to HD digital distribution. If they want to charge for their

conventional signal, then the condition should be that they forgo any mandatory distribution or packaging with service bundles, i.e. if they want to charge for their service, it should be on an a-la-carte basis.

For the most part, I receive the majority of my local news through the Internet, my community newspaper, or my local radio broadcaster. If a local television service wants to directly or indirectly charge me to receive their signal, they should have to sell that service to me instead of force me to pay for it.

As a rural resident, I do not value the news coverage of "local" television at all. The reporters seldom venture outside of the city and when they do, the editorial angle stinks! I have not desire to financially support that low quality of journalism financially or through my viewing time.

Currently, I do pay to subscribe to value-added services received over the Internet. These purchases include entertainment and news services. If a local broadcaster wants to tap into that portion of my purchases, they can always attempt to sell me on their service. Otherwise, if they do not convince me to buy, I should not have to pay!

Conventional television broadcasters should also seriously re-think their spending priorities. For the most part, their service consists of re-distributing US programming or national network programming and inserting local ads. That function could be performed on a high-powered computer workstation and it does not need to be housed in a multi-million broadcast studio. Once one strips out management, overhead, advertising sales and building costs, just how much money is spent on producing and delivering local non-news programming on local television?

Once again, as a rural resident, I do not fear the loss of "local" television signals because they were never "local" to me to begin with, they were all "from away." Indeed, I have far more connection for programming coming from a distant rural community than I do any service originated in my province. I will definitely not spending any money to purchase receiver equipment to receive any television signals that are originated in my province and I do not believe the government or the broadcast system should spend that money for me either.

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Like



Walt A ★ [1 month ago](#)

Digital or HD formatting doesn't make a third-rate local station better. It stays third-rate regardless of signal quality.

Let Canadians choose what they want to watch. The good stations will survive and thrive while the poor stations will fail. That's the basis behind a capital-based economic market. Unfortunately, the CRTC prefers ramming unwanted programming down our throats as if we were a socialist-based economy.

Stop interfering with business practices through support and incentives that will eventually cost the consumer more.

[Flag](#)

Like



G. Hewit ★ [1 month ago](#)

I don't care about the TV industry and their problems. The simple issue is that they are trying to force us to both watch and pay for CanCrap. The CRTC should not regulate content. Once the industry is forced to create good TV shows, then people will want to watch, and revenue will rise. As long as they are allowed to hide behind the Canadian Content regulations, then they ought to be content with the current funding situation.

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sk ★ [1 month ago](#)

If broadcasters need to upgrade to digital then that is the cost of doing business as any

business that needs to upgrade their computer systems. This is a one-time hit so they need to stop acting like this is an ongoing expense. Why is the CRTC allowing that small towns will not get access to local programming. This is unacceptable and violates the intention of the inception of the CRTC. CRTC is supposed to protect the little guy, not big business that is making a profit. You can't provide a service for free for decades and just take it away.

[Flag](#)

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 *MBABEAR* ★ [1 month ago](#)

Local TV is essentail, especially for news in emergency situations. If we eliminate local news think about what would happen the next time a power plant explodes, an airplane crashes in your community, you need an H1N1 vaccine clininc update. Without local programming/news the phones lines will be jammed with people in panic mode looking for updates and answers.

Cable companies are making profit today from local TV providers without paying for it. In my opinion, they have some obligation to pick up at least part of the tab. A reasonable compromise would be to split the cost, raise my bill by \$5. But in the end I would rather pay \$10 more to ensure I have access to local TV news when I need it most.

We are going digital period! Most Canadians live in urban areas, over the air is a dead horse. For the small number of people who will be effected, it is a non-issue. It is the CRTC's job to ensure that Canadians continue to receive access to important local news coverage otherwise governments will have to staff emergency phone lines for times of crisis. If you think your taxes will not go up to fund that, think again. Does \$10 sound so bad now?

The cost to transition to digital is a normal business cost. All companies/industries have to invest in new technologies and this in on-going, TV is no exception. I say concentrate on the majority of Canadians in urban areas and the associated delivery methods. Sorry over-the-air, your free ride may be over.

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 *Eugene Leger* ★ [1 month ago](#)

Yes, local stations should be compensated fairly for their content with a view to sustaining their local character perhaps based on what percentage of programming offered originates locally. My point being that the CBC or CTV shouldn't be compensated at the same rate for running syndicated US or Canadian programmes through the local market.

Not being a cable tv (or sattelite) subscriber I'm more interested in maintaining local media, if the cost of keeping local media is to subsidize the digital conversion, to some extent, so be it; the digital conversion shouldn't be the death of advertising-supported local programming.

[Flag](#)

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 *nursedude* ★ [1 month ago](#)

1. I am opposed to making cable/sat providers pay for over the air content that is transmitted on public airwaves. Local stations should not be allowed to negotiate for their "piece of the pie". Local TV needs to review their business model and look at providing useful services using other media (ie: internet streaming or downloadable content). They should also not be allowed to delay the transition to digital signals by extending the timeframe.

2. Perhaps the gov't can provide tax breaks/incentives to local stations to make the transition to digital and provide more local content. Before 1 cent of our money is provided to the local stations/networks we need to look at their business models as putting more money into a failing business model will not work.

[Flag](#)

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 *Jonathan Bocknek* ★ [1 month ago](#)

1. I'm in no position to have any kind of intelligent position on this question, and few Canadians are. I can appreciate your need to ask the question, but its technical nature makes me doubt you're going to get much useful response.
2. Does the whole television industry require support or incentives? Maybe. I'm not sure. But at least one specific part of the industry should, and that's the CBC, because it's the country's national broadcaster. The government should ensure that all Canadians have access to at least the national broadcaster. To that end, support and/or incentives should be provided in whatever form is necessary to ensure that the CBC can reach all Canadians. (And by "all" I especially mean those of us who live in rural areas that cable/satellite providers can't properly service without charging us an arm and leg...if they're interested in servicing us at all...which is questionable.

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



Brian Lowry ★ [1 month ago](#)

1. Yes, particularly given the special protections already afforded to local providers, such as signal substitution over US competitors and network monopolies on various content. By the time the Canadian providers have moved to digital, it's likely most content will be online, and they will be increasingly irrelevant.
2. It's too late. Perhaps breaking the monopoly rules and allowing foreign carriers in would force better business models, but our carriers are simply uncompetitive and they'd probably just fail sooner rather than later, in the face of real competition.

[Flag](#)

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allencrawford ★ [1 month ago](#)

I am opposed to supporting Local TV stations with an extra fee. I am also opposed to the cable companies or satellite delivery companies paying ANYTHING to over-the-air free television signals as this, inevitably, will work its way into the fees I pay for services.

If free-over-the-air (FOTA) television signal providers want to receive fees from the distribution companies, they can do so by turning in their licenses and then applying for a specialty channel license and live up to all the regulations that apply to them.

It is blatantly unfair for a FOTA station to have the best of all worlds:

- 1) benefits from the "must carry" rules of the CRTC
- 2) benefits from higher advertising minutes per hour; AND
- 3) benefits of a captive audience having to pay for their signals.

The fact that the CRTC requires distributors (cable companies and satellite delivery companies) to carry Canadian signals in order to distribute the foreign signals makes ANY fee the FOTA stations receive equivalent to a tax. THERE is NO way for the subscriber to avoid these fees - thus they are a tax.

Once again, if the FOTA stations want revenue from the captive audience, let them abide by the same rules as the specialty channels.

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scotia ★ [1 month ago](#)

1. YES
2. Clear rules for a fair playing field, consumer favoured selection and fees. If local TV will continue to be carried by satellite then satellite should share the profit % with local TV, without added/increased charges to consumers. "FreeHD Canada" service should be just that - free, with, when and where necessary the consumer purchasing the required upgraded home antenna. There may be an opportunity for government to subsidize, via a home rebate to the consumer (say 2 or 3 per household) for antenna upgrade purchases.

[Flag](#)



Brian Lowry ★ [1 month ago](#)

1. Yes, particularly given the special protections already afforded to local providers, such as signal substitution over US competitors and network monopolies on various content. By the time the Canadian providers have moved to digital, it's likely most content will be online, and they will be increasingly irrelevant.

2. It's too late. Perhaps breaking the monopoly rules and allowing foreign carriers in would force better business models, but our carriers are simply uncompetitive and they'd probably just fail sooner rather than later, in the face of real competition.

[Flag](#)



Graham ★ [1 month ago](#)

You say "Free local over-the-air television (received using rabbit ears or an antenna) may only be available in major Canadian cities after the digital transition."

How's that going to work if the analogue transmitters are turned off?

[Flag](#)



brian ★ [1 month ago](#)

I think the question should be phrased in reverse. Should we have public auctions for networks to bid for their slice of the digital spectrum and be allowed to broadcast over the "PUBLIC" airwaves. Once a network has decided it wants to bid and has a business model that will support its activities, the signals should be free to everyone.

The industry should not be afforded any incentives to implement the transition. WE have had a lot of transitions through the history of television, and capital costs have always been a factor to consider for profitability. The switch to HDTV is no more of an issue than the switch to color TV.

In the current world, all internet content, including Youtube, is now available in 1080p, even higher resolution than all Canadian HDTV channels are broadcasting. If TV companies can't offer free broadcasting then they should get out of business.

[Flag](#)



Carmelinda ★ [1 month ago](#)

Cable companies and broadcasting companies do not require any more funding. They are for profit companies, which means they have a bottom line that needs to be met. Employee salaries are red circled and the executives' salaries are just as high.

In a time where employees are losing their jobs, hence the RECESSION, I cannot believe that the CRTC could even suggest to increase or implement an additional tax on Canadians. No - the industry does not require any support or incentives to implement the transition whatsoever.

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Carmelinda ★ [1 month ago](#)

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Keith Gibbons ★ [1 month ago](#)

How could a local station possibly impact upon the industry's current or future business plans when such plans are global in significance? Are they not merely the fly in the ointment? Why should the switch to digital make one iota of difference? Incentives or hand-holding? The question is not do we allow local TV but rather how can we not provide the incentives to local TV?

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PWC ★ [1 month ago](#)

1) It absolutely does. More people will cancel their cable or satellite completely if they have to pay any more. We already pay far too much to have to sit through the barrage of commercials that they get fat off of. Why must they be any different than any other for-profit business. If they fail, let them fail. If they want to survive then make them work for it.

2) Why? They are a business. If they cannot get with the 21st Century then they should die a horrible death and let something stellar rise from the ashes. Enough of the handouts.

[Flag](#)

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vlad ★ [1 month ago](#)

1. Yes, local stations should be able to negotiate value for their signal, but that should be between them and the carrier. I don't care how much Rogers pays them, I just don't want to see that on my bill.

2. Maybe some sort of fair rebate for those that have to convert from analog to new digital transmitters.

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Tom ★ [1 month ago](#)

Totally opposed to any new fees. The CRTC needs to ask the big question: "Why do we need three networks providing the same local and national news at the same time?" I've seen some other posts about possibly the CBC being subsidized to provide local news to all. The other private broadcasters should not be allowed to charge more fees for duplicated news.

[Flag](#)

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vlad ★ [1 month ago](#)

1. Yes, local stations should be able to negotiate value for their signal, but that should be between them and the carrier. I don't care how much Rogers pays them, I just don't want to see that on my bill.

2. Maybe some sort of fair rebate for those that have to convert from analog to new digital transmitters.

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vicshaw ★ [1 month ago](#)

1 - The only thing allowing the local stations to negotiate a fee for value is going to do is help Canwest and CTV subsidize more American programming. I am opposed to giving this large private companies more money. If they don't know how to run a business properly, then they should go out of business. Someone else will gladly take over and do a better job. Also, I urge the CRTC to not pay attention to all those supposed Canadians who want to save local TV, because in reality they really have no clue as to what's really going on and are only concerned about something (local TV) that doesn't even exist. This whole save local TV campaign is misleading!

2 - No really, they've known about this transition since about 1997 and haven't done anything until now. With that in mind, I don't think any incentive would do much good. What they really

need is more competition. If more American networks were approved by the CRTC this would be an incentive to the Canadian networks. Because they would have to actually do something or face losing money and going out business. Btw, they are not going out of business right now despite what they claim.

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[Gail Gerrard](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

My feelings are that local news stations are very important to communities and I do not feel that cable company channels eg shaw community come anywhere close to meeting the needs in the way that the major networks do. I feel that they cable companies have had a free ride for many years on the backs of the networks. If we wish to continue to have quality local programming then the cable companies need to pay up. I do not feel that they should pass this cost along to the consumers as they have been getting it for free for years and should absorb the cost now.

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[roKKor](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

local TV should be for free for everyone. if a provider sharges money from the consumer, the TV company should have a fair share of that revenue. Now providers are complaining and threatening to drop the service. It's a hole the providers dug themselves. Bring it on! FreeHD Canada is getting my support.

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[Niloufer Engineer](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

Local TV does not merit any increase in fees from the cable companies as it affects the consumer. They are a business, should know how to work or revamp their own strategies. One option is their senior executives should take a pay cut and learn to live like the average middle class Canadian and feel the pinch with constant price hikes in everything. There seems to be no price protection for the average Canadian unlike in the US. Its a free for all which must STOP. Enough is enough.

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[Scott](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

The industry has had many years to prepare for the transition to digital and have done nothing. Why should I pay them incentives as a result of their own inaction? I already pay for cable TV and do not use over the air so it makes no sense to force me to pay twice.

Clearly if the stations charge for their signals there could be no free system like Bell and FreeHD are proposing. Even the CRTC should be able to figure that out.

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[Ken L](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

The switch to digital generates significant government revenue through spectrum auctions. Use this revenue to subsidize ammortized transmitter cost.

[Flag](#)

Like



[Russell McOrmond](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

While discussing digital distribution, the question appear to be locked in analog thinking.

The underlying method we get the 'bits' of information from the broadcaster to the audience

should not be the focus. We should embrace convergence and allow people to subscribe to broadcasters directly over "Internet" connections. This just becomes one choice among many for audiences to access content (IPTV over a variety of mechanisms, OTA digital, cable, satellite).

Some regulation is required here. For instance, while open interoperable standards are mandated for traditional communications there has been closed brand dependencies imposed by broadcasters on online distribution (and allowed by regulators). While using encryption online to ensure that only subscribers have access to content is appropriate, abusing encryption to only allow content to be accessed with specific brands of access technology is inappropriate and should be legislated against (See: <http://flora.ca/own>).

Specific questions:

1. There are two sides to this question. Whether there is a fee for signals should be tied to whether there is mandatory carriage. No fee means mandatory carriage, fee means a-la-carte. It is simply wrong to claim something is a "negotiation" when one of the parties is mandated by legislation.

The digital transition of OTA is entirely separate from the fee for carriage issue, and should not be allowed to be merged by broadcasters or BDU's.

2. The industry already has an incentive, which is that they have to shut down analog broadcasting after a certain date. If they want access to OTA audiences then they need to switch to digital.

I have mixed feelings about an OTA subsidy, and whether allowing access to this content via a wider range of distribution mechanisms might solve the problems (IE: rural access to programming which lack many of the options available in urban centres).

Flag

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Local Matters ★ 1 month ago

Considering my current huge cable bill I suppose I'll get over it if I have to spend a few more dollars a month... but will it result in more local tv? That's what needs to happen if we're expected to pay for an until-now free signal; not the same, but more content. More local news, more in-depth local coverage, and more Canadian drama. Part of the problem here has been the networks' willingness to pay huge sums of money for US content. I understand that's what sells ad spots, but we shouldn't become merely satellites for American programming. They shouldn't be buying shows to the exclusion of investing in anything else. The new money must go to improving Canadian choices for Canadian customers. If the content is good, people will watch, and the ad dollars will follow.

Flag

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Dennis ★ 1 month ago

I would like to pay for only the stations I watch. I do not want to pay for stations I do not watch. I would like some stations available that so far the Bell refuses to carry.

Flag

Like



jeremy ★ 1 month ago

1. All content producers should be allowed to negotiate for their product. It's called a market. Unfortunately the providers are forced to provide their content for free over-the-air by the CRTC. This is unfair and needs to stop.

2. Why should they need fees to support the transition? Simply remove the requirement for them to broadcast everything OTA and the providers will not broadcast where it isn't profitable. People in remote/sparsely populated areas shouldn't expect to get everything over the air anyways.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*allencrawford* ★ [1 month ago in reply to jeremy](#)

Content providers are NOT forced to do anything. The content providers chose to transmit their signal over the air for free. If they want to charge for their content, they can turn in their license and apply to be a specialty channel so they can then charge for their content. The only people who are forced are the satellite and cable companies - they are forced to carry local channels.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*Robert Millan* ★ [1 month ago](#)

1- Support the local station is important for the community. So this should be one of the 2 or 3 basic channels offered by the cable company. everything else should be left to the customers option on selecting which channels they want to watch and pay.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*lindamd* ★ [1 month ago](#)

1. YES!! Local stations should charge cable and satellite services to carry their signals!! That's a no-brainer!! As I noted in another discussion, if an individual was "stealing" a tv signal and selling it to someone else, he'd soon have the police at his door. Why is it legal for cable and satellite companies to do it??

2. NO! These are private, for-profit, businesses. If they can't make a go of it, then they should be doing something else. DO NOT use my tax dollars to support or subsidize them!!

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*allencrawford* ★ [1 month ago in reply to lindamd](#)

Cable and satellite companies are NOT stealing an OTA signal. They receive it for free, just any Canadian can.

In fact, cable and satellite companies MUST carry the local stations (per CRTC dictates).

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*DIR* ★ [1 month ago](#)

1. Does the industry have realistic current or future business plans? Once digital is fully implemented the move to internet access will increase, especially if consumer choice is not available via existing mediums, and based on the number of respondents to other questions who are still dependent on 'bunny ears' today!

2. Local stations who 'get it', will have the same chance as other stations by providing the content people want to watch to a medium they are prepared to watch. Their funding model will change based on that, and have nothing to do with the 'current' model. So digital, in my opinion, levels the playing field.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*TomTrottier* ★ [1 month ago](#)

1. Local stations should be allowed to set their price to cable subscribers to their channel. Subscribers should have the choice to receive the channel or not - easy on digital boxes. The cable companies should just be carriers. The stations should maintain their over the air signal for those who don't want cable - or are using satellite - or who are mobile, eg in an RV or boat.

2. Support or incentives? If they can charge cable subscribers who want their signal, this should provide enough revenue for them without a govt subsidy.

BTW - where is this "Login below" - there is no login area.

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BobW ★ [1 month ago](#)

More competition. The cable companies are monopolies.

[Flag](#)

Like



iwsbarker ★ [1 month ago](#)

If cable/satellite companies charge consumers to view local television signals, then the local stations should be allowed to charge a reasonable amount for those signals. However, if the cable/satellite companies commit to not charging consumers for the free signals they are rebroadcasting, then local stations should not be allowed to charge anything for their signals. Free local signals from broadcasters and cable/satellite providers is the ideal scenario.

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Local Matters ★ [1 month ago](#)

Considering my current huge cable bill I suppose I'll get over it if I have to spend a few more dollars a month... but will it result in more local tv? That's what needs to happen if we're expected to pay for an until-now free signal; not the same, but more content. More local news, more in-depth local coverage, and more Canadian drama. Part of the problem here has been the networks' willingness to pay huge sums of money for US content. I understand that's what sells ad spots, but we shouldn't become merely satellites for American programming. They shouldn't be buying shows to the exclusion of investing in anything else. The new money must go to improving Canadian choices for Canadian customers. If the content is good, people will watch, and the ad dollars will follow.

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nicketynick ★ [1 month ago](#)

1. It clearly has an impact on the industry's future business plans, particularly with the transition to digital. Networks and local TV are aware that they will be able to get their signal to consumers without the cable and satellite providers, via internet and wireless, which likely will be advertising supported - it will be difficult to get consumers to pay for the content. So they're merely trying to level the playing field with the 'specialty' content providers. I think there are 2 ways for it to work out: the cable/satellite providers pay everybody for their signal, or they pay nobody! I think nobody is the better option - then only the content providers who prove themselves will survive. 'Local' channels really only exist for 'local' news - so why don't they merge with local newspapers, in order to provide a 'one-stop shop' for providing that content?

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Carlo ★ [1 month ago](#)

1. This is yet another reason why cable companies need to restructure their fees. Either they pay the broadcasters for their signals, or they offer some of their programming for free in trade. I prefer the latter.

2. Partial reimbursement of costs to seniors and low income earners, or the ability to write off the purchase of proposed new equipment at tax time would be all that is necessary, in my opinion.

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ianboyd ★ [1 month ago](#)

i live in a border city. Most of my television comes over the air from the U.S. Since none of my local Canadian broadcasters provide a digital OTA signal, i receive no Canadian television.

i would, of course, welcome them to begin transmitting digitally - but i'm not going to pay for it. If they find it too expensive to convert to a digital format then they can go out of business. i will continue to get my television free from the US.

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Like



R Wood ★ [1 month ago](#)

I think the networks are running around without direction or leadership and want the viewers to pay for whatever they decide to try this time. I don't have local TV in my area (Niagara - close to a half million people) and any attempt to bring it here has been blocked by the big networks. I think the networks should be broken up and allow smaller entities to deliver local programming based on real business principles and not handouts. Local programming does not exist for me and I resent being asked to pay for something I do not receive.

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Like



michael41 ★ [1 month ago](#)

I think I am missing something here. In the opening paragraph, it says the CRTC is looking at ways to revamp the system to make it easier to include digital technologies. Then the paragraph ends with whether cable/sat should be charged for local TV. Ah, that's a bit of a contradiction. If you truly want to include "new" technologies (new to the broadcasters but old to most people with an internet connection) then what does charging for local TV have to do with it? Broadcasters are in business to provide programming to consumers and provide platforms for advertisers. Or to put it simply, to make money. If their business model is based on old thinking and has been for many years, why should the consumer, government or another company pay for their inability to change with the times? So far, broadcasters are only focusing on trying to fix a very broken and outdated way of doing business. With the exception of the GM model of bail out, I would suggest that they are only intitled to very basic public funds that any company would be able to access...for example payrole deductions if they create jobs. (btw I should be clear, I am not in favour of the GM bail out. That is an example of a bad government investment)

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kelli ★ [1 month ago](#)

Let people watch television over the internet for free. The US offers a lot of options such as hula. For once the overpriced television providers need to live with it.

[Flag](#)

Like



Rick ★ [1 month ago](#)

Providing local tv stations the right to negotiate is critical for a future Canadian broadcasting system. Right now all the money is going to the cable companies and that is wrong. Negotiations for value is not a form of "support", it is TV stations to be paid for their product.

[Flag](#)

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Nancy ★ [1 month ago](#)

I don't want to see local broadcasting leave the cable packages. I enjoy watching local news and programs but also love some of the specialty channels that are out there right now. I don't want to have to choose between the two. And why should I? I'd hate to not be able to know what's going on outside my front door.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*bwimperis* ★ [1 month ago](#)

The industry should no receive any support or incentives to implement the transition. This is the first change they have had to make in 40 years, since colour television was introduced.

Local stations should be allowed to negotiate the value of their signals only if the consumer is allowed to choose which local signals they receive and not be forced to pay for signals that they do not want.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*scottsthoughts* ★ [1 month ago](#)

What local stations. Local for New Brunswick is Fredericton. For Nova Scotia it is Halifax. The word "local" is being misused. True local for me is provided by Rogers cable.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*Raffie* ★ [1 month ago](#)

1. Local TV companies provide a valuable services and should be compensated for these services like anyone else.

2. We sometimes forget that local TV companies and satellite/cable companies are just that; companies. Companies succeed and fail and should be allowed to do so. We need more competition in Canada.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*jhorn* ★ [1 month ago](#)

We already pay for local TV in your cable bill. It is under the "basic" service rate, and cable companies charge you for it and keep all the money. The problem is cable companies, they are the cash cows. Your bill has gone up 4 times the rate of inflation in the last 5 years. Since cable deregulation, cable bills have increased by as much as 70% for Rogers and 67% for Shaw customers. It is time to level the playing field, and let cable pay local stations like they do in the US

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*david snyder* ★ [1 month ago](#)

local tv must be paid by any user (cable and internet) for their work and local tv must be required to provide live, onair studio programing as they used to in 1950's to generate local advertising dollars to help maintain viability. Cable companmies must pay them a royalty or fee. Nothing is for free. Cable companies must not be allowed to add charge to subscribers for this,, and subscdcribers should be allowed to cherry pick the channels they want,, after a basic package.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*bert* ★ [1 month ago](#)

i'm opposed to extra fees.

and dont even want to pay monthly fees.

i hate monthly fees.

just give me a box , one time charge for 40 buks ..

no monthly fees.

[Flag](#)



Erika Green ★ [1 month ago](#)

1. Let the local stations do what they need to survive, and let the cable/satellite companies suck it up. If they pass on charges to me, I will disconnect from their services.

2. I will be even more outraged if additional incentives are offered to anybody to give me something I didn't want in the first place.

[Flag](#)



isaiahkyler ★ [1 month ago](#)

i would love to support my local TV station as long as i do not have to support any other redundant TV station ... for example, I have CBC Calgary ... I do not need CBC Edmonton, CBC Vancouver, CBC Montreal, CBC Toronto and I could go on and on, but you get the point! ... Furthermore Global Lethbridge and CTV Lethbridge are the only local station I need, why should I be forced to pay for anything else ... these station contain a local and notional news broadcast which is sufficient for any person! This goes back to the concept of there is no choice and no opportunity to get fair value for any TV package offered!

[Flag](#)



Gordon Quinn ★ [1 month ago](#)

I think local stations should be able to negotiate fair value for their signals. It would have a huge impact for the local providers and should have minimal impact for cable providers. With respect to support/incentives to implement transition I would ask what has happened in other nations who are facing this. It seems to me that the US provided incentives.

[Flag](#)



isaiahkyler ★ [1 month ago](#)

For the most the quality of Canadian Broadcasting is not worth a penny ... with the exception of a few high quality shows such as Corner Gas, and Flashpoint, these shows represent what Canadian Content is capable of ... however My opinion is if a show or a TV station is a quality broadcast than it will survive by its own merits, if it is crap ... Let it go by the wayside ... no one will morn its loss!

[Flag](#)



londonbill ★ [1 month ago](#)

I feel like I missed a step with the explanation: why is the CRTC forcing local stations to convert to digital? You've explained how expensive it is and yet, it has limited value to local consumers and users.

Pushing everyone to digital simply consolidates the influence of cable/satellite services and reduces options for all consumers.

In fact, analogue service should be seen as the way of the future for local stations. Make it easier for local broadcasters to set up shop so that individuals or small community groups can begin to broadcast their content to the public.

[Flag](#)



P Muttart ★ [1 month ago](#)

I don't want to pay extra fees to watch the local stations. Let CTV, GLOBAL, A-CHANNEL and the rest get their act together and get their own financial house in order. I am just livid to hear the

CBC wants fees also, while getting a billion dollars in taxpayers money to show the crap that they call tv programs. I find it odd if i want true local programing in my area i have to watch Rogers own station. No more fees, and its time to give people channel choice not packages.

[Flag](#)

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[martintuori](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

I think local content producers and carriers (Rogers, Bell) should be free to negotiate their own business arrangements, in an open market - provided it is an open market, free of government-imposed restrictions on content, etc.

Give me channel by channel choice, without forcing me to take local stations if I don't want to. Local stations mostly repackage foreign content, with no value added, for the opportunity to capture local advertising dollars. For this we should give them a guaranteed handout?

I think the switch to digital production, broadcast and distribution is inevitable, but I don't think the public should subsidize local stations, Rogers or Bell in the transition.

If a broadcaster wants to remain with analog production, broadcast or distribution, fine. But charge them for the public airspace bandwidth, through an open auction process.

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[Mercury](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

1. The value of local stations' signals is what the consumer is prepared to pay. Let the local broadcasters attempt to negotiate what they wish but let the consumer decide if he or she wants to pay for it. Will it have an impact - quite likely yes but if consumers are not prepared to pay and the industry goes under then so be it. The market has passed judgement. If consumers are prepared to pay then again so be it. The market has again passed judgement.

2. Maybe. Perhaps it will come from equipment manufacturers or other opportunites of which I am unaware. But not from an unwilling taxpayer.

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[Mike](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

Digital television saves much needed bandwidth. The argument that digital will cost more is not entirely true - all networks except for Global broadcast in HD already. They have the capability to go all digital now. I have picked up US digital channels with a small rooftop antenna. The picture quality is far superior to analog - at NO EXTRA CHARGE. I agree the problem is people living too far from the US border will not be able to pick up digital with rabbit ears or antenna. This is the nature of our Geography. Perhaps the broadcasters could put up transmitters - boosters for those customers. This would knock the heck out of the cable and satellite companies hold over the rural customers.

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[steve449](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

If a provider is carrying your product, you should be reimbursed.

No.. it does not require support or incentives. It requires regulation. The CRTC MUST rule in favor of what is in the best interests of all Canadians.

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



[Crissy](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

I am not in support of local TV stations collecting a fee by the cable /satellite companies from

its customers. I think these TV stations are businesses and if they cannot adapt to change without reaching into peoples pockets they should be allowed to fail.

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



Crissy ★ [1 month ago](#)

I believe the cable companies should be paying local stations for their channels. But NOT out of the viewers pocket. These companies have already increased the cost to the viewers over the years by huge percentages. I dont think it would hurt them to give some of that profit to the people who provide it, but not on the backs of the customer.

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billybobzz ★ [1 month ago](#)

Do all channels negotiate prices for their signals? If so they we should standardize the whole industry so all channels have the same position when it comes to negotiating their broadcast potential.

There should be no support, the point of private industry is that its private and industry, industry should have to pay for its transition, if it can't its time to say good bye.

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Kevin ★ [1 month ago](#)

1. I am a little confused by the way this question is asked. "Do you think allowing local stations to negotiate for the value of their signals...". They should definately be allowed to negotiate however the cable and satelite providers should in no way be forced to agree to anything. These stations are comming cap in hand with no significant values to offer at the negotiating table. Their revenue is largely ad based and cable providers give them free access to a huge market, without which they would not get any ad revenue at all.

2. The switch to digital over the air was not needed for any reason whatsoever. Paid programming over cable/satalite was already going digital, what was the justification for forcing this on local broadcasters? So Myabe they should be supported in that regard since it was forced on them however it is not up to the cable/satalite companies to support this. This was government mandated, maybe the CRTC should pay for it.

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Ken Parker ★ [1 month ago](#)

The local stations if they produce quality product will be in demand and people will want it. In the market I am in there is not one local station that would fit that criteria. They are a business and there revenue is based on number of viewers. A lot of mediocre programming is alive because it is bundled. On it's own it would be gone. As we expand our channel selection the stations that suffer are those with weak programming and should be left to fail. At this time the CBC is supported by the Canadian taxpayer and should recieve no additional funding period. Our market in Canada is small and and we probably cannot afford three networks. When the two private networks started up they saw an opportunity. Now times have changed and perhaps it is time for the two private networks to think about merging.

[Flag](#)

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NecessaryEvil ★ [1 month ago](#)

Go ahead and allow them to charge for their signals. Just don't expect me to pay for it. I don't watch local stations' substandard programming, so why should they get any of my money? I'm tired of paying for stations I never watch.

Let them charge money for their signals and see how they do in the competitive environment -

against giants like Fox, NBC, CBC, etc. If their programming can stand up to them, then good! If not, then maybe they're no longer needed by Canadians.

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



[Ken_Layfield](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

1. Value is always a perception from one's point of view. In a tv free market enterprise, value is determined by viewership or rating at certain time of day. Before cable and digital service, viewership was determined by a sampling of the population watching an analog feed. So I think value is not the right term. I think local tv matters but don't put a number on it. Require the cable companies to support local tv stations and programming as a cultural necessity not just give us what they see as profitable.

2. Support can be generated as a percent of profit made by the companies and a tax credit to subscribers that convert from analog to digital service. Many lower income families can't afford to buy a new tv.

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[michellesimonin](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

I think if we don't see the local stations get some fee from the cable companies, we are going to lose them. After calling one of the local stations, they told me the cost to implement HD programming and I was shocked. I also did not realize what it takes to make a station run. They need to be paid for their service just like the American's and other stations.

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[Dan](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

Separate the infrastructure delivery from the content provider. That way local channels do not have to have transmission costs at all. A separate company can use the digital spectrum to broadcast channels using a single transmission infrastructure facility. Perhaps they could add even compete with cable and satellite by encrypting non-local channels and having addressable set top boxes similar to satellite. Older TVs will need a converter box anyway.

We need more competition in broadcast, it seems that there are very few companies that are controlling the works.

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[jlorik](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

Canadians have always had access to free over-the-air television. This needs to be maintained. Even if a distribution network needs to be subsidized in order to make programming available outside major markets, this needs to be done. Otherwise the CRTC would be robbing Canadians of a service they have always enjoyed, for nothing more than the cost of a television and a coat hanger. Not everyone has a computer. Not everyone has cable. Regardless, we all have the right to be informed. Sharper pictures and better sound don't mean anything if you can't access it. Providing a better quality signal to a smaller, more elite segment of the population is not an improvement in service. The CRTC needs to take whatever steps are necessary to ensure that access to programming by the lowest levels of our society is maintained before and after this digital transition.

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[Greg Trainor](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

I would not be impressed if my bill went up at all for local channels.

As a subscriber we have choices on the themes or packages we choose to select and pay for. The locals are bundled into the basic package. So if I have to pay more for them, it should be my choice what channels I want - even right down to the single channel.

I am also VERY upset with the laws out there now which exist that override US channels with Canadian ones. I am paying for a premium US channel, it should be my choice as a subscriber to choose if I want to watch that program on US or CDN channels. This is a major issue come Superbowl or any or national sporting event, I want to choose to watch the US feed with US commercials so be it! Who are the CRTC to tell me what I can or can not watch - especially after I PAID for it!!!

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Paul Morris ★ [1 month ago](#)

Frankly I would think the local stations should be happy that the cable companies even carry their signals. I think that by carrying the channels the cable companies are doing the stations a favour. If the local stations want to bypass the cable then they only need to transmit over the air. HDTV over the air works great.

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kenlawson ★ [1 month ago](#)

If local stations charge then boxes for hd and digital must be terminated, there is no excuses to charge for boxes it must be provided direct to the consumer at no cost, Digital and HD are not worth the price box and service! This would make it easier for the consumer. Cable TV fees are far to high right now, and is the government charging the tv stations for transmitting their products through Canada air space, if not they should be.

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Glen ★ [1 month ago](#)

If this goes through and local stations get paid by cable companies then they should stop simsubbing. It's annoying during superbowl and on more than one occasion I miss either the beginning or the end of a program I PVR because they are slightly off on their timing. Also I would like to be given the choice of which local stations I would pay for.

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Denise2929 ★ [1 month ago](#)

I think if you force consumers to pay for more channels they don't want it will simply drive people to cut off their cable or satellite and watch the internet for free.

Consumers should only have to pay for the channels they want.

Possibly some system could be set up to help sustain Canadian channels initially such as consumers could receive them for free on a trial basis then choose to pay to keep them.

The CRTC and the cable/satellite companies must stop forcing consumers to pay for channels they don't want and it doesn't matter whether they are Canadian, local or raising money for orphans.

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James Smith ★ [1 month ago](#)

Frankly, I'd love the CRTC to get out of regulation business and let the broadcasters and cable/satellite people to negotiate a settlement outside of the monopolistic structure which now exists. Very quickly, consumers will decide whether or not they are prepare to pay much less support either broadcasters or cable/satellite companies. And no, the industry does not require support to implement the transition to digital. When television manufacturers were required to produce digital televisions did anyone support them?

[Flag](#)

Likeskylermccaw ★ [1 month ago](#)

I most certainly do **not** support a FFC. These "Canadian" broadcaster (which CTV and Global admit is built for American programming first and Canadian programming peppered around it; where as local broadcasters in the UK and Australia/NZ do the opposite) have extremely weak to non-existent OTA signals and actually OWE their success to **mandatory**, **low** channel placement BDU basic carriage. Without that, they'd see their available viewership nosedive. Furthermore, they enjoy simultaneous programming substitution (aka "simulcasting"), so their "viewers" are those held hostage. Take away sim-sub to get a TRUE number of viewers who **willingly** **choose** to view American programming on CTV/Global... only, we've NEVER gotten this opportunity.

[Flag](#)LikeKaren ★ [1 month ago](#)

I am against anything that adds to the cost to consumers. Most of the local TV stations are owned now by larger parent companies who would be able to support them. These are business and should be run as such, and if they fail then it is the problem of the parent company for not managing them better.

The companies that are providing the signals should be forced to ensure that all people can access the signals regardless of what type of receivers they have.

[Flag](#)LikeKaren ★ [1 month ago](#)

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[Flag](#)LikeGregg Chamberlain ★ [1 month ago](#)

Seems like someone is always taking advantage of changes or advances in technology to stick it to us consumers.

[Flag](#)LikeDB ★ [1 month ago](#)

There are hardly any local stations. The vast majority are owned by the major networks so your question should reflect this. The networks should not get paid by the cable companies to carry their signals. TV stations benefit three ways by being carried by cable: (1) a higher audience and hence higher ad revenue from commercial substitution (2) a larger audience because the signal is shown in markets where the over-the-air signal does not reach (3) lower technology costs because they do not have to deal with ghosting and other signal issues in dense urban markets.

The only incentive that TV stations should have to switch to digital is the one that every other business has - namely, if you don't keep your technology current and provide a service your customers want then you will go out of business. Why should TV be any different than radio, movies or newspapers?

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*skylermccaw* ★ [1 month ago](#)

Erie, Pennsylvania is about the *same* size as the city I live in (London, Ontario). They can support 5 local TV stations (what the CRTC refers to as "4+1"; ABC, CBS, NBC, Fox & PBS), while OUR city only has *1* station (CFPL-TV10) and it's LOSING money... losing money while enjoying mandatory basic cable carriage and low channel placement (cable channel 9). It's laced with American programming and the ONLY "local" value in it is our limited local news and support of local businesses who advertise on it. We got our Noon news cancelled a few years ago and our local morning show lately while running last night's 11 o'clock news looped in the 3 hour time slot. Ooh, CTVGlobemedia and Canwest "care", sure.

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*beckee* ★ [1 month ago](#)

The problem is local & smaller stations were bought out in the pre recession spending spree of the media conglomerates and have become but mere "transmitters" of made in Toronto National programming. Local production facilities were gutted while the same media conglomerates also own the money making sports and specialty channels and spend millions on American programming. If the media conglomerates who own the local TV stations/transmitters want to negotiate for value then they need to demonstrate value to consumers by investing in local communities while eliminating waste waste and duplication especially in higher populated areas such as Southwestern Ontario

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*paying consumer* ★ [1 month ago](#)

With the profits these companies (Cable and tv) are making I'm sure they would see the benefit to Canadians to make this a monetary issue one that does not raise the costs any further to the consumer. Thier product is so tightly regulated that if an open market policy was ever implemented they would loose in a big way. Otherwise a fee could be taken from profits of both companies with respect to the size of that profit vs investment they make in consumer broadcasting. Niether industry is starving but the customers are already paying higher than inflation amounts for exisiting access. They could easliy afford to pay for their raw products.

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*mobilehowie* ★ [1 month ago](#)

If it is so important that we have local broadcasting that the CRTC and governments feel we should pay for them, why do local stations in the United States do well? I prefer watching Buffalo news because I don't feel my tax dollars strangling me as I do so.

Very simply: if CBC, CTV, CityTV, and so on, can't afford to operate, they should cease to operate. One of Canada's greatest, and few, weaknesses is our inability to let dying businesses die.

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*spp_24* ★ [1 month ago](#)

1. Yes- the value of this revenue stream must be defined so that they can plan their business
2. NO GOVERNMENT INCENTIVES. This is largely entertainment and not a requirement of life such as healthcare or policing. Let businesses fail for goodness sake, there is no reason to guarantee survival of TV stations

Make sure that cable and satellite companies are treated like a "pipeline" business and that they get a tariff on everything that they transmitt.

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Karl Sucholotosky ★ [1 month ago](#)

Yes local TV should be allowed to negotiate. And our government needs to protect the free availability of our local stations. They along with the CRTC are the bastions of our community news, sports, special events and charities. Many of their staff volunteer their time freely. I know that cable companies charge for any appearance by any of their staff. And they have no vested interest in any city or town other than corporate headquarters and tax breaks. Cable companies revealed their greed for bottom line performance when they tried to introduce user reject billing. They bill you the top price by default unless you ask for lower service offerings.

There should be some support for the TV stations to transfer to digital from the cable companies if they continue to receive a free signal OR the cable companies should pay the market rate for the signal so local TV can pay for these upgrades.

Neither government or taxpayers should pay an extra penny for this because I already pay an infrastructure upgrade fee on my bill. That should be passed along to local TV by their ability to charge for their signal. If I have to pay for this upgrade/change in billing, I have to wonder why I am being charged the above fee if every toime they actually upgrade infrastructure I have to pay more for it again.

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Steve ★ [1 month ago](#)

High definition should be an incentive enough to implement digital television, but it's not working because Canadians don't care enough.

I think the CRTC, Industry Canada and the Canadian government need to rethink this digital transition. If the point is to free up spectrum for use by other services, this can be accomplished by simply moving stations on channels above 50 to lower channels. This would affect very few stations outside of major markets like Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver.

Over-the-air television has used effectively the same technology for half a century. To force everyone to switch to a new, incompatible technology for a goal that can be achieved through less disruptive ways seems patently unnecessary.

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Rob ★ [1 month ago](#)

"Prepares for the transition to digital television"? Surely you jest. The digital age is here and has been for quite some time. The fact that these broadcasting dinosaurs missed the boat is their problem. Sure, they should be able to charge for their signals...provided the CRTC MANDATE the cable companies to "de-bundle" and offer their channels individually. Then maybe I want CTV...and maybe I don't. Bottom line, we need more consumer choice. To answer the second question, if these guys haven't figure things out by now, then God help them. Just let the Google's of the world buy them up for their content. Good Heavens. I love how the CRTC feels the need to hold everyone's hand while they take a leak in this country.

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Jeff Bowman ★ [1 month ago](#)

throughout this survey you keep referring to local stations and the need for them to be on cable. If they are truly local they should be broadcasting with enough transmission power so that people which make up the 'local' audience can capture the signals using a \$20.00 indoor antenna. I Live between Hamilton and St. Catharines Ontario and I get 13 stations , Canadian and US,analog and Hi-def, with a \$200 antenna from Radio Shack. I will not pay for broadcast TV.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*mitchellbrogan* ★ [1 month ago](#)

Let me chose the channels I want to watch and I will pay for it. If not enough people want to watch that channel - too bad - too sad - goodbye. If a community of supporters (customers) can't support a businessTV Station/channel. Then shut the doors. Too much of this 'I am entitled'. Yes your entitled but only if you pay for it. How the dollars are split between Carriers and Broadcasters is a red herring let people chose and the free market will handle the rest. the CRTC needs to stops propping these people up, technology changes so does the time. If their current business model does not provide the funds to upgrade their system then maybe they shouldn't be in business in the first place. - NO to any incentives to either the broadcasters or the carriers

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*David Fenske* ★ [1 month ago](#)

1. It is fine for stations to negotiate for the value of their signals, provided that consumers have a choice of whether to pay for them or not.
2. The industry requires the incentive of wholesale de-regulation to end government interference in matters that should be solely between consumers and content-providers. Let us have free trade in broadcasting like we have successfully had in other industries.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*mgrea* ★ [1 month ago](#)

When local television produces a show the content falls under copyright rules. The cable stations use this copyrighted material to garner funds for their company and the shareholders of that company. If Rogers and the other cable and satellite companies want the programming then they should pay for it. Without programming they have nothing to retransmit. I believe that Rogers wants to be the Local station in the communities they have the cable rights in. They pay the Americans for the signals, why not the Canadian suppliers of content. I could go on but these are my thoughts.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*Lloyd* ★ [1 month ago](#)

No. I do not think the citizens of Canada should fund the stations conversion to digital. Any more than the government funds installation of technology in any business. I do not care if the networks and stations negotiate to pay one another. I am already paying more than I want to pay. They must divvy up the pie between themselves. The pie is as big as it is going to get. Get over it and live with what you have which is already far too much.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*KH* ★ [1 month ago](#)

A channel that sells advertising should be self sufficient. Times are tough now, but they will flourish in the future if they learn to adapt and expoit new digital communication methods. Channels that have no advertising should have substantial government support to ensure quality programming ie our taxes.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*DARRELL GAUCHIER* ★ [1 month ago](#)

1. As a free market solution, there should be negotiation, less Government intrusion. However, it's kinda hard to to negotiate when Cable or Satellite won't sit down.

2. If the Government is going to auction off spectrum, then the Government can pony up some dough to the broadcasters to convert.

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[George Kamps](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

1. I welcome the right of stations to negotiate the value of their signals, but only if the market on those signals is relatively free and unregulated. I do not like the idea of forcing cable companies to carry local tv stations, and then allowing those tv stations to negotiate a rate. Either:

a. Force the cable companies to carry the signals (preferably available to the consumer free and unencrypted) and prevent fee for carriage

or

b. Allow the stations to negotiate for the value of their signals but allow the cable companies the ability to not include them.

2. I would be for providing some assistance to local stations to help them implement the digital transition.

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[reinhardschlosser](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

1. Let them negotiate the value of their signals and see what happens.

2. The industry should only be supported if they are forced to upgrade their equipment by the government. And then the government should pay.

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[Jon](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

Please do not charge consumers for something they don't watch. If they need more revenue make it optional for people to subscribe. If my satellite company would let me choose, I would not subscribe to my local stations and save the money. I pay \$35 a month for a basic package that I do not watch, it is ridiculous. Open up the market and let the people decide what they want to pay for.

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[lab60](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

Negotiating is always good, but it has to be fair for everyone involved, including the subscriber. The only way to make it fair would be that the cable companies have the option not to carry a local signal, and/or the subscriber have the option not to purchase a local station. To be forced to purchase and pay is not negotiating. The local station could then set its own rate, and would live or possibly die by its decisions. 4, 5 or more local stations in a market is probably too many, and most markets could be served well with less stations. The strong and efficient will survive.

There should be not incentives to go digital. Going digital should be more cost effective in the long run, and if done correctly, could increase the local viewership.

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[Peter R Montague](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

Television broadcast signals are free. They are paid for or should be paid for by the advertisers that use the television stations. Stations, as in the past, should be self supporting based on

advertising revenue and/or other contracted sources in the private sector.

Cable and satellite suppliers of signal have the right to capture and distribute signals for fee.

As a private citizen, I pay a user fee for reception via cable or satellite. That is to say, I am now paying for all signals that enter my home. Therefore, I think that having to pay an extra fee imposed by a government body, as it seems would happen, becomes a tax rather than a user fee.

I am opposed to any further fee or taxation, in favor of either side, for television signals that enter my home. Television stations should get their sales forces out there to increase their revenue and cable or satellite operators need to absorb the costs for provision of sometimes unwanted local station signals.

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Bruce F. ★ [1 month ago](#)

Change to digital or shut down. I paid \$1000.00 for a large flat screen tv and I do NOT want to watch old fashioned analogue signals.

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pwhpwh ★ [1 month ago](#)

This looks like a very complex survey for the CRTC to evaluate! No one votes for anything, and there are no choices.

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DC ★ [1 month ago](#)

Yes.

NO SUPPORT-enough already!!!!!!

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no0ne ★ [1 month ago](#)

It's not shocking that the TV companies try to pull this money grab right when more people are going to get cable because we won't be able to get signals without a digital coverter box - for which there is no rebate, despite how we pay for CBC through our taxes.

Maybe if Canadian stations had better programming (other then the American and British shows made by other networks, shown on stations like Global, City and CTV) people would actually watch "local" television.

If they pull off getting their TV Tax, more people will watch shows online as opposed to paying to watch commercial ridden shows at a pre-programmed time.

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John Willis ★ [1 month ago](#)

1. Local stations must always be allowed to exist. OTA free broadcasting must also be maintained. It is a mainstay of our democratic society. There are large numbers of our populace who cannot or choose not to afford the cost of cable and satellite service. If the free OTA broadcasts (migrate and) cease to exist at some point in the future, the possibility of a non democratic form of television is potentially a very dangerous situation. Imagine cable and satellite providers controlling what should be free content based on their greatest revenue sources. This is a slippery slope for sure and must never even potentially be allowed. Digital

television is already available via HD antennas which are remarkably inexpensive (think of the TV antennas of the past). In fact, HDTV must also be broadcast in order to be offered via cable and satellite. They are indeed not compressed so the quality is superior to signals of the cable companies.

Cable companies are paying for foreign TV service currently so why should they receive local television for free if in fact the local television revenue is shrinking and cannot sustain its current business model. On the other hand, should cable and satellite subscribers pay for those of us that receive our signals via an antenna? Therein lies the dilemma. The answer must be that our free to the user broadcast system must be maintained.

2. I suppose the taxpayer either directly or indirectly should partially cover the cost of maintaining broadcast television and to protect the 'freedoms' we as Canadians currently enjoy. The cable subscriber should cover the remaining cost via the TV tax in order to receive the same signals of the basic and or local broadcast station signal and then pay in addition for specialty channels as they do now. The CRTC should be able to dictate the portioning of these costs as part of the licensing process which would remove any stigma or 'bickering' by the competing parties.

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[birch](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

I don't mind if local stations negotiate for prices on cable but I should be able to chose the ones I want on a one by one basis. I also see no need to continue allowing local channels to simulcast their feeds on American channels since they are getting paid by us already. If I want to watch an NBC show on NBC I shouldn't see any local adds or promotions for a Canadian channel instead. After all I'm paying for NBC's content not another station.

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[birch](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

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[jeffreystephen](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

If they get to charge then we should get to choose, full choice TV on cable and Satellite, if I only want 1 channel that is all I should have to pay for. Also will the CRTC be giving out converter boxes like the US did? And how about enforcing truth in advertising there is not TV Tax it is a negotiated price that is being discussed not a tax. Why is the CRTC not stepping in and stopping this practice of fear mongering. Also if I am paying for TV then it should be commercial free.

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[Bob L.](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

The reasons behind local broadcast are dead. There is nowhere in Canada that you can't get some form of digital cable or satellite. The whole costly infrastructure that we are expected to subsidize is wasteful. Free up the air waves (broadcast spectrum) for more meaningful usage. Have a few national feeds and be done with it. I don't need to see a dozen CBC feeds on my tuner. Local content is quite accessible via the web, local print, and radio. Not a penny more for local broadcasters - they want us to pay more for nothing more - absolutely silly!

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rbourque ★ [1 month ago](#)

unfortunatly satellite is only service available and service cost is beyond.aside from cancelling how can i control costs under present structure

[Flag](#)

Like



almurphy ★ [1 month ago](#)

We are currently paying for local programming with basic cable packages. Why should we have to pay twice for the same thing. I am currently forced by the cable company to accept channels as part of my package that I never watch nor ever plan to.

To question 2 - NO! Cable and local TV stations already have digital and HD capability. Why would they need additional incentives or support? Am I missing something? They've known for some time that the digital transition must be completed by August 31, 2011. That's all the incentive they need!

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Michel ★ [1 month ago](#)

No I don't think this will have any impact in strategic plans or the conversion to digital TV, and NO I don't think the industry requires any additional incentives.

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Greg W ★ [1 month ago](#)

I think the CRTC should get out of the way and allow local stations to live or die by their own decisions. They are a business and should be run as a business. If they are profitable they will survive, if they are not, then they will change or go out of business.

As a business they can't expect a government bailout when they get into trouble.

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dbmc ★ [1 month ago](#)

A fee for channels might be acceptable if we choose the channels. However, it is not the choice of networks to dictate that fee.

[Flag](#)

Like



bradwinnipeg ★ [1 month ago](#)

Local TV stations are free to negotiate the value of their signals with distributors, but they have to be prepared to accept that the value might be quite low. If distributors can't get the local TV signal at a price they and their customers are willing to pay, they should have the option of not carrying them at all.

I have some sympathy for the broadcasters who are being forced to upgrade their transmission equipment because of the changeover to digital. The TV stations have had the use of their

analog frequencies for years, so whoever is making them change (government?) and whoever is buying the frequencies (cell phone companies?) should pay the TV stations the cost to construct equivalent transmission facilities.

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Ken ★ [1 month ago](#)

As the Television industry faces challenges in the future, so do Canadians.

Going digital most likely means greater savings in every department over broadcasting analog.

Those savings alone should keep most good operators writing with black ink.

So much has changed in favor of local broadcasters since digital equipment has become the norm that we see many operators reducing costs from the plant side alone.

There is only so much band width and I am surprised that the Satellite/Cable companies have not approached the CRTC to charge local stations for carrying their signals.

Much like shelf space at the local supermarket.

Want to be featured on the end-aisle, here's the rate.

In short, no.

The local stations have so many other avenues to revise before coming to me for a bail-out.

Regards,

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Jawed ★ [1 month ago](#)

1. It is job of the state to support and save local stations. It is not fair to tax Canadians to make local stations survive. These stations are a bussiness not a charity.Cable companies have no right to collect an extra fee for that purpose.
What a rip off !!

2. Support must come from Ottawa not from Common people.

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Gruntled Senior ★ [1 month ago](#)

By definition, Local is the area within reach of rabbit ears or an outside antenna. Local stations can serve their primary market this way even in the digital era (which is already well advanced, elsewhere). Accelerated depreciation could help the local stations make the transition, and users could recieve a subsidy on the purchase of a digital box if they need one. Most of the TVs purchased in the past few years will not need one.

If cable/satellite companies want to carry that local signal to resell beyond the LOCAL area let them pay for it. Get rid of mandated carriage.

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smcwhinnie ★ [1 month ago](#)

1. Allow them to sell their service but only get paid by the people who buy their service.

2. No.

[Flag](#)

*wallhousewart* ★ [1 month ago](#)

I agree with Roland on this. These companies are private businesses or government funded already. If they can't make a go of it in the current market, then maybe they should find a different business model or close down.

[Flag](#)*Gruntled Senior* ★ [1 month ago](#)

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If cable/satellite companies want to carry that local signal to resell beyond the LOCAL area let them pay for it. Get rid of mandated carriage.

[Flag](#)*John M* ★ [1 month ago](#)

I will not pay more! Local stations are on their own.

[Flag](#)*regscott* ★ [1 month ago](#)

local tv is rakeing in billions now ,enough is enough

[Flag](#)*victoriatv* ★ [1 month ago](#)

TV industry does not deserve additional support.
They've been supplying garbage for eons and will never change.

[Flag](#)*George H* ★ [1 month ago](#)

I am in complete agreement with Roland. I am also opposed to supporting local TV stations with an extra fee collected by the cable company. Like all private enterprise, TV stations must find a way to adapt to remain profitable. The fee is just another tax levy.

[Flag](#)*jnhnry* ★ [1 month ago](#)

Pay the local stations but I want the option not to take those stations.

[Flag](#)*E. McClelland* ★ [1 month ago](#)

Is the Canadian government going to subsidize viewers for the cost of the required converter box and satellite dish, as the US government did for its citizens?

All the villains – Bell, FreeHD Canada and the local broadcasters – can charge whatever they like as long as no one *forces* me to buy their product.

As for industry support, Shaw's customers have already been financing infrastructure upgrades for years through Shaw's incessant rate increases.

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Donna Morris ★ [1 month ago](#)

1. and 2. Think back a few years and ask yourselves if industry companies were overtly seeking your assistance then - or blanketing their customers with the offensive propaganda to which we're currently subjected. The answer is a resounding no. Suddenly the same players who have traditionally decried stringent regulation are now seeking your intervention. Do not fall for their despicable attempts to have you work out what they, and they alone, are responsible for. They deserve no support or incentive to progress with technology - not when they're profit-based.

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regmcgratten ★ [1 month ago](#)

My cable company requires me to pay for analog tv even though I never watch it in order to receive the HD version of the same programming. I assume when all programming finally converts to digital I will receive a large credit when I no longer have to pay for analogue. Right?

[Flag](#)

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Mike ★ [1 month ago](#)

I am opposed to supporting all local channels. The basic service is forced on us by the CRTC, are we also going to be forced to pay extra for this service. It would be much better to let the public choose the channels individually and pay for them individually. This for force the stations to provide better programming.

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mike ★ [1 month ago](#)

I am opposed to supporting all local channels. The basic service is forced on us by the CRTC, are we also going to be forced to pay extra for this service. It would be much better to let the public choose the channels individually and pay for them individually. This for force the stations to provide better programming

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Greg H ★ [1 month ago](#)

Only a bunch of bureaucrats could think up questions like these.

TV stations should be businesses and run like businesses (Sorry CBC). End of story. Digital signals are cheaper to produce and distribute than analog signals. The digital transition has been on the horizon for a very long time. If they can't manage their businesses efficiently, they pack up and go home and make room for new players.

It is outrageous that a government body could 'allow' or 'disallow' a business to negotiate for the value of their product.

I don't have any sympathy for the cable operators either - let them go at it and may the best survive.

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shawnallen ★ [1 month ago](#)

1. Duh, yes
2. Get the CRTC out of the way and let the market work, bring in American competition

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Like



starchoice ★ [1 month ago](#)

Yes, the impact would be to the subscriber. Local stations should provide signals as a service to the community. The problem is that "local stations" have been swallowed up by the big guns, like the CTVs. If they require support or incentives, don't look to the subscriber or the TV providers. Look at PBS as an example of where support is obtained - from the viewers on a voluntary basis in support of quality programming. Do we really need to be forced to pay for the garbage on much of local TV?

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Jean Marc ★ [1 month ago](#)

We have to pay for digital signals... tv stations receive advertising money and I dont see why we should pay more. Most networks have specialized stations on cable and receive dues a;ready.

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Like



Amrit ★ [1 month ago](#)

If local channels want to charge for their signals they should be allowed to. However, I should be given the right to not subscribe and not pay for it if I do not watch that channel. They cannot have it both ways. We should not be forced to have channels that we dont want and have to pay for them too. The stations put themselves in this position with a bad business model. Why should I pay to fix their mistakes. I dont watch ctv or global. They should be paying me for having to live with their simsubbing american shows and having to put up with having to miss important things on shows because they cut to commercial or they forgot to fix the feed. But that does not look like it will happen so its back to plan a. The can charge but I should not be forced to subscribe to it.

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williamreeve ★ [1 month ago](#)

The transition to digital TV is an excellent step. I am prepared to install an antenna on the roof of the building where I rent an apartment so that I can continue to receive over-the-air local TV. I already have a set-top box to allow me to receive the one US digital channel which is within range of my location. I see no justification for financial incentives or support to assist the TV industry or parts of it to make the transition to digital TV. If there is no business case for the investment to allow the continuation of a particular service then GET The MESSAGE. The service is not needed. The TV industry should adapt and move on without the economic distortions implied by "support or incentives".

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Tom G ★ [1 month ago](#)

The big cable companies are posting huge profits. They can absorb the cost. They don't have to pass it along to the customers. If they cut the fat within their own companies, this change would have little impact on their bottom line.

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nubus ★ [1 month ago](#)

1. it will have an impact because it's regulated.
2. so-called 'industry' should get its hands off the free market and stop requiring Canadian content and any other form of regulation. why should consumers pay through their noses just so that the 'industry' can keep some people on the payroll? Don't like the influence of bell and rogers? let the Americans in and make it easy for any new players to enter the market. prices would drop dramatically, competition would increase, consumers would get much better value.

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Dennis ★ [1 month ago](#)

I live in St, Catharines, Ontario. There no local TV coverage. Toronto does not know we exist. I don't want to pay for local TV coverage that does not exist.

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Like



Ray Story ★ [1 month ago](#)

Local tv stations are the authors of their own financial woes. Costly and unprofitable acquisitions have left them either unable or unwilling to adapt with technological change. Let them fail. Taxpayer subsidies are not only unfair to the consumer; they reward mismanagement.

Cable companies are also not without fault. They force the consumer to buy stations in packages. Why should we pay for stations which we do not want in order to receive the one or two stations that we do want? That is a cash grab.

Both cable and local tv. have become virtual monopolies, which is not in the public interest. Please take the time and effort to reform these industries and avoid the simple solution of passing on the problem to the consumer via a tax. This is not a remedy. An equitable situation will only continue, and once again, these ugly conglomerates will be back at the public trough instead of truly adapting to reality.

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sarahquestion ★ [1 month ago](#)

I do not agree with any support of these stations. They need to be self-supporting.

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chriss_w ★ [1 month ago](#)

I think negotiating for the value of their signals would be a great idea, but only if the consumer gets to choose which channels they purchase. If station doesn't provide could good programming then consumers wouldn't subscribe to the channel and their value of their signal would drop.

I don't think the industry needs any support. Other businesses have to constantly up grade their systems to keep up with technological advances, and they don't expect government support. It's all the cost of doing business.

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Concerned Citizen ★ [1 month ago](#)

Don't even think about subsidizing with tax dollars any local stations move to digital. If they can't "sell" their value to local advertisers, then they need to change. They don't need the power to negotiate their signals with industry, they need to "sell" it, period. The CRTC needs to get out of the private market of entertainment and news and allow for freedom of speech. If Canadian content was soooo good, we would be watching it. Stop taking my tax dollars to subsidize any of

this. If local content is good people will watch it.

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[cb10](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

You should not allow cable or satellite companies to profit off local stations. Local stations should be able to sell their programming. If the cable companies charge too much they will lose customers. I for one would welcome television on the internet and get rid of cable companies. Their product is over priced and has limited value. If we are progressive we should be allowed to view anything we want via the internet and if they cannot find a way of servicing us in a cost effective manner then they should not survive.

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[Mark Knox](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

1. I do expect that allowing a new source of revenue (fee for carriage) would have an impact on present and future business plans. That's sort of an obvious question.

2. No, I don't think they should get incentives to comply with something that has been scheduled for years. If they can't get it in gear, then they don't deserve to keep broadcasting.

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[Dan](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

Local tv stations should have the flexibility to charge for whatever they deem necessary. If they are not profitable then they need to go. If Canadians are left without local TV then that is a choice we will have to make. There are options for Canadians.

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[bonnieherrett](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

I am really sitting on the fence about this. If the cable company pays a fee for the opportunity to include a channel in its lineup then they should pay to all stations. I believe they do pay a fee to some of them already.

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[Trevor B](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

Allowing local stations to negotiate is wrong. Their revenue comes from advertising. If Bell and Rogers did not broadcast their signal they could not sell commercials. Allowing them to set the price for stations that broadcasters are forced to carry is wrong. In order for Bell and Rogers to operate they are required to carry local TV, which guarantees local TV revenue through advertising. I believe that these companies need to keep local TV on through their total revenue. Yes they may lose money on the news but they are making a fortune on trailer park boys. Spread the wealth at home before coming with your hand out.

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[geofclarkson](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

I am opposed to supporting local TV stations with new fees charged by the cable companies. The producers of TV have proliferated over time so that now some of them are not economic. It is a straight business situation where excess supply that cannot function properly should be allowed to go into bankruptcy rather than look to the cable companies for added fees which the cable companies will of course will pass on the fees to the consumers, so effectively it is a new tax to support an industry which is already heavily subsidized by our tax dollars. The TV networks I watch are TVO, CBC, golf channel, BNN, TSN. A lot of the programming on CTV and Global is

junk and I watch these networks rarely. I do watch US networks such as CNN,sports events,BBC news.

The other thought going through my mind is if cable cost keeps going up I will explore alternatives such as satellite or just going to very basic cable. My daughter does not have a TV in her house.

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[rodpaines](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

Fairly simple - no support for local stations. They are in a commercial TV system -if they cannot survive with the ad revenue then they need to get out andmake room for someone who can. It is bad enough that we have to pay for mediocre programming from the CBC - a huge Television tax on us, but to pay a premium for local programming in addition to the heavy commercial load aimed at us would be totally wrong.

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[David Musico](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

I find that this discussion is interesting. In the business world I have never heard of one part of the industry demanding money from another part because they are loosing money as they claim.

In today's world when a business is having difficulties with profitability they have a few choices. They can change the way they do business, they can find ways to cut expenses, find ways to increase revenues, or they can go out of business.

These are the choices faced by the various networks who are crying fowl. If your normal run of the mill advertising customers are starting to dwindle to the point you can no longer make a profit then you must look at other sources of revenue. To have cable or satellite companies fund this through their customers is not the answer.

I am a customer who would not appreciate the increase. I would rather be denied the local programming to keep my satellite bill down. I have no choice when it comes to watching television. Without satellite or cable services I would not receive any channels. How many canadians are in this position where we are caught between these industries.

I ask the CRTC to tell CTV, CBC, Global Canwest and company to lay off. If they want my loyalty then find another way. If not then maybe they should close up shop as they are not viable and never will be even with a tv tax.

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[King_of_Kamloops](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

Cable companies should pay for all channels they carry, including Canadian ones. But they should not pass those fees on to cable subscribers. Cable companies already make big profits.

I small centers like Kamloops, the local station is an important part of the community. But broadcasters should stop buying cheap, mass-produced U.S. programming. Instead, that money should be used to develop more local programming. Local TV should be community oriented, not business oriented.

The Canadian Media Guild has proposed a 6-channel multiplexed transmitter that will provide an alternative to cable. We at Save Our CBC Kamloops (saveourcbckamloops.ca) agree that a 6 pack of free channels is the way to give the cable companies some competition.

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[J B](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

What happens to those who cannot afford to pay for the fees to upgrade equipment or other fees to receive the signals?

Does negative billing become an issue?

Flag

Like

 *Paul O* ★ 1 month ago

The advertiser-only funding model for local television has become broken.

When the advertiser-funded stations dominated the product offered by the broadcast industry, there was a market balance in the supply and demand for ad time.

Then the CRTC allowed subscriber fees to support additional "specialty" channels (e.g. Superchannel and The Movie Network). These specialty channels were offered without commercial interruption, and did not pose a significant threat to the ad-only business model.

Then the "specialty" channels, again under the oversight of the CRTC, became little more than subscriber-supplemented "regular" channels with a particular theme in their programming schedule. The likes of TSN and The Discovery Channel collect subscriber dollars on top of advertiser dollars to offer an attractive product. And they can compete head-on for national ad budgets against what is left of the larger networks (which could also offer a national reach until competition challenged their ability to offer a national audience).

Now, those TV channels which have local broadcast costs on top of their production costs are effectively "specialty" channels with Local Programming being their specialty, their programming niche. Yet while they must compete for talent and for eyeballs against the currently-recognized Specialty channels, they are restricted to local advertising dollars to fund their operations and have limited access to national ad budgets, let alone subscriber fees.

It seems only right that Local stations be recognized for what they are, and treat them as another Specialty able to charge cable and satellite carriers for their product.

Then, it seems only right that cable and satellite providers be required to allow full consumer choice to include or exclude ANY single specialty channel for which a subscriber fee is being charged to consumers. (I.e. ANY channel beyond what the distributor offers in their most basic package). Bundles may be offered for different prices, but each channel should be available individually. Since these distributors have been granted a near-monopoly by the weight of regulatory burdens preventing new entrants in direct competition, we must look at new technologies as competitors to this industry and not permit monopolistic behaviours to strangle consumer choice.

At this time, we do see new distribution mechanisms becoming available - and popular - for multimedia presentations (tv shows and the like). In particular, the Internet has shown the ability to offer a wide variety of programming choices either at the same time as a "traditional" tv broadcast, or shortly thereafter in a time-shifted offering. One such example in the United States is available through "Hulu" - a website which the content providers and current distributors appear ready to exercise monopolistic control over in that market to strangle consumer choice (there are proposals to force Hulu subscribers to subsidize cable companies who might lose subscribers to the new competition).

We must not allow Canada's large distributors to gorge their past businesses off of future businesses in a similar way: if necessary, we must force divestiture of the distributors so that their Infrastructure offerings sell at clear market rates to their Content offerings and to any other Content provider at the same price. For example, the coax of a cableco can be owned by the CableCo Infrastructure Company, and the bandwidth it carries can be sold on an equal access basis (channel by channel) to any Distributor wishing to play in the market. Similarly, Internet bandwidth can be sold to any subscriber on an equal commercial basis.

Current anti-competitive behaviours of the infrastructure owners (who were granted several significant increases by the CRTC so that subscribers, rather than investors, could pay for their infrastructure improvements) must be limited and cross-subsidization must be stopped (offering, say, Internet service at a low price because the charge for the underlying infrastructure

is too high, or vice versa).

Once these fundamental changes in the nature of content usage by consumers and the business models thereof can be recognized, only then can we see that the Distributors, in their recent TV Ads to "stop the TV tax" are not interested in acting in the best interest of consumers but only in their own best interest. Indeed, their statements to the effect that a profitable business should not pass along higher costs upstream are shown to contradict their claim that they themselves would pass along any cost increases while they remain highly profitable.

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Parker Gallant ★ [1 month ago](#)

The value of local stations signals is of principal value to the local viewers almost exclusively so why should the rest of the subscribers (outside of the local area) pay to subsidize those signals? Cable companies need to be more flexible in allowing subscribers to pick and choose what signals they wish to receive or the cable companies should be required to carry the local stations for subscribers within a reasonable radius of that local station. Only in Canada would we be asked to pay for subsidizing television. We already support the CBC to the tune of 1Billion dollars every year and I don't even watch the CBC!

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Tyson Hardiman ★ [1 month ago](#)

1. I say we level the playing field and allow local stations to be treated as specialty channels who charge for the ability to rebroadcast their signals. It is unfair that current specialty channels can make all the advertising money without the requirement to maintain equipment to broadcast their signals over-the-air. Additionally, they could forget about upgrading their analog equipment and simply become another paid cable/satellite specialty channel. That being said, I don't think local channels should be in one big package. The consumer should be able to pick exactly what channels they want, and shouldn't be forced to subsidize unwanted/unwatched stations.

2. It's unreasonable to expect that cable/satellite will suddenly elect to start paying for local channels, regardless of the fact that they've been charging for them all this time anyway. Getting 3 channels on a set of rabbit ears is a joke, and they all know that. We are currently stuck with a monopoly, and the best way to encourage a monopoly to change it's business practices is to allow COMPETITION. If they don't want to offer the subscribers reasonable choice for reasonable fees, then start bringing in more service providers! Forget about FreeHD anything, they're just baiting us so we reject the local broadcasters bid for more money. Instead of FreeHD, how about a \$5/month subscription that gets you local programming only? Who can't afford that?

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Josh Brogan ★ [1 month ago](#)

Most definitely cable, bell, and all the others should be paying local programmers - but out of their own current revenues. Bell Express Vu's ads are full of logos of local TV stations and they will tell you that they give you access to hundreds of channels. Well, if they are using the locals to boost their business then start paying them for it. After all, Bell's certainly good at boosting their prices to consumers. I've been an Express Vu user for four years and these guys have done nothing but raise, raise, raise their rates.

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Edwin Stephens ★ [1 month ago](#)

If the signal becomes a commodity then it should only be paid for by service providers during the Canadian programming. During foreign programming the source company should get the revenue. An example would be if CTV is airing an NBC show NBC gets the signal's revenue. I hear NBC needs the help.

I would prefer more networks and more local stations in Canada with Canadian content. US content belongs on US channels and people will still have the option of buying US channels.

The cure to Canada's TV industry problems is the bureaucratic cartel was allowed to get fat, bloated and stagnant. Their debt problems are not the viewers fault. Make them compete or die and if no one watches the non digital channels then sell the licence to someone who will digitize it. Pay the artists and let the businesses fight and struggle for our amusement.

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guest ★ [1 month ago](#)

I believe that the government wants the available spectrum by making them change. If they can sell that extra spectrum, they should invest in the tv changeover, because they will get the spectrum money

We pay for TV by having to watch commercials. I should be able to pick up signals digital or otherwise from the air without being forced to subscribe to what amounts to monopolies in tv cable and dish providers

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johntelford ★ [1 month ago](#)

Not all locations have a local TV station. In the Niagara Region the closest TV station is CHCH in Hamilton. This station focuses principally on Hamilton, Halton and Toronto, with very limited Niagara coverage. For a considerable amount of the Niagara Region the Buffalo stations are closer! In that context, I don't have a local station, so I am sure the CRTC would not have me pay extra for Toronto or Hamilton TV stations, if in its wisdom it agrees to extra charges.

As it is, I am opposed to increasing cable fees for the provision of local service, unless it was in a seperate package to which one could subscribe. The TV stations already receive funding through the LPIF (a hidden charge) and the Canadian Television Fund.

Acquisitive management at TV stations have dug themselves into a hole and expect the consumer to bail them out. Not this time, I hope.

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Jeff Holm, PEng ★ [1 month ago](#)

The CBC and other national Broadcasts should be freely availble over the air to most citizens. In Kamloops BC, a service area of approx. 100,000, does not get any CBC broadcast even though the cost of new digital service is estimated to be very reasonable. Apparently the CBC thinks that all people are well served by cable subscription. Funny, I can get CBC French broadcast so at least my French is improving...

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Parker ★ [1 month ago](#)

1) In an earlier post the point was made that local channels have value. With set-top boxes (either cable or satellite) the opportunity exists to let each of the subscribers choose which channels they may receive. I would say that if an end were brought to this bundling approach and everyone could choose their own channel list, then permit any channel be charged for. On the matter of offering a small number of local channels at no charge - I must have missed that in their advertizing. I suspect after equipment costs are covered there is still some fees involved. It costs the operators something to distribute the channels so permission to charge for them is fair.

2) The broadcasters may need more time to raise cash for the digital upgrade. They probably need permission for higher transmitter powers than some have used to equal their analog coverage. I think all power levels used at common transmitter sites (e.g. CN tower, nearby mountain, etc.) should be more or less equal to make reception more consistant and easy to handle with local distribution amplifiers. Once they move to a digital channel, do not force them to move again (a cause of many difficulties in the US they move back to VHF then your antenna

set up may have to be changed yet again.)

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mbjordin ★ [1 month ago](#)

I think local TV companies are entitled to charge cable companies to broadcast their air. If the cable company has to bundle it in another package, why not. I don't want to lose my local television station.

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rad64 ★ [1 month ago](#)

I don't have a problem with local stations negotiating fair value. However, consumers need to be able to determine that value. We are currently "FORCED" to pay for many stations we do not want. Fair market value can be determined by giving consumers more choice.

The Television industry is no different from any other. You need to upgrade services to compete.

The increased customer base for Satellite companies should have the net effect of reduced costs for consumers.

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Fish ★ [1 month ago](#)

Please CRTC DO NOT give in to the pressure from the TV stations. I am a small busniessman and if I mess up, over-extend myself and get into financial trouble, I have to deal with the consequences which include possible bankruptcy.

No one will come to my aid.

However, the TV companies over-paid for assets, over-paid their executives and now are complaining that if we dont face an extra tax to support them they will shut down local programming.

What a farce! Maybe I would be more receptive if they gave an undertaking to cut their mutimillion dollar purchases of US porgramming and promised to cap executive pay in the future.

Our media ownership is far too concentrated. Let them break up and others will take over. If necessary the small idependants can be funded,but please dont send our money into a big black corporate hole.

Stand up for the Canadian programming and for diversity of wonserhip and views.

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Boumbalatti ★ [1 month ago](#)

Why should the CRTC be asking such questions. Rediculous that they might even have the power to control such things. Set this damn country free. We will decide what we want by paying for it not by the CRTC deciding who we are, what we are and what we want to be. IF I could escape this country without having to pay a 25% exit tax from my meager RRSP's I would be gone. The promise of my youth has been stolen by the absurdly interventionist Canadian Government model. Ambient Canadian tax rates are nuts read the economist other western nations are worried about raising taxes at a high rate of 50% in England and 42% in Germany and we pay high rates already up to 68%. Lets just add some more taxes. It won't be long ow until it won't matter who signs our pay cheques we will all really be working for the government. The CRTC is part of our problem not part of a solution.

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Rick ★ [1 month ago](#)

A friend, who has a satellite system, has never got CHBC locally and I have to tell him what's happening, locally, as I have an antenna. Our local programming has been taken away, except for the evening news. CBC took away their broadcasting, locally, after the last winter Olympics, and it seems cable & satellite are CBC's distributors now. Who's paying who here? I remember when I could get CBC in any remote part of this country, Not any more. Global Vancouver has taken over both broadcasting systems locally after buying out CTV and CHBC, so now we have the same programming on both channels, except for the evening news. The CRTC has already shoved our TV where the sun don't shine!

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Boumbalatti ★ [1 month ago](#)

Hey folks we all know how this works in Canada. Think of Satelite TV. CRYTC dithered over it for years and only when Jean Chretien's son showed up as a rep and probable shareholder of one of the applicants did we finally get the service. CRTC is an antiquated outfit designed to protect our politically connected elite. You know the guys that never go to jail. We ave our own system of elected 4 year kings. Canadian government has the texture of Hugo Chavez and the secrecy of the old east block. We will be consulted and then we will be robbed again.

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Alicia ★ [1 month ago](#)

I support cable companies having to pay for broadcasters local signals. These should be paid for already as broadcasters are subsidizing cable companies for free airing of their signals.

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mfeldstein ★ [1 month ago](#)

The answers to your two discussion questions are: No & No.

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johnbarazzuol ★ [1 month ago](#)

I have no problem with local television getting a per subscriber fee, lets face it TSN, Much Music, and other so called specialty channels get a per subscriber fee plus advertising fees, so why shouldn't the playing field be equal, either everyone gets a per subscriber fee or rule that if you get advertising fees you don't get a per subscriber fee

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mcpish ★ [1 month ago](#)

1. During the recent hearings regarding the issue of "Value for Signal", I recall hearing broadcasters make the erroneous assumption that "...consumers already believe they are paying for our signal". As an average Canadian with no ties to the broadcasting industry I can assure you that I am not, nor have I ever made such a false assumption.

Conventional OTA television stations broadcast signals using the public airwaves while receiving income from advertising. There has never been a direct financial relationship between conventional OTA broadcasters and the viewing public. The deployment of Cable television did not change this fact. Cable was required to carry local OTA stations in order to preserve the integrity of local broadcast rights, there still was no financial relationship. I am opposed to the "value for signal" proposition put forward by the broadcasters. If such an arrangement comes into effect Cable customers ought to be able to opt-out of receiving locals via cable. I would

simply install an outdoor aerial/antenna on my roof to continue to receive locals while receiving all the other programming that is not freely available over-the-air via cable. It seems absurd to charge a regular monthly fee for channels that are available free over-the-air. A consumer can simply install an antenna for a one time payment to receive those stations. When digital transition occurs, OTA reception of locals will be even more viable/practical than it ever was in the analog realm. High Quality digital reception would be possible with a standard antenna, negating the entire purpose of having locals available via cable in any case.

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 *Anders* ★ [1 month ago](#)

I am for supporting local TV stations. Cable profits by using their signal and I think they should have to pay for it. I dont think cable companies should impose an extra fee for local tv they make enough money as it is. Cable should pay its fair share.

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 *Ray _S* ★ [1 month ago](#)

I am not convinced that HDTV is good value for the money spent. Absolutely, there is better picture and sound quality. These are still subjective features, but in terms of meaningful information transmitted to the human brain they do nothing because the additional information is beyond the power of the human brain to process. The analog signals were quite good enough for me.

The change to a digital regime does make it easier for cable companies to control what we receive, but for those of us who have become accustomed to finding things by surfing the net this kind of controlled choice is exactly what we don't need.

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 *Bob* ★ [1 month ago](#)

The so-called "fair value" was established at the dawn of Canadian broadcasting when Stations were permitted to carry Commercial Advertising rather than imposing "User Licence" charges. Any business plan includes equipment upgrades.

We did not go through this hand-wringing when we made the transition to colour television.

I see no reason to subsidize local or national stations for the switch to digital which has been long and drawn-out (two years behind the US).

As was done in the US, any subsidies should be for the Consumer to make the transition, NOT the industry.

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 *Aaron* ★ [1 month ago](#)

I think that Digital television could improve the way television is seen and we could go without the law itself by having each channel have a choice whether or not they want to go with this format.

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 *Aaron* ★ [1 month ago](#)

I think that Digital television could improve the way television is seen and we could go without the law itself by having each channel have a choice whether or not they want to go with this format.

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Ardell ★ [1 month ago](#)

Cable stations should allow us to customize our cable packages so we don't have to pay for local channels we don't want to see. Canadians are already one of the most heavily taxed nations. If Rogers and Shaw pay money to the local stations it should go to the producers and actors. Then they would not have to rely so heavily on advertising revenue, they would need less commercials. The consumer gets a better product. The Cable company loses out but they've been making money off a free signal for years. Bottom line cable Companies should pay.

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Amber Van Poucke ★ [1 month ago](#)

3. Allowing local stations to negotiate for the value of their signals would definitely have an impact on the industry's current and future business plans. They will probably end up charging more, and customers will NOT be happy. Television is a business, and the people should be paid for their services, but why do they have to charge so much? Local stations would get more supporters and watchers if their channels were DECENT.

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Mark Umbenhower ★ [1 month ago](#)

If most local signals are offered over-the-air then I see no reason that these stations should be able to charge the cable company any fee. We should just tell people they need an antenna on their roof to get local channels and leave cable for subscriptions channels.

The government should assist upgrading stations in markets that cannot afford to do so easily, and perhaps offer a rebate on compatible receivers/antennas to help promote consumers to try it out.

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BB ★ [1 month ago](#)

1. It is going to have a huge impact on viewing because even with this issue being brought up is causing a mass stir in the public which people are questioning whether or not they want to keep cable or local tv around already and they haven't even started negotiating. This will have impact on all advertising and revenue of both local and cable tv. I think with all the technology around and everything that is available to the average consumer, they are just going to move on and find another source of getting television or watch what they want to watch. I know that they want to fight for Canadian programs and Actors and such but this issue I think will just make it worse for them. The Local channels should of came up with a better strategy before they just jumped into the deep end with the sharks, because as viewers, people are still to skeptical to throw them a life raft and "resue" them.

2. It is hard to say.

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arejay1 ★ [1 month ago](#)

Since the viewer is forced by the CRTC to buy the signal the talk of negotiation is nonsense. The public owns the airwaves not the TV stations. As far as I am concerned the problem for the television industry is that they are fat and lazy and greedy.

If they don't like the existing framework give up their licence and let someone else try. Cable as far as I am concerned is just a substitute for an antenna.

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Walter N. ★ [1 month ago](#)

Get serious. Broadcasters have already gone digital because it is a newer / better technology and because consumers want HD. Those broadcasters who can't / won't go digital are being left behind. If the Government decides that turning off the analog transmitters is in the public interest, you are saving the TV providers costs by allowing them to shut down the old stuff. They don't need yet another subsidy and you don't need to concoct some elaborate scheme with the Satellite providers because some viewers "may" no longer receive their over the air broadcasts. The "victims" here are those viewers who currently have non - digital over the air TV sets and (once having verified how many such people really exist) any subsidy program should be aimed directly at them to help them buy a new TV.

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[Ray S](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) [in reply to Walter N.](#)

It's not enough to say that consumers want HD without saying why. If you can tell your 5-year-old that he can't have everything that he wants from the toy store, why is it that you can't say no to industry? The marginal benefit of these shiny new toys is minimal except to the industries that produce them.

How are you saving the providers money by requiring them to buy new equipment? Shutting down well-functioning old equipment does nothing for this.

Subsidies for buying new TVs would likely have a rocky reception; you might as well say that such a programme should be administered by the food banks.

Local programming has nothing to do with satellites; quite the contrary! It's about people being plugged into their own communities and making volunteer contributions to it. In that context even a single minimum-wage salary may be unsustainable. If any the subsidies should be directed toward building local infrastructures where the residents can participate in producing their own programming.

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[Peter Tattersall](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) [in reply to Ray S](#)

Bravo! Local programming is "about people being plugged into their communities" - well said. Now, just where is that happening? Eric says it's not happening in Kootenay.

Just how big is "local" anyway? If something is taking place 50 km away I don't regard it as particularly local. Should we have stations delivering local programming every 20 km or so? For that scale of delivery, cable channels seem to provide a level of local coverage which you will not get from so-called local television stations.

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[Ray_S](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) [in reply to Peter Tattersall](#)

As critical as I may be of the cable companies, I have to agree with you about their local coverage. Perhaps they had to be brought kicking and screaming to the task, but it may not be as costly as they would have you believe. I don't think that there can be a hard fast definition of what is local. Distance is only one factor. A school catchment area in a big city could qualify as a community. 50 km on a good light trafficked highway may be easier to navigate than a shorter distance in heavy traffic. Communities need to define this for themselves. A small village may be able to support only two hours of television programming per week. It can negotiate with neighbouring communities to fill up the broadcast time of a strategically located station. That station does not need to be on the air 24-7.

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[Eric](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

Local stations? What local stations? I live in the East Kootenays of British Columbia and there is

no local TV station except the Shaw TV channel. So, if I am forced to pay for the CTV channel will I be getting a local TV station or local news? No. I will just be paying more for something with little or no value to me.

Given that the service isn't relevant to me and it isn't local TV, why should I pay for it to be transitioned to digital? It doesn't benefit me in any way and I shouldn't have to pay for it.

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[Ray_S](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to Eric](#) 1 person liked this.

Yes! And even if the people of Invermere produced their own programming, would it be relevant to those in Field. CTV is a national, not a local provider, and where you are the question would also arise about whether Calgary news is more relevant than Vancouver news.

If you are required to pay for local TV it is incumbent on those getting your money to provide it rather than pretending that events in Vancouver or Calgary are local to you.

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[Eric](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to Ray_S](#)

Absolutely and from what I read on this issue, the networks won't guarantee more local programming or to add (or even keep existing) local stations - even if they transition to digital. So paying more to support these networks would be a loss for me while if the networks go out of business it won't make any difference to me.

I can't see why I should provide any "incentive" for a digital transition or pay for a channel that is not local or have any value (digital or not).

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[Dagobah](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

It's already been said but the more voices that say it the better... I do not want to pay for what should be given for free. That was the premise of their business model and so should it remain. If they choose to go to a paid service we need to demand that it be optional so that they can see the real power of the people and loose all their revenue from advertising because of lost viewers.

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[Bruce](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

The USA converted to digital service this year and none of the television networks there complained about the cost (maybe because it is a part of doing business); we are converting 2 years after the USA; these Canadian businesses are crying foul and want the taxpayer to pay for the upgrades and they can still give their shareholders large dividends; the CRTC should require that these companies can only make a small (not more than a 5%) profit from providing cable, satellite service.

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[mj25](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to Bruce](#)

Sorry...are you talking about the cable and satellite companies here or the networks?

From the cable and satellite's perspective, they wish everything was digital as it takes up less of their bandwidth then the analog one.

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[Eric](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

Local stations? What local stations? I live in the East Kootenays of British Columbia and there is no local TV station except the Shaw TV channel. So, if I am forced to pay for the CTV channel will I be getting a local TV station or local news? No. I will just be paying more for something with little or no value to me.

Given that the service isn't relevant to me and it isn't local TV, why should I pay for it to be transitioned to digital? It doesn't benefit me in any way and I shouldn't have to pay for it.

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[mhumber](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

I do not believe the industry should get any support from the government

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[mikebedard](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

i am against paying for local programming as i do not receive such service. i am already paying extra since these negotiations beagn yet there have been no decisions on the subject as yet. why is that so ? the public purse supports and funds the CBC therefore any need for local programing should be mandated to the cbc as a public service. i do not receive local signals (other than mctv which is programming for the whole of northern ontario which frankly is not worth much) and do not see why i should fund local programming for large centres. we should never be forced to pay for something we do not want, such is a democracy. again, why am i already paying a surtax on my bell express vu bill when none of these fees have been approved ?

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[Ray_S](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to mikebedard](#)

You are paying because the cable companies are playing politics at your expense. It's their way of letting you know that whatever fees are charged by the networks will be passed on to you. The CRTC may very well reject their right to pass on these fees. If that happens you will get a refund credit on your bill with a big fanfare about how compliant they are. Then they will find a quieter way to gouge the money back from you. That may happen too, even if the CRTC rejects the claim of the networks. I suppose this all reflects a heads-I-win-tails-you-lose-approach to cable service.

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[Peter Tattersall](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to Ray_S](#)

The cable companies were very happy when telephone services were opened up to competition. Perhaps we should open up the market and allow similar competition in cable services.

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[Ray_S](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to Peter Tattersall](#)

There's not much difference between the cable and phone companies. Both grew by gobbling up local telephone networks and community cable services. Opening competition to bit players may not be enough; it must be supported by effective anti-trust legislation.

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frustrated ★ [1 month ago](#)

why pay for something we do not get ? why pay for poor canadian content ? the strong channels will survive, those that don't or can't make ends meet have to revisit their business model. if you can't make money at what you do, what the heck are you doing there anyhow ?

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harlie ★ [1 month ago](#)

I like the idea of FreeHD satellite where my cost of entry is buying/leasing the equipment. The model should be extended to allow me to pay for each station I want to receive which includes local stations where advertising does not cover costs. I assume National and regional broadcasters can support some channels with advertising and they would be free.

I pay to get my local paper. I also get enhanced coverage including video through their advertiser supported web content. They have a model that may work if there is no local programming.

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gja ★ [1 month ago](#)

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to voice my opinion.

It all came clear to me when Hurricane Juan hit Halifax in 2002 we lost power for about 3 hours , but we lost cable for about three weeks due to power cable being down and the cable company was unable to restore it until the power company had put up the power cable.

What we went thru for that three week was trying to watch the worst programming I have ever seen.

I never realized how bad local TV was until we were forced to watch the three worst channels ever,

If I have a choice I would cancel the local channels, so don't ask me to pay for them.

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Catherine Leitch ★ [1 month ago](#)

1. Yes, I do. I think that all local stations will go to cable if they are to be paid for their signals. And that there will be NO free viewing, as is currently possible with rabbit ears. Personally, I refuse to support cable companies by purchasing their services because their rates are ridiculous. I currently receive 5-6 channels via rabbit ears. If I have to upgrade my equipment to access local channels after August 31, 2011, fine! If there are no channels available for me to view after doing so, I will gladly throw away my TV. I will NOT, NEVER, pay a cable company for its so-called services because their rates are extortionary. Maybe if it mows my lawn as well, but, until that day, cable companies can take a short walk off a long pier.

2. Gawd! I don't know. From what I've seen of High Definition TV, it's a total rip-off. My old Sony TV gives me 500% better quality of picture and definition than the blurry images on the HD TVs of my friends!!!! HDTV is a total fraud, invented to make more money and more profit for everyone but the consumer. I don't know why everyone is falling for the ridiculous fraud of HDTV.

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Peter Tattersall ★ [1 month ago](#) [in reply to Catherine Leitch](#)

Regarding your point 2: your friends need to have their HDTVs serviced. Or possibly they need to pay for an HD channel.

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Mike Sarabyn ★ 1 month ago

Sounds like blackmail to me. CRTC has given a choice few the ability to hold our view desires at ransom. In a free market, if a local station has a program that is worth viewing then they have a commodity that they should be able to sell and I should be able to buy. Only in monopolies is my freedom of choice stripped away and someone else decides what I should view.

Flag

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gardenladyk ★ 1 month ago

Of course there will be an impact. This is one of those situations where we have to consider what is "right" versus what is "most economical". It's the price you pay for being a huge country. If there is anyone who depends upon a local communications presence it is the small, remote community. They are Canadians, they pay taxes, they deserve equal quality of communication as the rest of us.

I didn't get government assistance to buy a new digital HDTV. I have to pay to upgrade my technology. If the industry gets assistance, it should be in the form of a loan as new technology is a cost of business from which they will generate ongoing revenue. So sure, to keep the cash flow going, give them a hand. But once it's done enforce a repayment schedule.

AND make the cable companies upgrade so they send a signal that doesn't crash 2 times an hour.

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Ray_S ★ 1 month ago in reply to gardenladyk

Yes, doing what is right is important, and that includes maintaining service to underpopulated areas. If a for-profit business that wants to compete in the marketplace can't get funding through standard market sources then maybe its business plan is not a good one. Not-for-profit enterprises are a different matter, and they need to be approached differently, perhaps with well-targeted help.

Good local service could be had through the internet at very low cost. You-tube has already proven that. In many respect we should be heading toward "The Everything TV" as discussed in "Scientific American" for November 2009. The merger of internet and Cable TV services is technically feasible, but there is great resistance from those who believe that they should control what you want to watch. That control is predicated on what is most profitable to them.

We can fairly complain that internet speeds in Canada and the US are slow in comparison to what is available, and that problem carries over into TV transmission. That SciAm article cites marketing surveys that show that people with good high-speed internet are far more willing to economize by dropping Cable TV.

Newspapers are already in deep trouble, and cable TV is not far behind. The present discussion also ties in to the ones about net neutrality and copyright reform. To a lesser extent it also has links with the distribution of spam (which after all is just another form of advertising), and even the control of kiddie porn.

These matters are only partly within the mandate of the CRTC. At the same time governments have been completely outpaced by advances in communications technology. I regret that our politicians (with only a few exceptions) are deer-in-the-headlights gobsmacked by this confluence. Still it's up to them to lead us out of this mess without relying on the time outworn solutions of their bagmen.

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DMartin ★ 1 month ago

What has changed in 40 years? We still watch the local stations as we always have. We pay them by watching the commercials (more now than ever) and we pay the cable guys to bring

those stations to us clearer than the ghostly snowy images that we had to put up with. We make the decision on what the value is. We have the choice to go over the air or pay for cable. What we decide to pay to the cable companies to bring us your feeds is not yours. You are already benefitting greatly from the cable companies by carrying your feeds.

The cable companies are greatly increasing your market by expanding the area that your feed (commercials) can be seen clearly and you want them to pay you for that? It should be the other way around.

The cable guys are forced to switch feeds from the US networks to the local station as you schedule your programs at the same time so we in the border areas all across Canada (probably 80% of the population) are 'paying' more by watching more local feeds instead of allowing us the choice to view the US stations with less commercials etc.

If we end up giving the locals cash as well for their product and being forced to watch their feeds then this switching has to stop. They are already getting an great advantage being supplied BY the cable companies in their forced switching and greater clear viewing area. The locals should go to the Bassets of the world and ask them what they did with the BILLIONS that they didn't reinvest in product development in the good old days.

If we the consumer end up paying even more then we should be given the choice to have their product or not i.e. opting out of local feeds or else the cash would turn into an arbitrary tax if we are forced to pay for something we don't use.

Please locals, please cut the feeds to the cable companies. We won't miss you. You are forcing a decision that may cost you more than you for some reason think you are entitled to. Don't mess with a good thing. You have it better than you deserve.

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[micahg](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

I believe that distributors (satellite and cable companies) should be required to pay for the signal if they are not going to distribute the already free (over the air) product in a free and compatible manner. If I put up an antenna, I can get all of my local stations for free and I can record them for viewing later. If I'm paying the cable company for local stations I should not be locked into renting or purchasing their hardware and watching they're over-compressed low quality signals. I should be able to buy a third-party tuner that uses a compatible standard (DVB-S/DVB-S2 or ATSC) and watch the local programming on whatever STB I want, or plug it directly into my ATSC compatible TV.

I know I am going to be called a communist for saying this, but I also think that incentives, such as subsidizing the equipment upgrade costs, would be an effective way to help the industry move towards an all digital solution. I personally feel that local programming should continue to be broadcast over the air (or satellite) in a properly free solution that doesn't lock Canadians into contracts with a particular distributor and is available to everyone.

Finally, I do not think that the broadcasters should not be allowed to drag their feet in the transition to digital. Analogue is dead, and digital is a better technology. Its time to move on!

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[Peter Tattersall](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) [in reply to micahg](#) 1 person liked this.

How could we call you a communist? The US subsidized consumer conversion boxes as well. Or did you mean to subsidize television stations so they could buy new digital equipment? Don't they already have the ability to write off equipment, and don't they need to upgrade equipment on a regular basis anyway? The only change which might be made there would be to allow the stations to write off the equipment faster.

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micahg ★ [1 month ago](#) [in reply to Peter Tattersall](#)

To be clear, I meant subsidize the digital broadcasting equipment. And I was only saying that because the cost is supposed to be prohibitive -- I was under the impression that the cost was the reason mid-sized markets (London, KW, etc) don't have digital signals. If that is not the case, then the stations should pick up the pace in moving to digital!!!

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M. MacQueen ★ [1 month ago](#)

We like to watch the local TV station (London) for the latest area news and weather and often find stations from Toronto don't have the correct weather for our area and never any news from here. At present we have a satellite dish and find it expensive enough with out an increase in monthly rates, however, we also feel they should pay a fee to the local stations to help them remain. Thank you.

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Helen Gordon ★ [1 month ago](#)

First of all satellite companies charge far too much for what they offer now. I like my local station, Sudbury, & will be up in arms if it is removed because of selfish, overpaid executives of both large TV enterprises and the greed of satellite & cable companies. Already I am charged a Contribution Fee to CRTC's LPIF of \$1.10 without consultation. Obviously I'm paying for CRTC in addition to Bell ExpressVu. Now I am told of this forced change over to digital which will cost money for the companies involved - why? Supposedly I will have better picture & sound - how about better programming? Why don't these companies spend money on programs that are worthwhile watching? I mainly watch PBS stations as they at least provide intelligent programs. I'm fed up being stuck with 50 channels showing the same claptrap at all hours of the day. As for stations advertising 250 movies a month - hardly - they have a dozen movies to which they show over & over again. The local stations are invaluable to those folks who do not live in the large cities in Canada. I don't care what happens in Vancouver, Regina, Winnipeg and definitely not interested in Toronto. I watch MCTV in order to get up-to-date weather and news that reflect the North. I will, if I have to, pay extra & I am sure that no matter what happens either the satellite companies or the large TV owners will get this money from the consumer - one way or the other. If the CRTC was efficient, capable and looking to the benefit the consumer they would make both satellite/cable & the TV station owners listen to their customers & not to their shareholders. However, we live in a time when money speaks and the rest can whistle in the dark. I would like to be able to select each channel rather than get stuck with packages of which, usually, only one station is of any good and the rest is garbage. I do not pay extras - pay TV, movies, rent DVD's etc. I am a pensioner & \$83.74 for satellite service, such as it is, is too much. If further costs are relayed to me by either TV stations or Bell ExpressVu, I will then have to reconsider what part of the present service will be removed. Shame on the greed of these overspending, delinquent groups and shame on CRTC for allowing this to happen. Where are our safeguards as consumers? Where indeed.

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billcooke ★ [1 month ago](#)

There are a couple of issues that remain unheard. First, local tv provides the cable sat. people with their signal free for them to re broadcast to the public. One would think, well - just stop doing that. Can't, you see, in this day of taking polls and tracking what we the public are reading, watching and or listening to the advertising buck can go higher or lower depending on what % of people get your service. So local TV relies on cable and sat. getting to everyone in the community maximizing the advertising buck. If they stopped give free signal to the cable sat. providers then there advertising buck would drop as a result of fewer people able to receive the advertisement. So, in reality cable and sat. are doing the local tv providers a favour, just like they do to local radio on cable or satellite. This makes things that much tougher to make a reasonable decision on. It seems to make sense that local tv should get a bit of the cash cow cable and sat providers make from charging for their free signal but flip the coin, should cable

and sat providers share in the advertising buck the local stations get? Does that complicate things!

I do thing the way cable and sat providers are telling the public what is going on is very incorrect, thinking there is millions in subsidies to local stations. Thing of how many local stations there are across Canada and if there is subsidy, that million or so buck are spread very thin per station. I really don't thing that cable and sat providers are left out of a federal subsidy either.

So this becomes a very tough issue to resolve. Personally, if it were not for the recession there would be no talk of this. However it happened, and the pot is stirring.

I believe that the cable and sat provider should open the local channels up for free and in that way, resolve the issue. No one would profit from broadcast or re broadcast any local tv or radio station in this scenario whether it be cable or satellite. No one get "taxed" and you would not have to subscribe to get local stations PERIOD.

If this solution is not in agreement with all then I would have to side on the local tv side and have cable offer a % of the minimum fee subscribers pay for the local re broadcasts.

Sadly, the way this wold seems to be going this won't last long till everything is streamed on the internet anyway so this is likely a short term problem/solution anyway.

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[debbieegerton](#) ★ 1 month ago

I believe that local TV is so vital to all the small towns these stations service. Without the inflated costs that cable companies charge they feel they would be out of business, yet they accuse the small stations to. Then to add insult and to demean their fair requests they are going to charge a "cable tax" to the consumer who already pays more then our fair share to these cable companies.

It would be great if someone would find a way to control the out of control prices these cable companies are charging, and force them to pay the smaller stations as they do the "specialty" stations

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[Peter Tattersall](#) ★ 1 month ago

1: Allowing local stations to negotiate for the value of their signals implies that there is value in those signals. The only way to establish that is to remove the 'basic cable' designation and allow the market to determine whether or not the local stations have any value at all. Unbundle everything and set up a cafeteria-style selection of programming. For a transitional period, allow cable companies to offer the current selection and price structure, but require them to prepare for a transition to fully independent selections with everything unbundled and all channels available for a stated price. Let us transition to a true 1000-channel environment.

2: The industry has complained many times about government interference in their operations. Let us accommodate them, and not interfere beyond mandating that digital broadcasting must be implemented (this is not interference, but simply a condition of their renting public bandwidth). Equipment replacement is an ongoing cost of doing business, and broadcasters already receive tax benefits in the form of write-offs for equipment purchases. If the federal government wishes to provide temporary accelerated write-offs and suffer the attendant loss of tax revenue, let that be debated in Parliament.

Neither support nor incentives should be provided, and if that causes some to fail, so be it. Others will come forward to fill any gaps that develop.

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[Tim Warner](#) ★ 1 month ago

Free market all the way!

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*jackderksen* ★ [1 month ago](#)

Cable, satellite and network broadcasters should not require public funding (i.e. tax supported or otherwise) If they produce programs that people want to watch they will survive, if not they should not be on the air. That applies to all networks, including the CBC (aka the Communist Broadcasting Corporation)

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*mikerepas* ★ [1 month ago](#)

If local stations are not happy with their return, they should cease operation. If they have to invest in their BUSINESS to upgrade their infrastructure LIKE EVERY OTHER BUSINESS so be it. There should be NO INCENTIVES as it is a free an open market.

[Flag](#)

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*david hoye* ★ [1 month ago](#)

Yes, we should always price content, and pass the price along to the users of that content.

In the new world it should be possible for cable companies to direct individually tailored channel packages to each customer, and for customers to get what they want, and not pay for what they do not want. "Public programming" can be subsidized by public subscription, government subsidy, or the (reported) subventions of interest groups, with the result that the pricing of these channels would be reduced in competitive markets

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*mikestamcos* ★ [1 month ago](#)

1. So long as people can choose and pay only for the channels they want (including local stations) then the impact on the industry's plans will be determined by the market. The first and formost thing the CRTC should do is force the sat and cable companies to allows customer to pick and choose what they want to watch. The market will decide who survives.

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*bradmcmillan* ★ [1 month ago](#) [in reply to mikestamcos](#)

i agree, but let's underline 'force'. bundling is the providers bread and butter. 'if you want this one channel, you have to pay for these other 10....'

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*SusanHutton* ★ [1 month ago](#)

As I do not have Cable or Satallite, because both are too expensive. And with the recent decision to exclude analog I no longer watch TV because I cannot afford. Many, Many people are finding themselves in this situation. And it will not matter to most of us who cannot afford the present TV situation whether Local nagotiates or not. Ther are large numbers of people who go online and watch our favorite program for Free. And we are all very sure with this reacent situation that that will be taken away from us as well. Whose idea was it go digital? the Cable and satalite companies? If they are running a business then the Government should jsut step asside, you have no business getting involved, and as for protecting Canadian Content it is too little too late. Let everyone run thier business as they wish and then let us see how many people can continue to afford thier service.

I wish I could afford to watch TV because it is my only source of Entertainment but, I guess I will have to continue using the internet TV.

Good Luck with your dicision

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[leslielarson](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

We currently are without a local station as Brandon is no longer. We do not get local news, weather or sports. It has left a giant void in our viewing. We were happy to get all our programs by antena until CRTC would not give out a licence for Brandon. The we lost CBC completely. However because we are a small minority our voice is lost in the frantic finger pointing. We now have satelite and we are getting a lot of channels we will never use. We still watch the 3 Canadian channels from Manitoba, CBC CTV, CKND. We do not get a choice about other channels. MTS TV only sells to the densely populated cities so in reality we are the ones paying for things we don't want or need.

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[MR Boyer](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

I believe it is extremely important to for me to have access to local stations. I feel this so strongly that I would discontinue tv service to any entity that did not provide that access. I would then use local radio and print media to keep me informed and access the net for outside the area news. For me, it is not about cost but about access to what is happening in my community. This access is slowly disappearing and should not be. Access to the wider community is important and is certainly more accessible than it was but it should still not be at the expense of access to local (and I mean really local hometown) information.

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[Steve](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

You are giving local stations the option of a much larger base through freehd and they want to charge as well? I think that with the larger base they will be able to charge more for advertising and should more than get their money back. If their programming is not very good, it will and should die if no one is watching them. Maybe give the industry tax breaks for the new digital equipment, and like the US give the people who need it a cheap set top box to pick up the local digital channels-as a side note, increase the power of the digital transmitters, locally a number of people are having trouble with CTV who live any distance away from Mount Seymour in Vancouver.

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[mikenelsonmikenelson](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

The cable monopolies should be required to pay the local tv stations a fee for the transmission of their signals without the cable companies charging the fee to the customer. This should not be considered a tax but rather a fee for services provided by local tv. The Cable companies should pay more tax and have a ceiling imposed upon them as to how much they can charge a customer. The cable companies should pay an additional and high tax for the fact that they are monopolies.

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[roscoerands](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

Is it the intent of the cable companies to completely isolate the Canadian public from their communities? How much money do they need?

The simple truth is that they don't care about the public, only the money they can squeeze out of us. If the CRTC does do the right thing and force the cable companies to pay for local (an issue that ethically shouldn't exist), then the cost will be transfered to us. The Power Company has done just this with their "Reduction" in rates, in the end the almighty dollar will win.

Decency is on some backburner somewhere and GREED is king. I am discusted that this is even an issue.

Roscoe Rands
Murray Siding, NS
B6L 3B4

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Jennifer ★ [1 month ago](#)

As much as I like my local programming, it should be a business decision like any other. If the market is not there to support the capital investment required to upgrade their assets, then the business is no longer viable and the market will adjust accordingly. I don't think it is right however, to have the local stations shoulder the investment and then have the cable and sat companies walk in a charge for the service without compensating the locals. The US has already gone through this, what did they do? Let's not reinvent the wheel...again.

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ray_s ★ [1 month ago in reply to Jennifer](#)

We also need to keep reminding ourselves in this discussion that CBC, CTV and Global are not "local". They are national entities with decision makers sitting in far away boardrooms.

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michaeltaylor ★ [1 month ago](#)

Sure I think allowing local channels to negotiate for the value of their signals would have an impact. If the CRTC even thinks about doing that they had better give the cable consumer the right to opt out of receiving and paying for local TV just as they have with all the other channels who negotiate fees. I hope they haven't miscalculated because if cable subscribership is poor, they'll be short on subscription cash and their advertising cash will dry up even faster than it already has.

No I don't think the industry deserves any support at all. They don't need to install new infrastructure, the CRTC forces cable companies to carry their signal for them free of charge already. This could kill free tv for some people in remote areas though. Maybe local stations should be able to plead hardship in some cases and receive an exemption from the mandatory transition.

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cliffordmorris ★ [1 month ago](#)

1. If local TV negotiates a fee to be paid my cable companies and satellite companies, I am sure that cost will get passed back to consumers. My reaction will be to reduce service.

I am not sure why there has to be a march forward with through the air digital TV. Those that want it, can buy it in most areas. Satellite service is digital, and is receivable anywhere. So why is the industry forcing the people how use an antenna into a much more expensive solution?

Incentives? Absolutely not. I do not want to see government assistance, that means higher taxes.

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DeanOwen ★ [1 month ago](#)

OTA is a fraction of the delivery of TV programming in this modern day. CRTC should worry about the other digital revolution - TV via the web. Net neutrality, fair & equitable pricing for bandwidth and true competition in delivery of internet to homes and businesses. The future of

media content creators and distributors is the internet.

Flag

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kevinh ★ 1 month ago

Of course it will have an impact.

The local stations will be able to afford to build that new digital transmitter if the cable and satellite contribute to resell the signal.

The cable and satellite companies are already very profitable so their business model will be able to adapt to increased costs.

The CRTC must find some mechanism to provide TV signals to rural areas.

Cable companies are only interested in providing service to urban areas where lots of revenue can be generated and costs to get it are less.

If the cable and satellite companies want to continue to get local TV for free, they should be forced to provide service to rural areas.

For rural areas to lose access to TV signals that they could get 50 yrs. ago, doesn't seem like forward progress to me.

The transition to digital should be set up so that more people have access to over-the-air signals. Less access seems like a big step backwards.

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petergomery ★ 1 month ago

TV stations rely on advertising revenue to survive - the higher the number of viewers - the higher revenues. It's the cable companies that increase viewership and the TV stations should be grateful for their existence. Without cable many would be forced out of business. Too bad for them- that's the way free enterprise works. NO Bailouts for TV

Flag

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petergomery ★ 1 month ago

TV signals have no value. Program content and advertising are what makes or breaks a TV station. Cable increases potential viewership which in turn increases potential advertising revenue. If revenue fails to meet expenses - get out of the business or change you format. It comes down to supply and demand. Offer what viewers want and you'll survive

Flag

Like



pH ★ 1 month ago

A couple of points:

If local signals are sold, the demand and supply may cause some local broadcasters to thrive and others to die off. I am not in favour of this - I figure our area would not thrive...

Yet, as a consumer I want local TV and would be willing to pay for it. I think the definition of "local" is not clear. I was told by Starchoice that Halifax, NS is local programming for us- but we live in NB and not NS.

Examples - We have Starchoice and live in NB. Our most watched shows were on Global Maritimes and we watched CBC news for NB everynight. Starchoice no longer carries Global Maritimes, or CBC NB. I called to ask about it and was told Halifax stations were considered local, and that were getting the same shows as Global Maritimes, just on other stations. My problem with this:

if I have to watch commercials or news updates, during shows, I want local content (which is already out there) - not Halifax or NF or Toronto. Where is our sense of community? Seems to be getting 1st. And as for the shows, they are not always in the same time slots - at least not

now.

We debated switching to Rogers since they have a local station, but then we loose the better time shifting options and other stations we like. Neither service is the ideal choice for us.

I remember the days of 3 channels (two English and one French) and rabbit ears. In fact, I have a TV set up in a spare room for just that because it is the only way to ensure local service. Now I will be losing that too.

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[joanneg](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

It's all too complicated for me. All I know is that I want to continue to receive local channels for the news, weather etc. I already pay about \$70 a month to Star Choice and that is enough for me.

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[sclewin](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

1. Local stations have the choice to give away their signal or not, it is up to them. They should not be allowed to have the government to become bill collectors for local TV. And, yes it will have a negative impact as many people like myself will have a seriously bad resentment for these local TV stations and will stop watching them. Also, many people are going to abandon the satellite and cable companies for free to air options. So, everyone gets hurt in the long run.

2. No, the industry already gets WAY too much money. They should not be receiving any money at all. Our capitalist society will not work when the government keeps on giving out corporate welfare cheques to these TV stations. If they can not succeed on their own that paves the way for people that can get it working. That may even be better as that could pave the way for the return of real independent "local TV" stations.

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[chrisbartlett](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

The only thing only TV is offering now is news. The shows are all just US network shows (except CBC). TV Bills are already getting too high for the average Canadian.

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[Jim Anderson](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

I think local stations should have the ability to negotiate the value of their signals - but I don't think they should count on that value to be very high. And I don't think consumers should be forced to pay for it if they want television services that exclude the local stations. I would think the broadcasters should be satisfied with the 'captive audience' that they already have - given the cable and satellite companies MUST carry their stations to all their customers. Changing that model will put into question the relevance of the local stations.

I don't see how the industry requires support to implement this transition. I don't know of ANYONE who used an antenna any more. Why bother establishing transmission equipment at all?!

How does the CRTC feel that Canadians "benefit" from the broadcasting system today?!?

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[acrawford](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

1. I believe local stations should be allowed to charge for their signal in any situation where

carriers have the choice not to carry it, and consumers have the choice not to receive it.

2. No incentives are needed.

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[fredhamilton](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

1/I think local ststions have a right to negotiate the value of their signals;however , the value should be established by negotiation not "big brother".2/The industry should negotiate support from the industry and the CRTC.

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[Jonny B](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

1. The question assumes local signals have value. This hasnt been shown.
2. If the alternative to satellite and cable is free to air, then there is no additional value and there is no need to grant broadcasters a negotiation right
3. If broadcasters want to be in business, it is their responsibility to upgrade their technology to digital
4. No support should be provided. Having a licence is NOT an entitlement to taxpayer subsidies
- 4.

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[Phil](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

Negotiation for the value of signals is only truly negotiation if the cable/satellite/carrier has the option of refusing to carry the signal at all. It cannot be a true negotiation if the carrier MUST purchase signals that the majority of its users do not want AND must agree with the broadcaster for the price of that signal.

It's no secret that Cable/satellite/other carrier (IPTV?) make a lot of money. However, broadcasters, including local tv broadcasters, must ensure that their own business models are viable as well. I would submit that today's audience simply doesn't have the patience to sit through nearly 20 minutes of advertising per hour of broadcasting and is therefore moving towards specialty/for pay channels with less or even no commercials or online content. When an industry is dying, subventions like the "tv tax" or "negotiation for the value of signals" only delay what the market should fix on its own.

Broadcasters have known for years that digital is coming. TV is here to stay...but if certain broadcasters fail to adapt then perhaps some new ones (perhaps "Canadian content makers" instead of "broadcasters") can step in and fill the void. Change is good, government preventing change isn't.

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[kenhedger](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

Anything available in my area with an antenna should be free. Broadcasters complain of people viewing their progams by computer, then they in turn make these programs available on computer, instead of simply a preview or ad. This is supposed to make sense ? As to digital TV, I see no improvement, think it is just a way to make my TV obsolete

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[John](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

I think local t.v should pay cable co's for carrying their signal enabling canadians to get a clear un interrupted picture, a picture that cost money to deliver, when I can no longer see that picture my cable co. comes out to fix it not Global, CTV or CBC They just sit back and reap the

rewards of advertisers. if it wasn't for my cable provider all these years I probably would have never tuned into these channels because lets face it have you ever seen their transmissions with just rabbit ears. With a clear picture, Cable co's have allowed these stations to build up their business by reaching out to more people allowing for better advertising, marketing etc...

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[John](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

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[John Ruetz](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

1. As a typical industry outsider and consumer I am not certain about the micro- or macro-economic issues raised by the question. If local television can not manage its own affairs now, then in my opinion it is unlikely they prosper in the digital reality. Broadcasters need great managers to survive, people with proven experience to succeed, not the multi-generational offspring of the original owners with no qualifications, training or acumen.

2. Support or incentives to implement the transition? If there are capital technology and transition costs and investments that are required, then it should be the responsibility of local stations and their networks to properly budget and manager their affairs to ensure they can make the transition. What are the American's (if anything?) with this issue? Learn from them, however, do not attempt to impose an addition fee or tax or however you want to dress it up and expect consumers to be willing to pay for it. Americans would rebel (bad pun) if this was foisted upon them.

Bottom line, if it is not economically or financially feasible for network or television station to make the transition, then it should be allowed to go out of business. That is business, and the government can not go around proping up every bad business, or allow creative taxing or feeing to sustain bad business. If CKCO in Kitchener ceases to exist, then to me it means their is a business property avaiable on King Street. Nothing more since I do not have any need to watch that station since it has practically nothing of interest for me.

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[tonyguy](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

Not sure what the question is. I think local stations might negotiate fees for carriage but if the distribution companies pass through the costs I want the right to opt out and not receive them.

The government should offer no support to anybody.

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[JinAB](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

I object to requiring either cable companies or customers to support TV networks simply because they are adhering to an outdated business model. While local stations are important, it is incumbent on their owners to find a business model to support them. If they can't, then they should sell them to someone who can. Much of the problem is arising from the concentration of ownership within the Canadian media industry in general and the TV sector in particular.

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M_L_W ★ 1 month ago

1. While there remains a requirement that local tv signals must be carried and while the simulcast rules give the local tv station a market share advantage, these would not be negotiations, but blackmail. Eliminate the local tv regulated advantages, then there can be a FMV negotiation.
2. Why not a voucher system to allow consumers to buy the converter boxes or digital antenna at a subsidized price? The industry itself should not be subsidized.

Flag

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aaronmueller ★ 1 month ago

1. Yes negotiating for the value of their signals would have an impact on the business plans because they will want more money for what they already provide. It was not anyone's choice but the TV stations themselves to switch to digital from analogue. That would be like saying my friend bought an HD TV plus everything required to set it up and then every time I wanted to go to his house to watch the hockey game I would have to pay him ten dollars because he chose to upgrade his equipment without my input. THIS DOESN'T MAKE SENSE. If Local TV wants to broadcast in digital they can pay for it out of their regular earnings for the year. I GET TAXED TOO MUCH ALREADY. I DON'T NEED ANOTHER TAX EXPENSE.
2. The industry does not need any support or incentives. They make too much money as it is already.

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Barbara Whitmer ★ 1 month ago

Hi,

I have a few comments on the Local TV Matters vs. TV tax issue.

In 1956, the Canadian Fowler Commission heard testimony suggesting the formation of an independent regulator (CBC Broadcasting had been operating as broadcaster and regulator since 1936), and the licensing of private television stations to broadcast in regions capable of supporting them, with advertising paying costs of over the air (OTA) free signals to viewers. By 1967, the CRTC had been formed, and private OTA television stations faced the advent of cable television offering more choices in programming, colour television, and clearer reception. Bell was a government sanctioned telephone monopoly with guaranteed rate of returns (Ottawa would raise Bell's rates when the company's expenses rose). Bell opted to string cables on its poles to customers' homes and leased the cables to cable operators rather than provide cable service itself.

Technological innovation (Internet, fibre optics, wireless) has driven the diversification of broadcasting to multiplatforms – multiple screens – and the convergence of carriers and service providers in telecommunications, broadcasting, wireless, Internet, cable with content producers (in-house and independent). The goal has been to communicate content media to viewers in any form anytime anywhere. The profile of the consuming viewer has changed through a phenomenon of disintermediation – the elimination of middle markets – to a more direct relationship between product and consumption. (Music created by artists in a studio by a label and distributed to retail outlets became created by artists and sold by them directly to consumers on the Internet.) The effect is passive mass consumption has become more individual and multiple user pro-active in shaping production, to the point of re-forming and creating the product and content by consumers as user generated content (UGC) and the immediacy of online social networks.

So where are the regional/local private OTA television stations in the digital world? Is CTV trying the old Bell raise our rates ruse (even if they missed the boat on providing cable services and wireless, and now want to take out missed opportunities on those that did)? We know cable carriers are required to carry local TV content bundled in cable packages paid for by viewers. Why should cable carriers pay the local stations if they are required to carry local station content? That's not fair market practice – that's extortion. Fee-for-carriage makes the OTA network a de facto regulator, not a competitor with the cable providers. There have to be fair

rules of interconnection and sustainable competition. We know companies cross-subsidize operations with high rates of return in one area to cover low returns in another. If the regions are not capable of supporting local OTA stations owned by larger networks, there's a problem with the network's business model.

Canadian networks buy 70% of US programming for hundreds of millions of dollars. They are second only to Latin America (77%). Europe has 44%. Maybe distributors would be cheaper. Are Canadian networks championing local TV because the Canadian news and sports will allow them to fulfill their Canadian content quotas and continue to rake in profits from their dependency on airing/simulcasting US programming without investing in the Canadian content production community? Americans make THEIR profit from international sales (theatrically and television programming). They have an extensive global marketing, distribution and licensing system, while Canada's is piecemeal and ineffective, especially for Canadian programming. It's a global economy, where Canadians can compete with the best of them and build relationships – if they choose. It isn't just about Cancon, it's about a fundamental shift in focusing economic priorities and practices.

Local TV Matters vs. TV tax

TV is an ambiguous word/abbreviation in a multiplatform world. What does it mean? If it means local television commercial content delivery access, and we live in a global village, then we're talking about its components of financing, production, distribution, marketing, licensing, advertising, sponsorship, media buys, intra-corporate cross-subsidization, ubiquitous delivery platforms, regulation, and international users (and the geogating that goes with it).

Some have defined the keys to a nation's power in national cohesiveness, economic and technological success, political stability, military strength, cultural creativity and magnetism (the attractiveness of a nation's ideas). The latter is a notion of soft power, where in the new world, a nation can sustain its competitive edge only if it has the knowledge and technological capacity to keep innovating in economic markets.

If OTA networks are going to try to convince the public that Local TV Matters to the point of requiring fees for carriage for cable providers already required to carry the content, then the OTA networks will need to prove their business model demonstrates a profit loss in all the components of content delivery access and that they have exercised all possible innovations in growth for a digital economy; and the requirement for cable providers to carry local content removed, to provide a fair playing field. If the OTA networks and cable providers refuse to refocus their attention from concern with their broadcast industry interests to the needs of the consumer, then we have to remind them without us, they don't have a business. If Ivan F. is threatening to go out of business, let him. Moses Z. would probably love to jump in.

Konrad v F. is right. The broadcasters and cable providers ought to take their public spat behind closed doors. None of us is as smart as all of us. Companies don't make decisions, people do. The CTV execs and Rogers execs (and the other broadcaster execs) are intelligent, resourceful, hard-working professionals, and they give much to their communities. There's probably at least one person no longer with us, who would want to see the Canadian broadcasting system drive growth, reduce costs, and improve profitability in meeting the needs of consumers. In the spirit of Ted Rogers, perhaps Ivan F. and Phil L., with Paul G. as ump, might consider one of Ted's dictums: Have You Got the Solution or Are You Still Part of the Problem? Another favourite was: The Best is Yet to Come.

BTW, I don't have OTA or cable TV; I get my television content online, preferably CBC and BBC.

Happy Holidays -

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Donna V. ★ 1 month ago

I urge everyone to think long term before investing anything. HDTV I am sure, will be replaced down the line with something else, which will no doubt require more changes. Why spend so much on technology that may be redundant in a few years. Internet program viewing is the way of the future so get on with it.

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Like*Angelo McQuarrie* ★ [1 month ago](#)

I do not wish to pay for signals from local TV stations or anywhere else unless I choose them as part of my personalized TV service; I don't want to pay a hidden charge or tax to local TV stations just because they exist either. If their product appeals to some subscribers, let them pay for it.

[Flag](#)Like*William Nicholls* ★ [1 month ago](#)

The cable companies made 4 hundred million profit last year, is that not enough for them. They should try to live on my pension.

[Flag](#)Like*ronsime* ★ [1 month ago](#)

We live in Kingston and can only receive local channels via antenna as Expressvu does not carry any local stations. We would object to a tax that gives us no benefits. Frankly, most of our viewing is done on US networks and we do not see why there should be a tax on services we seldom use.

[Flag](#)Like*Chris T* ★ [1 month ago](#)

Let them negotiate all they want as long as Canadian consumers have the choice to opt out. Let them charge \$5 a month or \$50 a month to those who want to pay for it. If Rogers is forced to pass that charge along to those who want the content then so be it. Let me opt out and take Rogers other channels.

[Flag](#)Like*richardhodsdon* ★ [1 month ago](#)

I think cable and satellite companies should pay local stations for their programming. I think the cable and satellite providers should pay for these programs with the money they now collect from subscribers.

[Flag](#)Like*elidelmar* ★ [1 month ago](#)

the networks do not need any help from the taxpayers . i refuse to pay the extra \$5 -\$10 a month that this ruling would cost me . this is not the time to add to any family's expenses . let the networks be satisfied with the millions in profit they are already making .

[Flag](#)Like*ScottO* ★ [1 month ago](#) in reply to [elidelmar](#)

Exactly. If they are making such a huge profit, why do they need a bailout?

[Flag](#)Like*Capt. P Martin* ★ [1 month ago](#)

Type your comment here.I am opposed to the tv tax. The local stations collect revenue from

advertisers. All of us who watch local tv through our cable companies contribute to their ratings. These ratings together with content that has value will determine whta the advertisers pay. Local tv needs better content to attract more viewrs not added fees.

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David R. ★ [1 month ago](#)

NO to a carte blanc tv tax on consumers!

This request for additional tax by TV Companies is a naked and aggressive request tantamount to a bailout of already very prosperous Companies....just like their cousins in the USA.

If they cannot make it as - is, then they, like anyone else, should shut down.

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MD ★ [1 month ago](#)

Why is the CRTC letting the Electronics companies control them?

The CRTC could stop this nonsense of passing from Analog to only Digital and by this depriving the population living outside big town from getting the same informations as the peoples living in big towns.

Are we not living in a country that say ""Everybody has the right to equal services and respects ""

Most of the peoples living outside big town do not have the means to live with the same electronics gadgets as the people living in big towns with higher salaries.

The CRTC is creating a precedent by letting the Electronics companies dictate what the population should use and have if the population want to stay up to date in its living.

The Electronic companies are creatind a two tiers system,those that can pay and those that can barely survive just for the sake of increasing their profits at the end of the year.

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Dushan Divjak ★ [1 month ago](#)

I refuse to give the Big Networks a \$2 billion bailout over the next five years.

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[Like](#)



Alexander Gillies ★ [1 month ago](#)

There are more than enough industries, companies, governments, groups etc grabbing our hard earned high taxed income to the point where one can not enjoy the simple pleasures of life. It disgusts me that this TV TAX is being entertained.

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Simon ★ [1 month ago](#)

1. Local stations can't have it both ways. They can't make their signals available for free to Canadians who get it over-the-air, but paid for people who get it via cable/sat. Choose a model, and stick to it. Moreover, how can you set a price on your product when your client has no choice whether to buy it or not?

2. Not informed enough to answer.

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Chas ★ [1 month ago](#)

The CRTC and Government look like the bad guys because the cable and satelite companies want the CRTC/Government to impose a tax. The cable companies cannot just increase the

subscriber's rates when there is a contract. The easiest thing to do is blame the Government for "Imposing a tax", this way the cable company is off the hook. It's easier to impose a "TAX", this way they get more money from the consumer and they get to "control" how much of that money goes to the local TV stations. Does this sound logical to you? Someone is going to have to be paid to monitor this money and so the entire amount will not go to the local TV stations and the cable and satellite companies will make greater profits. DUH! We should rethink all of our options and maybe let the consumer decide what he/she would like to watch. I have TV channels I have never even tuned into all because they are part of a package. Maybe that would be a solution, let it be part of a package, "wait a minute it already is part of a basic package so why should we pay for it again"??? Specially as a form of tax? See what I mean DUH!

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Nina ★ [1 month ago](#)

The broadcasters are demanding more money to "save local TV" even as they close stations and spend ever more on U.S. programming - and they've never once committed to spending any of the new tax money they want on local TV

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Mike ★ [1 month ago](#)

I look at it this way. How much CANADIAN content is on CTV and Global and what not. I don't see alot of canadian shows other then the news and one or two other shows. For the most part its all the top american shows. So I figure it would stand to reason they are spending all there money on carrying family guy and CSI. If the local tv stations choose to spend all there money on american programming and now are losing money that is not our problem that is the broadcasters issue. The last thing we need is to pay out more for what we already have. From what I hear Shaw has already gone all digital in Quesnel and they were giving 1 lifetime rental of the digital terminal to each house. Everyone seemed to love it that they did not have to pay for it.

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Ron (Markham, ON) ★ [1 month ago](#)

All the Canadian channels in the GTA within 150 that I have check are already transmitting digitally. All you need is a converter as they now use in the US or if you have new TV and it has the ATSC tuner built in you merely have to scan for them with some sort of external antenna which are a lot small then years ago. Here are a few links to show you its there and FREE TV.

http://www.user.dccnet.com/jonleblanc/Canada_TV...

<http://www.remotecentral.com/hdtv/index.html>

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dave ★ [1 month ago](#)

I had thought that cable / satellite carriage of local broadcasters' signals already delivered great value to those broadcasters, through the higher advertising rates they could command as a result of that broader distribution of their programs. I have not heard where they have made the case that this benefit has disappeared or has been discounted, even as their business plans may be in transition.

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Guest ★ [1 month ago](#)

A TV Tax will cost Canadians an additional \$5-\$10 on their TV bill each month - it's not fair and

not needed when broadcasters already receive so much funding from government and TV providers like Bell

Throughout this whole debate, the big networks have never committed to keeping local television stations on the air or otherwise supporting local programming.

The TV Tax is nothing more than a bailout for the big TV networks. They made almost \$400 million in operating profits last year alone, receive close to \$600 million in benefits from satellite and cable providers annually, and they get more than a billion dollars in funding from the government each year

And yet any new TV Tax will actually be charged in addition to the CRTC's Local Programming Improvement Fund fee of 1.5% that already went into effect this year!

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 *Sean Bray* ★ [1 month ago](#)

1. There is no value for these so-called local signals at least to the consumer. Networks earn revenue from advertisers who would not be spending their money on these channels without viewers. The networks must bear the full cost of any technical changes, including switching to digital signals. The CRTC should mandate the networks to do this and to draw funds from the networks' complete inventory of channels, not on a channel-by-channel basis.
2. No, networks must be responsible for the business model they created. If they cannot continue to serve markets, then advertisers will abandon them. Clearly from a business perspective, the networks would be foolish to cut off consumers and risk this loss of ad revenue.

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 *Dokin* ★ [1 month ago](#)

For the type of programs we get they are getting overpaid now. I pay for cable in my bldg because it is the only way i can get a signal. I am forced to pay for channels I do not watch It would be better if each home paid only for the channels they want,

[Flag](#)

Like

 *kengeldart* ★ [1 month ago](#)

I don't know why it is called local TV, I live in Moncton, NB and we haven't had local TV for almost 40 years. ATV Halifax is not local TV, less than 2 minutes about the Moncton area in any programming. Global from Saint John went elsewhere about 10 years ago and I could care less if I ever saw a CBC program, none of them are relevant to my life. In addition, the subsidy the CNBC receives is far too expensive, they should be advised to live on sales of commercials or shut down saving the Canadian public millions of dollars per year.

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 *bwkell* ★ [1 month ago](#)

1. Transitioning to digital should be an integral part of the business plan already. This is not a new issue. It has been coming at them for years and they should have prepared adequately for it. If they are negatively impacted then that is their own fault and they should pay their own price for poor business planning and practices just like any other business would.
2. Keeping up with technological change is a constant reality for all businesses and a normal part of operational costs. They don't go running to their customers or the government when they need new technology to remain competitive so why should the television industry? Unfortunately, they've been conditioned to think and act more like an arm of government that can just raise taxes whenever they want than like private profit making businesses. NO financial support or incentive should be made available for the transition. If the "sink or swim" philosophy had been applied for the past 50 years we would all enjoy much more affordable, higher quality and broader range television services today.

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bwkell ★ [1 month ago](#)

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Tatjana ★ [1 month ago](#)

hmm... A worker is worthy of his hire... local TV stations should be compensated for that which they produce if it is valuable to a community. I live in a village in Northern Ontario. I used to get about 3 channels... 2 American and one Canadian (TVO) without cable and that very poorly. Now that the States has gone digital we get nothing. The Idea of a few local channels provided freely by say Bell at the cost of the equipment appeals to me somewhat..thought it may not be enough channels to really matter, but not at the cost of stifling local TV of its fair share of revenue for the local news. But if the local channel agrees to that deal, good.

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Ron (Markham, ON) ★ [1 month ago](#) [in reply to Tatjana](#)

You can receive US & Canadian Digital Channels now. All you need is a converter box like the US uses. The antennas are fairly small being UHF and signal has no snow. I posted about this earlier today with links.

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n leblanc ★ [1 month ago](#)

I want the basic access to remain open. All Canadians should have free access to their news and educational TV providers.

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Tatjana ★ [1 month ago](#)

hmm... A worker is worthy of his hire... local TV stations should be compensated for that which they produce if it is valuable to a community. I live in a village in Northern Ontario. I used to get about 3 channels... 2 American and one Canadian (TVO) without cable and that very poorly. Now that the States has gone digital we get nothing. The Idea of a few local channels provided freely by say Bell at the cost of the equipment appeals to me somewhat..thought it may not be enough channels to really matter, but not at the cost of stifling local TV of its fair share of revenue for the local news. But if the local channel agrees to that deal, good.

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Peter ★ [1 month ago](#)

Local TV access has always been a free service & should continue to be so. I even disagree with the Improvement Tax introduced in Sept. 09. Cable rates are currently at a level that one must reconsider how much said services are worth to their household and lifestyle. Perhaps time to consider alternate means of entertainment

especially if there is an increase as being discussed with possible new tax for local TV.

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Robert Wilson ★ [1 month ago](#)

Local TV stations must be able to be paid a fee for the use of their TV programming. Local TV is too important to be taken over by the "biggies". Local TV can give us a point of view on issues that the big conglomerates may not want to offer. I know, for instance that CTV Ottawa (CJOH) is a marvellous station and should not have to close its local TV news.

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Ken Long ★ [1 month ago](#)

Definatly.

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[Like](#)



corenebettridge ★ [1 month ago](#)

The consumer is once again being forced to partake in something it does not want or need. Just because the powers that be decide that all of us have to go along with this transition to digital television, why should we have to pay more every month. The big T.V. networks are already making an enormous amount of money, so I feel they should pay for this transition. Leave our local television stations alone. We all should have a right to watch local T.V. because it is a part of our community and pertains to our lives. Give us consumers a break, we already pay more than enough for cable.

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firecracker72 ★ [1 month ago](#)

I personally think we are ones from many areas and incomes. We do not need or want to have loss of regular tv signals. For some that is the only way they can receive tv /news etc. We have enough to pay without paying for broadcasting of our local or area tv channels. I dont think that they have any reason to negotiate for the value when some of their programs are re runs and some to most of their programming is not what alot want to see. They take off shows that are liked and put on what they want. With expecting us to pay more for. If you are going to totally digital by the year of 2011 than make sure all want to. Make sure all can afford the trasmitters/digital equipement needed or plan give it to the consumer. We need to make it fair for all and not to be taxed or have more money out of our pockets.

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Ashok Athavale ★ [1 month ago](#)

My satellite bill is already high with minimal service and choice to begin with, thus I do not agree that Cable and Satellite companies should be allowed to collect a tax to carry local TV. It is truly interesting that Corporations and their Directors can be bailed out because of mismanagement or not making their projected profits, however, this same treatment is not applied to people on fixed incomes or those with low incomes.

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Daniel Cullen ★ [1 month ago](#)

Yes. I think that each side will use it as an excuse to blame the other for deminished service and increased prices. I have no doubt that the investment in new equipment to prepare for the transition to digital is significant. However, this investment is not done with the expectation of a quick return, is it? They should be willing to make these investments and if assistance is needed then perhaps it could come from governments in the form of low-interest loans, which

could have a grace period before repayment is begun. This would allow the industry to start making a profit before they had to repay any monies, and the consumer would not be asked to pay more for something they already have.

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debi ★ [1 month ago](#)

I think I should be given the option of whether or not I even want to have the local stations in my cable package, in the way I can pick and choose specialty channels. I don't watch our local news. It is pathetic. I can better and more up to date information on what is happening in my city from the Internet and local talk radio. My local stations don't provide any programming aside from news -so I can see all the shows I watch on the American networks, which I chose to pay for when I signed on for cable.

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patriciataylor ★ [1 month ago](#)

I think most people already have digital tvs already and as for the satellite and cable companies that want the general public to pay for a fee to watch local tv stations is totally appalling. These companies are already have enough money, so why take it out on local tv stations and the general public. We need the local stations to access local news so that we can be aware of our surroundings. The satellite and cable companies are just being greedy. The general public is already being gouged enough as it is. We don't need anymore pay anymore than what we're already paying. I don't think the local stations should pay a fee for running their programs and we shouldn't either.

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Ray B ★ [1 month ago](#)

Yes I have digital cable now but folks it will not be the end of the world as we know if I didn't have it. With digital cable I should be able to punch up what channels i want without any interference from a quasi political group as the CRTC and be able to choose my services my way. If I am forced to pay more on my cable the local stores and chains across this country of ours will be the lose. i will not be able to watch their ads on TV because i won't have cable! What will happen to those jobs? CRTC if you force this on me you will have killed many local businesses in my area? Shame on you. Just to make it very, very clear to you CRTC and "local TV stations you need me more than I need you so you had better rethink this whole process. It is time for the little guy in this country to have our say. Bring down this monster, local tv and cable. Cancel your services or at least make your services equal to what the tax will be. I will cancel right down to nothing if need be or at least basic service or use the internet. I can also get my son in the USA to tape these shows if i can't watch them because i cancelled my services. I can get my news on the internet or via email or even my local radio station and newspaper. Who needs cable or local tv anyway?

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DaveA ★ [1 month ago](#)

Nothing to stop the local channels from going digital, put up a web site and let me surf to it. If the service is good, I will return. If it is not, I will only be there once.

As for having us listen to an insatiable amount of advertising AND paying \$\$\$ to go digital as in Shaw/Rodgers digital, waste of money. Many are opting out of the \$500 Rogers/Shaw digital set top and just going InternetTV.

Why is simple. Uncompetative levels of advertising, too many reruns and repeats between channels. I can watch a movie on 46, I know it will be on channels 40, 36, 34 and 33 in the next 3 to 4 months. Variety is deficient and lack of competition is self evident.

I am OK with local stations negotiating fees any way they want provided I as a consumer can

opt out without penalties or discrimination on bundling. If they want \$3/month, they must flat bill \$3/month to ALL who subscribe. No bundling tricks, gimics or screw ball deception. But if they don't subscribe, they don't pay anything and will not loose a carrier discount or something.

Otherwise they get rights for guaranteed access at zero cost. Their profits will come from adverts --- but that assumes you watch them. I don't. OK, maybe one a year for 5th Estate and each election. But I can go www.cbc.ca for that.

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[tristanyoung](#) ★ 1 month ago

The local TV stations should not be allowed to negotiate for the value of their signals. If they were given the ability to negotiate, they would have no incentive to improve. They would not invest in Canadian programming. They would continue to invest in boring programming. They would fight to jack any negotiated rate up higher and higher, reducing the value of their service to the point where they'd go out of business because no one cares about them anymore.

They don't need support or incentives. They can pay for digital implementation our of their profits. They build healthy profits. They have to stop making stupid investment mistakes, like buying channels, and loosing money. They need to learn to streamline.

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[Adam Camery](#) ★ 1 month ago in reply to [tristanyoung](#)

Canada's system is broken. In the U.S. the cable companies pay for the local TV signals, here they don't. I used to think local TV didn't matter then we had a transit strike and the CTV station had the best coverage and even exposed the union boss as a jerk during a live interview.

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[Geoff](#) ★ 1 month ago

1. Re-design the mandate of the CRTC so that it actually works for viewers, rather than for broadcasters. The Government has become "enabler" to a non-competitive, anti-user system designed to meet the needs of a few big investors at the expense of everyone else. The biggest obstacle to viewer satisfaction is the ability of greedy media-manipulators to hide behind the "skirts" of government regulation, which they have helped write, to the detriment of end-users.

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[Sherwood Botsford](#) ★ 1 month ago

I suspect that local stations are a dying phenomenon. Indeed, the concept of network is going to vanish soon -- at least network in the way it has been used -- A series of stations with mostly the same shows at the same time in their timezone.

The future is increasing numbers of mash-up channels.. Look at how many different channels I can catch "Bones" or "NCIS" Or less mainstream, I have seen the same show listed on the History Channel, the Discovery Channel, and the National Geographic Channel.

Or indeed it will all be show on demand.

The problem is that most of these methods do not have a way to inject local advertising into them. So local ads vanish. To me that is no loss. Some national ads are at least entertaining (Mac and PC ads)

Even if a method to inject ads is found, with TiVo type technology people can time shift, and fast forward through the advertising.

If TV programming is going to be supported by advertising it will need to do one of the following:

- * embed the ads concurrently in the video stream.
- * require interaction to respond to the ad before you can continue to watch.
- * Do it all with product placement.
- * Do it with donation marathons using the PBS model.
- * Make the ads interesting enough that people want to watch them. (Look at how often a youth will watch a music video.)

The first two will start a technology war. If the ads are in the vid stream, someone will invent a technique to block them. Similarly some form of avatar can be programmed to respond to the interactive requests. (I would find this annoying enough I would stop watching TV.)

The last three are quite possible.

Local channels: I don't think I would care at all if they all vanished.

- * The local ads are almost never of interest. I do all my preliminary shopping via the Internet.
- * Local news is almost always a joke, being filled mostly with either FUD (Fear, Uncertainty, Doubt) stories, or Feel Good stories. Almost none of the information is actually useful for making a decision that affects my life.
- * Local other shows are usually talking heads, or trivia.

At present we are on satellite -- we are in rural Alberta. Our TV time is roughly split between

- * PBS channels, both American and Canadian.
- * Canadian network TV -- only about 20% of this is from a local channel.
- * American network TV
- * Specialty channels -- Mystery, History, Military, Discovery, Disc. Civilization, National Geographic

Local TV is irrelevant. I will be pissed off if I have to pay for local TV.

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[lrtubman](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

The industry already has all the incentives it needs....money. They are doind just fine with the money they get.

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[Like](#)



[bfrusina](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

I believe as consumers we should have a choice. At the same time we have to understand that the broadcasters are providing a service. The cable companies take that service for free and charge you for it. Whether the broadcasters make money from advertising or not that's their problem, but if they provide us a service we should have a choice whether or not we want to watch them and second whether we belive their are providing us value thus paying for that value. At the same time the cable companies should no longer shove down our throats programming that we don't want or choose. So as a consumer if i want to have local content i can get an antenna on my house or pay rogers for providing me the local station but not a specific basic package that is forced. Now at the same time in order for rogers to be able to provide me that service i would expect them to make a profit on it but not 100% of the monies i pay them. Some of that should go to the creator of the service / product. Also lets not forget that all the shows outside of the local programming are controlled by the broadcaster too, so the cable companies should not be allowed to touch the content. Same thing as when i go to a website, i really don't want rogers/ bell / shaw to change the content of the site, i want it in its raw orginal format. And if they choose not to provide something in their service i have the choice of canceling my programming. Whether that's local TV, or programmes that i watch.

My cable bill is not just under \$200.00 / mth including my internet, i think they have raised that bill multiple times over the last few years. But i can't get the channels i want i always have to buy bundles which include a ton of channels that i don't watch or need.

Anyways that's my 2 cents

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Tim B ★ [1 month ago](#)

If the cable companies are selling local TV then they should pay for the product that they are selling. I do not have cable or satellight because of the cost and it is almost all non-Canadian programing. If I must get cable or satellight as there is no cable where I live then let me pay for just local channels or the number and choice of channels that I want.

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Brando ★ [1 month ago](#)

I think that local tv stations are already getting a profit from cable companies and satellite companies, why should I have to pay for it? In Saint John NB, there isn't local tv. They pulled out years ago and went to Halifax NS. So technically, local tv is already out of my area.

Does the industry require any support or incentive? No! It's a business, and if they are not making profits, they should have to reorganize themselves. Why should I use my hard earned money to bail them out? If they can't keep afloat, I should have to keep them going? No, this extra charge from the CRTC shouldn't have happened nor keep going.

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Ann Ramsey ★ [1 month ago](#)

I do not believe that local stations should be allowed to sell their signals. In effect they will kill Canadian TV stations. The only channel I would subscribe to is the CBC. The transfer to digital television will come here as it did in the States without government support or regulations. The industry does not need support or incentives to make the transition. As one station goes the lack of advertising on the other stations will force them to adapt and change.

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Norm Renshaw ★ [1 month ago](#)

My feeling is its their business.....they either buy the new hardware or do not.....perhaps some sort of tax relief on digital hardware purchases but nothing more. I'm certainly not willing to pay a cable company or satelite service a premium to receive an HD signal.....it is, after all, only television.....I can live without it.

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ken m ★ [1 month ago](#)

I believe the industry does need support and incentive to implement this transition. They need the support of people willing to buy their product based on it's vlue and that should be their incentive. Bottom line. Put out a product that people want and they will buy it. Cars, furniture, toilet paper of television. He who has the best product at a reasonable price wins.

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ray_s ★ [1 month ago](#) [in reply to ken m](#)

That last comment only applies in a level market where no-one is trying to game the market with bundles.

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Ray Hopton ★ [1 month ago](#)

It is my opinion that consumers are once again being victimized by the large corporations--networks AND cable,satellite ect. These people are greedy!! I beleive what is needed is an independent body to regulate charges for these services.

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Mary Mitchell ★ [1 month ago](#)

In my opinion, the cost to broadcasters to upgrade their current transmission equipment in order to be ready for digital television should be borne by those companies alone. The cost should not be passed on to consumers via the cable companies. The phasing out of analog transmitters has been known for some time and the broadcasters should have budgeted and prepared for this already.

"...must turn off their analog transmitters in order to make way for digital television." Who/what body decided this? What was the rationale? Was it because it's too costly to maintain analogue? I'm quite sure that, as with any other company making iprovements, the broadcasters will be able to write these improvements off, thereby reducing their taxes, whihc in turn redices teh cost of these improvements.

"One option we are studying is whether local TV stations should be able to charge cable and satellite companies for distributing their programs." No, the broadcasters should pay the cable companies to deliver their signals. Otherwise, these channels will become "specialty channels" where the cable companies will charge the clients to deliver the signals to them via cable or satellite.

Lastly, if this cost is passed on to cable and satellite consumers there must be an expiry date and an investment tax break for those consumers. Otherwise, this will continue to be collected long after the upgrades are completed and, consumers are investing in a Canadian company and should beentitled to claim this as a tax credit.

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danielguaiani ★ [1 month ago](#)

I thought I was always paying for local TV? Why do I pay monthly fee for basic service for? Where does that money go? Where does the digital access fee go? What exactly is the digital access fee? What is the 1.5 percent LPIF? Why exactly are we paying the LPIF fee? THe cable companies tell me that they have no choice to charge us because the CRTC implemented this. Who is telling the truth here, I think both the CRTC and the cable companies are liars, big fat liars. Plus if you want to go High definition there is another fee for that too. You, the CRTC and the cable companies restrict our programming, invent all kind of fees to increase your profit margins, also we are subject to increases every year. Where does it end? Should I just start a facebook or twitter group and have to have everyone think really hard about what you are doing to customers and if we really need to subscribe to a luxury we don't really need? Or a service that we can get illegally? What would you do then?

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Kevin M ★ [1 month ago](#)

Allowing local stations to negotiate for the value of their signal will undoubtedly have an impact on their business plans. It may prove to be a positive and allow them an extra income to reduce to costs of converting to digital television, however the conversion to digital should not be the driving force behind the need for an extra fee. If their business models have not already incorporated the cost to convert to digital, then they may not be doing there job as far as running a business goes.

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saphia ★ 1 month ago

allowing local stations to negotiate would only impact the industry for the better --- they are so valuable for the fabric of our society -- i think having them on the digital world would be great -- but i dont want to lose them on regular television -- its still such an important medium to so many people.

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Viewer ★ 1 month ago

I agree with Carb B's position. Well said.

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peanuts26 ★ 1 month ago

As a subscriber to satellite service for over 15 years, I have been paying a charge for local TV for about 10 years now. I thought that was being paid to local channels as it was described by the satellite company for charging the extra fee. Now they haven't paid local stations a single cent, and they want to charge us another fee?

I think program increases should be frozen from any additional fees for local channels, and the cable & satellite company's should pay the \$10.00 fee to a fund for the local channels. They were ahead of themselves 10 years ago to charge us for the service, and they themselves should be responsible for coughing up any fees to be imposed by the government.

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Mireille ★ 1 month ago

I'm an old-fashion gal and watch TV on TV unless I missed an episode of a show and there's no hope for a re-run and I don't plan to buy the series on DVD. However, if people move to the digital era and watch on the computer, then yes, there should be a way for them to pay as we do for our TV channels through a distributor.

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Janine Sanford ★ 1 month ago

This seems to be a money thing plain and simple. I think that local stations have been providing signals for free all this time while we have been paying for them. I think local statins should get a cut of the profits that come from the fees we pay to recieve their programming. I do not think that we should pay more for something we are already paying

to watch just because the cable and satellite companies now have to pay for them. I think they should have to pay for them because we are paying for them already. I think that maybe these companies should have some support but not from the consumer because we are already paying too much for tv now. Thank you for taking my thoughts into consideration.

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clark may ★ [1 month ago](#)

In my view local stations are trying to get the cable (satellite) industry to pay for their signals before the consumer realizes the tv stations have no intention of serving their locality with a digital signal. In this way free to air local tv will no longer exist it will be a pay per view service. If the television stations do not plan to build out their land based transmitter network they should be made to offer the service freely by satellite. So as I have mentioned in an earlier discussion the tv stations should not be allowed to charge the cable companies for their signal, they in fact should perhaps have to pay the cable companies to carry their signal as the cable companies are doing the heavy lifting of providing service to the customer. If and only if the tv stations plan on building out their land based transmitter network would I consider they have an argument for charging the cable companies for their signal. I feel cable companies (satellite) should be made to carry all local tv stations, this alone should be a large enough subsidy from the cable companies. Don't get me wrong people want local television. But charging for it I feel goes behind what the television stations were licensed for. Cable companies are businesses if they get charged for something, believe me one way or another it will show up on the local cable bill. Hidden or otherwise.

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AMork ★ [1 month ago](#)

Local tv should be allowed a certain charge to the sat/cable companies, but the sat/cable companies should be sharing what they charge now for the basic programming. The cost rip off we are paying now for garbage channels only provides excess profit for the cable/sat and supplier companies. By the way many of the supplier companies are the network companies themselves. So who is kidding who here on a technicality.

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Frank Lawson ★ [1 month ago](#)

Why are cable companies allowed to charge for a digital box and give an old fashion analog box by default. It would cost the same to give out digital. The cable companies are a total rip off. They rip off the consumers and the rip off the TV networks
Time for the CRTC to step up and stop the cable rip off. Regulate prices, force them down.
Rogers and Bell export jobs to India as fast as they CAN. !!!!! They do not deserve your money or protection from the law.

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Jerry ★ [1 month ago](#)

1. The players will be self-serving. I think a third-party ought to represent the public's interest.

Local TV's signals have value, and monopolistic black-and-white attitudes like cutting off any station asking for fair price shows a disregard for that value.

2. A third-party who can represent what the people want.

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Neil Maycock ★ [1 month ago](#)

Getting rid of over the air analog signals is now threatening to cost people directly. I fail to see why it was 'necessary' to convert to digital and subsequently con people into paying for something which was free. Get sense, the economic crisis shows that all people will not be equally capable of paying for basic services like these. If extra services are paid for by users fine but I am against the subsidisation of an industry in these ways

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rogerrossi ★ [1 month ago](#)

The industry has tremendous benefits for doing business in Canada - it does not require any more. If they don't like the rules - leave! Someone will be ready to take their place. Enough is enough.

[Flag](#)

Like



MCClement ★ [1 month ago](#)

Il ne Devrait pas y Avoir d'obligation à la transition numérique. ILS NE PAS devraient Arrêter ce fabricant cervice ni de frais mensuels.

LORSQUE nous abonnons nous au câble ou à la télévision par satellite, les frais Sont déjà énorme. De plus les chaînes privées de télévision (qui ne devaient pas passer de publicités Durant Leurs émissions Et qui le font maintenant Autant que la TV publique et la CRTC N'a absolument rien fait à ce sujet et même va permettre Une augmentation du temps publicitaire, c'est écoeurant! Sans compter que les TV privées répètent émissions 3 à 4 fois dans Une même semaine et Une fois la saison terminée les répètent encore à la saison suivante) Ont des revenus publicitaires Important aussi sinon plus Important Que la TV publique.

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Bob ★ [1 month ago](#)

Regardless of the business models and the centralization of media that has limited open access to local programming, I believe there are two points to make. The CRTC must stop the children from fighting. Local and cable are wagging the tail while the body (CRTC) is consulting. If the CRTC needs more support to focus on the consumer of these products then go and get it from the law makers. I am sure you have what you need. Having what you need then put your skills and powers to work to stop the sibling warfare. The consumer should be the focus. If the local stations or the cable companies are too big to fail then regulate so that the consumer is treated fairly and with respect. Secondly, these ads are an insult to me. Both the cable and local providers are keely aware that we, the consumer, do not have all the information to make a decision. Yet, I do know when I am being victimized. Stop abuse of all sorts, and you, CRTC have that power.

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Like



lefty884 ★ [1 month ago](#)

Yes of course it will. This is a no brainer question, kind of like do you want to win the lottery or would you prefer it if I stopped poking you with a sharp stick.

Allowing any company to negotiate the value of its product will have an impact on their revenue streams. Revenues drive business plans. As you prepare for a capital expenditure your balance sheets will tell you if it is feasible or not.

As the government seems to be forcing the digital conversion it would seem fair that

broadcasters should be given support in transitioning to a digital signal. It would also seem reasonable that the consumers using over the air signals receive some incentive to upgrade their equipment.

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Peter Court ★ [1 month ago](#)

Close the barn Door the horses have left. this entire discussion is moot if we were to go the FCC route (<http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-lazarus6-...>)

1 eliminate the proprietary decoders (reducing waste and the onerous financial impediments of changing content suppliers)

2:Allowing the kind of choice most consumers want but cannot get due to CRTC content regulation and the defacto monopoly that exists due to geographic and equipment costs.

Time to show some real long term vision that will benefit CONSUMERS by introducing current technology that will alter the landscape and make the networks and Carriers responsive or redundant.

Never mind, what was I thinking? This is Canada where someone else decides for us,

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Robert Keller ★ [1 month ago](#)

I dont care about local televisions business plans. What I care about is how much it is going to cost me (if anything) and what do I get for my money . Is it good value? is it worth my investment in time and money to watch because if it isnt what am I doing ? Do I get any support or incentive to make the transition to anything. Does anyone care if Im watching old reruns of Gunsmoke on my rabbit eared 25 inch black and white. if they cant afford their own upgrades through ad revenues then Quit and let somebody else in the market

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Randy ★ [1 month ago](#)

Local stations must be able to negotiate for the value of their signals if it will be more difficult for them to provide free local over-the-air television in the future of digital television. Canadians deserve to be able to continue to receive local television programming at little or no cost.

A better model would be for the cable companies to carry a basic bundle that only consists of local programming. This bundle should be inexpensive or free to Canadian consumers to make up for the loss of free over the air local television programming.

Additional programming should be made available in much smaller bundles. All channels should also be available on an individual basis.

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twister7777 ★ [1 month ago](#)

Canadian content is a "ton" that we're obliged to wear because of the CRTC and their friends. We're not interested with Canadian content ! Is that clear ? I'm from the Quebec province and I have French tv and French radio, I do not watch or listen it. Why would I have to pay for that ?

It is about time that we dump analog technology for digital. If some company cannot afford to go digital, they do not deserve to exist simply. What money will they have to create good contents if they can't afford to go digital ?

Remove the legislation blocking international content into our home and we'll all be happy customer because will be able to watch what we want an nothing else !

In resume, no support for transition, if broadcaster cannot turn digital, let them go broke and

leave the place to other. TV channels are tv channles, stop always trying to disssociate local and not local, tv is tv, they must all go under the sames rules, let the small die if he can't survive in the communication jungle !

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[lornegreen](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

As I see it , we are in a land of equal opportunity. A free market system whereas competition dictates whom will buy "our" services. This is a good system untill the winners of competitions put their heads together with the losers and set up the general public for a rapeing, so they both can capitalize on making money.

In steps

government to protect "us" and starts the hew and cry about why is their controls, why is government in this business. We the people need to be so appreciative of our governments involvement. Look elsewhere and see the corruption due to Capitalism. I want local TV because it covers local and Canadian news and not the complete coverage of our neighbours to the south , the as I see it degredation of family values in their everyones equal manifesto.Thankyou CRTC for allowing us to voice our oppinions and concerns

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[CanadaFirst](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

After reading your comments I'm surprised how easily so many are brain washed by commercials appealing to your greedy self centered, small town redneck mentality. You complain about high cable bills but support the cable companies that have been ripping you off! Amazing!!

The simple fact is the CRTC has always decided who gets your money. The TV stations are simply asking for a more equitable division. At least they maintain jobs in Canada. The cable and satellite companies export jobs as fast as they can!! I know most of you do not care because it is not your job, at least not yet.

As long as cable companies rip off all the money consumers are willing to part with it will be over priced. Lots of you are fond of US TV. But Cables packages are much cheaper in the US then packages in Canada. Why is that - the Cable companies ripping you off, just like the steal from the Canadian networks?

Incredible!! AAnd you support them

What a pathetic lot - you do not deserve this country

Move to the U.S. why don't you

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[nomorebailout](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) [in reply to Frank Lawson](#)

To: CanadaFirst

I'd like to know if you, the TRUE Canadian, would willingly accept to pay an extra \$10/month in order to save what you describe "real" Canada, yes or no?

And btw, this is a free country, I watch what I want anytime I want, you tell me what to think and I tell you where to go, capisci? , my fav channel I watching it 24/7/365 is FOX NEWS CHANNEL, I don't need any other liberal Obama crap to brainwash me how to become a freaking GREEN person, lots of channels you can get live and free on the Internet with a high-speed connection, I can't wait to get the notice of cable increase and right away I will cancel my entire Rogers Cable, rabbit ears plus live and free channels on the Internet it's all I need right now.

Chris, and independent truck driver

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[ray_s](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to nomorebailout](#)

Yeah, I guess that the only green thing about Fox is the bilious nature of their commentators' brainwashing. CRTC has approved carrying English Al Jazeera, which should be a refreshing offset to Fox.

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



[nomorebailout](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to ray_s](#)

Pro Al-Jazeera? Got the guts to tell that to Don Cherry during Remembrance Day??? Wonder how his reaction towards YOU would look like!!!

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[Like](#)



[ray_s](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to nomorebailout](#)

It gives a different approach to issues than the usual US bias. So if what you mean by "pro" is supporting the presentation of multiple views then yes I'm pro Al-Jazeera.

I don't see that the conversation would be enhanced by trolling a blow-hard like Don Cherry.

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[bcgersfan](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

The industry certainly doesn't need any more incentives. If they demand the right to negotiate for the value of their services, I demand the right to negotiate a price with them for access to the individual channels which I want, not the smorgasbord of third rate rubbish which is pushed down our throats as "packages"

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[alexmcguire](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

I feel Canadians already pay too much for tv services. Rogers charges too much for their packages and on top of that a digital service fee!

As a consumer I don't care who of the giants has to suck up the costs but it why should we get gouged even more!

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[Kathy R-G](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

We do not subscribe to cable or satellite and have exactly 2 "local" stations we access with rabbit ears. We feel local (direct regional) coverage is very important to keep informed on issues that are immediately relevant to where we live. In a local emergency situation, it has proved absolutely invaluable. In the last few years the local stations have been stressed and nearly gutted so that it is incredibly difficult to continue offering this important community service. I believe that local information is important enough that it should receive additional support, if that is required, in order to maintain a reasonable level of function.

I believe it is reasonable for cable companies to pay the local companies to carry their programming if the cable company is going to charge it's customers. If they plan on offering free local coverage than perhaps they should not have to pay.

I very strongly believe that local coverage should be free and easily accessible to all residents.

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[gew](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

Our local channel tried to get their signal on the satellite system but were refused by the regulatory body. Now, even though I can get 200+ channels, I cannot get news from 35 miles away on the local channel. I think that local channels should get some value for their input to my information and maybe it would not cost me any more because I could pick them along with just what I want to subscribe to rather than having to buy bundles of useless stuff just to get those channels that I want. I know that the local station CHBC Kelowna wants to reach viewers in the area but the only way I can get it is by dropping satellite and subscribing to cable.

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x_bailout ★ [1 month ago](#)

Negotiate the VALUE of their signals !? Here's how they can find out the value of their signal - by making them 'pay per vu'" Hey.... like the 'Canucks' " with no advertisers and see how many people tune in ! Not me !

This is probably a waste of time anyway...they're gonna do what they want to do as this is gov't and gov't is run by big business.....so c'est la vie

[Flag](#)

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detlefblankschein ★ [1 month ago](#)

1. Local TV, like any other business should negotiate for the value of their service with whoever they can sell it to.

2. The industry does not require any support to implement the transition and should not be forced to make the transition.

Whoever required the transition to be made, should pay for the additional costs.

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Trudy Niggli ★ [1 month ago](#)

We live in the rural area of southern Alberta and do not have cable or satellite. It would be devastating to us to loose our local broadcasting stations and expensive if we have to subscribe to a satellite provider to get local news and information. There is already too much garbage on local tv, I don't want more in our home through satellite. What the satellite companies are offering is nothing less than blackmail. If you don't do what we want "free transmission" we won't carry your signal or we'll charge everyone else for it. They make enough profit to be able to share it with the little guys, our local tv stations. They are benefitting as well from showing local tv so why not share the profit too.

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Dee MacCarthy ★ [1 month ago](#)

If Canadians loose our local TV stations (which is already starting to happen), it would be a step in the direction of our provinces becoming the largest states in the USA. Our multicultural societies "from coast to coast to coast" will be swallowed up by the huge American melting pot. Local TV is deserving of being supported by whatever means necessary for the benefit of all Canadians.

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deemacCarthy ★ [1 month ago](#)

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Dave ★ [1 month ago](#)

Although local TV stations are businesses, I am very concerned about the willingness of Canadians to always support the biggest corporation over their local businesses. Big companies have economies of scale necessary to provide products at certain prices while there is little that small business can do to match this. If Canadians continue to care only about what is the cheapest instead of what is in the interest of their communities, then we're moving into a very disgusting world indeed. Hopefully enough people care about what is going on in their community than what's on American Idol tonight.

I support doing what is necessary to ensure that Canadians can access local television. There is still much of the country that doesn't live in Toronto, Montreal or Vancouver. I'm not sure what support specifically is necessary, but I think a progressive taxation by which the richest television companies and cable companies together put aside a certain amount to ensure that Canadians can still receive local broadcasts and programming.

[Flag](#)ray_s ★ [1 month ago in reply to Dave](#)

The willingness that you speak of is the result of a long campaign of manufactured opinion. If you keep repeating the message that cable is the only viable way of receiving television that message will have a strong influence. The advertising too is on an economy of scale. A big company can produce ads on a large scale and have that ad repeated across the country. A local company's ads can only usefully serve a small area, and cannot spread the fixed production costs over a large area.

Cheap service is not the only public addiction; convenience is too. Simplicity and convenience are strong selling points. The strongest arguments made in the recent Transferable Vote was that the system would be too complicated. Appeal to stupidity has always been an effective selling tool.

One difference between TV and the Internet is between the remote and the keyboard. The remote is a point and click device that takes things from a fixed menu approved and provided by the cable company. In a keyboard based system you need to type in a URL which you can then put onto a bookmark list. YOU are the one that approves what goes on to that bookmark list. It's in the interest of the companies to sell you the convenience of a remote control on the premise that people are too stupid to use a keyboard.

There is a need for real local television, and that comes with the recognition that there are costs involved, and that a combination of local advertising and subscriptions may not be sufficient to cover those costs. The tender mercies of the darwinistic marketplace do not help the situation. If local programming were more than a mere slogan to support the aims of the national networks it might receive a better reception from the public.

[Flag](#)larrythomsen ★ [1 month ago](#)

The only way to assess the value of local TV signals would be to make it optional for cable customers to access the signal or not. If it were consumers could choose whether to have the local TV signal or not, I would have no problem with them negotiating a fee to carry their signal. Just suppose, in my city of 90,000 the local TV station thinks its signal is worth \$9000 per month - that's only 10 cents per viewer. I suppose some people would pay that, but I wouldn't. Either the local TV would have to do with \$8999.90 per month or someone else would have to pick up the tab for my share.

In my opinion, the only fair solution is to allow the consumers the choice of whether they want the local TV signal on their individual cable hookup and then let the local TV station "tack on" whatever they think the traffic will bear for those who choose to have the signal brought into their homes.

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*Jill Edwards* ★ [1 month ago](#)

I believe local TV stations are very important, essential to me. We especially need local news. I do not have neither cable nor satellite TV; I still use a TV antenna with tower by choice. I believe I have adequate programming through the few 4 channels I receive (CBC, TVO, CTV and Global (I miss the PBS I use to get)). I don't believe that there is much more of worth watching on TV if I were to purchase TV service through another company (cable or satellite). CBC and TVO (and use to be PBS) where the most important stations to me. I am looking for good, knowledge based, quality programming, not the typical crap that is on most TV stations. Hence I feel that public broadcasting is the best and most important type of programming and put my support here.

I support local TV stations asking for money from cable/satellite companies. If they pay all the other stations, why should they not have to pay local TV? Subsidy should not just be governmental.

I also believe that cable and satellite companies should be required to carry local TV stations to keep the public informed of local news, politics and businesses etc.

Our worlds continue to get bigger and bigger with information readily available from all parts of the world. Someone has to provide the local information. Otherwise people with loose perspective on what is happening locally, what they can do to impact the world from a local perspective. This may go along with that saying "Think globally, Act locally" There are many more and other sources to get the larger/global information and perspective. Local influences are also important wither they be political, social, business or leisure.

Finally the perspectives/influences of larger governments, organizations and business have plenty of other avenues to get their messages out. Lets keep part of our influences local.

I also believe that some TV should continue to be available over the airwaves free, as is radio. Many people cannot afford the extra cost of cable/satellite, or may choose not to afford it (as is my circumstance).

I also am not very excited about digital TV. I think the USA was surprised by the number of people who still used TV antennas and also had old TV sets that were not able to receive digital signals. I think Canada would find much the same. I still use an old TV set purchased in the 70's and 80's and have no desire to purchase a flat screen TV

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bourke ★ [1 month ago](#)

The government has no place in this mess.

Regardless of whether I get a local station over the air or from a BDU, the core expectation is that the local station makes a profit selling advertising. Setting aside the argument that a BDU actually provides more 'eyeballs' than an OTA play may, the undeniable fact is that the stations are making enough money. Net, the advertising money is insufficient to support the business. Revenue does cover costs. In any other environment, the business would fail and we'd move on. This situation should be no different. Throwing consumers money at the problem is not going to change the underlying market forces that affect the situation.

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Sumit Sharma ★ [1 month ago](#)

A TV Tax will hurt our customers and our business

The broadcasters are demanding more money to "save local TV" even as they close stations and spend ever more on U.S. programming - and they've never once committed to spending any of the new tax money they want on local TV

The networks already receive more than a billion dollars of taxpayer money annually and about \$600 million a year in benefits from TV providers like Bell... even as they posted operating profits of \$400 million last year. Why do they need even more from Canadians?

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fredmakowecki ★ [1 month ago](#)

I think that they...like all of us should work this out using the funds that are available. We are already paying for the local channels. It is unacceptable to be billed again to access them. Logic would follow that I should be, as all Canadians should, able to opt out of receiving the local signals. What is in place to assure that even if we pay the extra \$10 dollars that it would be used for the purposes that is being touted. Can not the local channels be paid from the profits that are made from the specialty channels that they have as a part of their corporations such as Discovery.

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debbi ★ [1 month ago](#)

it is crucial to me to have local programming - it keeps me in tune with local issues in a city the size of ottawa, i need to know what is happening around me now - not on the late nite news which i can never stay awake for. i have recently changed to satellite and am having to change channels at the appropriate times to get local news - not a happy camper, if something happened in my area i would not find out unless i got a call from someone else.

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Jim ★ [1 month ago](#)

I think these services could be better provided via the Internet. In this way, every small town could have a website that offers new items and other local information. We should not be spending money on expensive transmitter and studio equipment for services that could be better offered on-line.

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larrys1 ★ [1 month ago](#)

One way or another we must preserve access to over the air broadcasts at no charge. In the U.S. the government provided free setboxes to all who registered. If we don't provide access the poorest of our population misses out on access to reasonable entertainment and gives them more time to spend on the streets doing whatever. With the poverty levels for children in our society running at close to 20% I believe this outlet is a necessity. I don't believe Bell should get involved here as they already hav a monopoly and this would expand their control on digital service.

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Terri Little ★ [1 month ago](#)

Considering that I have been paying an upgrade for digital TV from my cable provider for over a year,it would be a hardship for me to pay any more i.e.a \$10 'tax'.I am a senior living on a fixed income of my 2 Government pensions and I can ill afford even another \$10.In order to pay this proposed amount,I would have to either cut out some of my food and even my medications.Obviously I wouldn't cut out food or meds so I would be forced to stop my cable completely and use my TV for playing DVDs and videos only.Now THAT would upset me as I love my sports and history channels but there is only so much my pensions will stretch to. Please think about we shut-ins who need the stimulus of good television.Don't make us pay anymore than we are paying already!

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tony ★ [1 month ago](#)

1. Absolutely - it would have a negative impact. Think about it - the prices could theoretically balloon out of control. Instituted this pay for signal concept is simply wrong - it's the start of something very dangerous. Nipping it in the bud would prevent a signal price war.

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Like



clairehummel ★ [1 month ago](#)

I use an antenna to receive the three major networks. To remove this free service will be a serious financial hardship on a fixed income. I cancelled our subscription with a satalite provider as we felt there was no choice in what we wanted to view without taking a lot of programs we had no interest in watching. We felt their take it or leave it attitude was no longer tolerable.

Please keep us and others like us in mind when you decide.

Claire Hummel 506 362 9203

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ITSMYOPINION ★ [1 month ago](#)

I think that if local stations are going to 'negotiate' for the value of their signals, they must

value the consumer first! Without the viewer there would be no local TV. Also, with the amount of advertising currently available during a normal hour - I should think that the local stations are raking in the dough . . . why charge ME? Am I paying to watch the program or the overwhelming number of ads?

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[ray_s](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to ITSMYOPINION](#)

One point is forgotten when they increase fees to fund so many channels. In the good old days when you only had one channel and one television set you only watched one channel. In the hundred channel cableverse those with one television still only watch one channel at a time. Few people are perverse enough to have a video wall where they can watch 100 channels at the same time. The cable companies may be amazed to realize that the same principle would apply when 1,000 channels are available.

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[paul2d](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

Make all TV stations subscription based and let the market decide what should exist in the digital entertainment world. Don't make people pay for what they don't want. Don't make people subsidize losing businesses.

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[richhoward](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

Since when are we as Tax payers required to support big business. Global, CTV and CBC need to make it on their own and if they can't then bye bye. We pay enough without another tax grab.

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[erikagreen](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

Frankly, I don't care what happens to either local stations or the current industry mega-corps. I will walk over to the Internet and watch what I want to there.

What I DO care about is fast and unlimited internet signal streaming. So that I can see what I want to see, when I want to see it, without advertising. Pretty simple.

As for industry incentives, not if it comes out of my tax dollar or is added onto my Rogers bill. They've been raking in the profits long enough to be able to fund the transition themselves. And if it's all gone to greedy corporate executives, that's not my problem, & nobody should try to make it so.

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[ray_s](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to erikagreen](#)

If you're thinking that the plan is to have you stream programs without ads dream again. Streaming would not allow you to save the programme on your computer. That would, among other things, prevent you from going fast forward through the ads.

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[erikagreen](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to ray_s](#)

There are always ways around advertising. But not if you use the current providers. And there are ways to capture streams. Believe me, if I can't get it without ads, I'll do without. Most of it's garbage anyway.

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[ray_s](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) in reply to [erikagreen](#)

Sure there are ways around the ads and streams, but when you consider the difficulty that many people have in stopping a clock from flashing 12:00, and who haven't got a smart kid in the house those ways are not a real practical alternative. The companies know that.

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[Robin](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

In the digital transition, the cost is going to be high. From a signal quality point of view, it is necessary to set certain guidelines for participation in the broadcast arena. As we saw the problems with the transition in the USA, let's not make the same mistakes.

1. A minimum level of signal picture resolution. 720p before it can be allowed. Why move to digital if you are not going to provide a picture to go with it.
2. Carriers must maintain a quality with any signal they provide for a fee. Example, if Station X is transmitting their programming in 1080p, then the carriers must provide the signal to their customers at 1080p to charge a fee. If the signal is degraded, then the cost to the customer is not charged as much. This must also take into account compression ratios of the carriers.
3. Local television must get support from the customers that receive their signals. I was against any monies going from carriers to providers but I have changed my view. Of course, management must maintain a local presence to get this money. Not local production, then no money. No money for repeater stations.

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[Danny James](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

Quite simply, the digital transition is forced by the government, not the cable operators. They have to pay out of pocket to upgrade to meet the requirements. Subsidizing smaller players is not levelling the playing field but penalizing well run companies. The government should subsidize the digital receivers if anything to allow the transition "they forced" to be seamless. In the end however, aren't we all paying? The digital transition is not required other than another way to open up spectrum for the government to capitalize on controlled bandwidth through fees.

The reality is, Cable companies are forced to provide terrestrial signals as part of their license to operate under the rules and obligations. Saying that they are getting FREE product from these stations is erroneous. When times are tough, cable will make less on subscribers who choose to downsize their services. TV Stations must face the same reality as advertisers downsize their budgets which results in lower revenue to the TV Stations. Streamlining their operations should be the proper course of action. By asking Cable to pay for something that they are forced to carry is somewhat the same scenario as the Provincial Government forcing taxpayers to pay for the debt of the old Ontario Hydro on their bill indefinitely. We did nothing to cause it, but now we have to pay for it. Seems the same logic applies with this fee.

Additionally as it relates to local content, Cable operators such as TVCogeco, Rogers Television, Shaw and others provide more than 10 times the amount of local content as CTV, Global, A-Channel etc.. Where else can you see the AHL, OHL, Curling, High School Football and local Christmas parades to name a few. On average, there is as few as 7 minutes of coverage by TV Stations on news reports in smaller towns such as Stratford, Samia, St Thomas or the like per week. Local Cable Television accounts for the highest ratio of "truly" local television and if anything, the cable operators should have the choice to offer more local through proven investment in their own operations if it benefits the public instead of paying TV Stations for revenue they could not generate themselves.

Common sense should prevail here. If you truly want to support local television, force the TV Stations to be accountable for a percentage of their content for "truly local". As a result, they

can keep their license. If they don't, they can lose it.

Flag

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frankdrebin ★ [1 month ago](#)

No, I think that value for signals would be used to augment spending on foreign (US) programming.

There should be a subsidy paid by BDUs and broadcasters to supplement the cost of a digital box (satellite or cable).

Flag

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Ronald Handfield ★ [1 month ago](#)

I no longer believe that broadcasters are not making money. As for local television, the only truly local television is provided by community television, a division of the cable companies. The broadcasters already have access to funds for programming. Why should the consumer pay for bad management. Broadcasters complain of the erosion of the viewers to specialty channels, but try to watch a programme on regular TV and with the lack of commercial time restrictions a 30 min show is down to 20 minutes. Broadcasters are forgetting that it is the cable companies that pay for the infrastructure to provide the signals to the clients. As for being local, broadcasters are only local in the community where the station is located. If a major event takes place elsewhere then they will cover, particularly if it is of the sensational type.

Perhaps broadcasters should re-visit their management structure, cut some deadwood, re-visit their payment for American programming, repeat good programmes.

Flag

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Dean ★ [1 month ago](#)

Seems funny to me that tv stations want to charge cable providers for a signal that they broadcast over the air for free. All cable companies are doing is cleaning up the signal to make it watchable and giving local tv stations the best place on the cable channel lineup.

Flag

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gbstone ★ [1 month ago](#)

1. No there would not be an impact. Local stations should have all rights to value their signals to run a profitable business, as long as consumers have the ability to opt out

2. Support for the consumer who may need to invest in newer technology receivers, tvs ...

Flag

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dave and donna r ★ [1 month ago](#)

The local stations should have no rights to negotiate the value of their signals. If the cable companies are not carrying them then they would not generate their advertising revenue. We also greatly disagree with your allowing the local stations to insert their advertising into programs received from the US.

Flag

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cgleeson ★ [1 month ago](#)

If local stations want to use the public airwaves to operate, the value of their programming should be sufficient to draw viewers, and, by extension, advertisers. Should they negotiate any fees for carriage, the amount of advertising permitted should be slashed by 95%. The big broadcasters which have been buying local stations, then whittling down their programming, then closing them, should be paying for any technological upgrade. No, they don't need any support or incentives to change to digital television. I don't see anyone offering me "support" to

change over to digital or HD or whatever the newest flavour will be.

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P Withers ★ [1 month ago](#)

1 - No

2 - No

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Sean ★ [1 month ago](#)

So, if analog is going to be gone, just how are Canadians in rural/remote or just less densely populated areas going to get local TV? Answer, the same as they do now, through either cable or satellite provider IF they do but they may not. Otherwise as digital over the air has distance limitations and is not without problems (as Australia has been experiencing and now the USA) they will not get any local content which is not right. However, local programming and stations are not independant so suggesting that they can negotiate their value is rather silly given their advertising rates are based on a number of factors not the least of which includes local market conditions etc. That being said, who benefits from digital? The government we pay a lot in taxes to operate may actually make some money from its regulation of the spectrum and so will TV salespeople but isn't the real question how much are we as taxpayers going to subsidize the industry or should it just be the actual consumers that pay or should it actually be the companies that are currently providing services now and making money that should pay for the upgrade that will allow them to keep collecting money from consumers? The choice is obvious, the decision to go to digital is not brand new, its been out there for some time and preparations should have been made by the industry already. I am even less in favour of bailing out profitable industries than unprofitable ones. Maybe they just need to ante up without passing it on for a change.

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Larry ★ [1 month ago](#)

Break up the basic programming package so that people who want to view local stations can pay for that local staion individually. Do away with the local programming percentage law that the CRTC has enacted. Let local stations stand or fall based on whether consumers subscribe to that station. We cannot support stations that cannot make it on their own merits.

We are already paying approximately \$30.00 for basic programming which includes all the local stations. So I am wondering why, at this point in time, some of this money has not been going to the local stations. Why are we now paying into a fund for local TV if the debate is still ongoing. I received a Bell satellite bill the other day and they are charging me .88 towards this LPF fund.

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Steven P ★ 1 month ago

If the local stations are allowed to negotiate the signals that are transmitted freely and are re-transmitted at the expense of the cable / satellite provider then at least give the consumer the option to support the channels they are willing to pay for. My complaint here is that most local stations benefit from the extensive coverage that the cable and satellite companies give them. As a national advertiser I can pay a local station to play my ad knowing full well that it is being broadcast across the country via cable and satellite.

It think it is time that we as consumers / taxpayers and the Government in general be it municipale / provincial / federal stop supporting businesses who cannot operate within the financial limits of their companies. Time and time again companies go the Government looking for money because they are in financial trouble, it's time we go back to a fully accountable business structure. NO MORE BAILOUTS!!!!

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Like



Maureen Carter ★ 1 month ago

Local TV stations should receive money from cable companies for airing their feeds. This money should NOT come from an additional TV tax on viewers. We already pay enough and the cable companies are making exorbitant amounts of money as is. It's completely ridiculous that their campaign consists of blaming local TV for trying to apply a TV Tax on viewers when it's the greedy cable companies' decision NOT the local stations'.

With that being said, cable companies should not be forced to carry local TV channels.

Basically, I think the channel bundling needs to stop. Give Canadians the opportunity to support the channels that are important to them. If we choose to support local channels, keep them and give them their share of the money. If we don't choose to support local channels then either these channels need to change something or they should be allowed to die. If no Canadians are watching, how important are they to Canadians?

From what I can see, Canadians pay more for their cable than any other country yet have no control over what they watch. Crappy channels are forced upon us by cable companies and their channel-bundling and we don't even have access to the free online streaming that is readily available to Americans because our networks spend all of their money (aka. our government's money, aka. our tax dollars) buying American shows, which they want us to watch on their station and not online.

No matter what the outcome, whatever happens, Canadians should not be charged a cent more. In fact, we should get a significant discount.

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Like



Paul M-C ★ 1 month ago

1. If you allow locals to charge - then give me the right not to subscribe to the locals.
2. NO,NO,NO - to support or incentives.

I don't watch 'local stations' and don't believe the concept of promoting "Canadian Content" creates any lasting value. There are lots of alternative 'sources' for news and entertainment - it is time the Government (CRTC) stopped trying to pick winners.

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Like



Larry ★ 1 month ago

Local stations should have the right to set fair market value for their product.

[Flag](#)

Like



betteb ★ [1 month ago](#)

I, for one, do not live in a major city.

Digital means no antenna... no antenna means that people who can least afford any cost increases will be affected the most! Watching a TV through an antenna may be the only source of entertainment for so many of our citizens! Just think of the number of people who are on fixed or very low incomes -- pensioners, single parent families and others who are struggling just to pay their rent and utilities.

Is no-one thinking of them?

Let those who want the HD pay for access... not everyone wants it!

Most local stations are just part of larger Corporations and probably will not have the authority to negotiate individually.

For those small stations who are locally owned and operated, I am of the opinion that they should continue to be supported by the CRTC, treated with respect and given the same monetary allowance as the larger stations. I would hope that these smaller companies would only have to pay a percentage of the cost of the new transmitters based on their income... therefore, the companies with the most revenue will pay the most. Please keep it fair and honest!

My opinion -- the industry, and by that I do not mean the local stations, should soften the transition to digital by supplying the supporting equipment free of charge to everyone who is not accessing a cable or satellite company. I DO NOT SUPPORT the CRTC forcing our citizens who can least afford it, to pay a monthly fee for Cable or Satellite service.

The cable company in our area, Rogers, charges EACH resident in Retirement homes who have a TV in their room, the same price as a household. Rogers, who is my example but I am sure this is likely the norm for all of the Cable companies, is cashing in on even the smallest retirement home and apartment building! With all of this easy revenue Rogers can probably afford to absorb their share of the cost of building the new transmitters.... or they'll just jack up the fees again so their customers feel the pinch -- not their Shareholders.

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Mike ★ [1 month ago](#)

The networks already receive more than a billion dollars of taxpayer money annually and about \$600 million a year in benefits from TV providers like Bell... even as they posted operating profits of \$400 million last year. Why do they need even more from Canadians?

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Mike ★ [1 month ago](#)

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Matty ★ [1 month ago](#)

For the most part local programming is garbage that nobody cares about or watches, with the exception of the news. TV stations are businesses and if they are no longer making a profit they need to come up with a new game plan to turn things around instead of looking for handouts from the government. If they can not produce quality programming that people actually want to watch or evolve with the times we should not have to pay to keep them in business.

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Mike ★ [1 month ago](#)

Local TV is important outside major cities, and many Canadians are going to have to pay to get their TV set up to receive digital signals anyway. If distributors are willing to carry these free if the public purchases the proper equipment, that is reasonable. But it shouldn't have to be the equipment OF those providers. If someone can get a second hand satellite dish that does the same job as Bell's, it shouldn't be a problem.

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Linda Johnson ★ [1 month ago](#)

1. If local stations are allowed to negotiate a "Fee for Carriage" with the cable and satellite providers, the CRTC must lift the "Mandatory Carriage" provision because they can't have it both ways. I refuse to be forced to subscribe to the Canadian networks and then be forced to pay extra for them.

2. The CRTC created a can of worms when it implemented "mandatory carriage" and "signal substitution". The Canadian broadcasters were granted a monopoly and the consumers became the big losers. If Canadian networks were worth watching, we wouldn't be having this discussion in the first place.

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Shirley Ross ★ [1 month ago](#)

I would be willing to pay a fee to the local TV for their programming. I realize that the changes to digital access are costly and I believe that for Local TV which is important could be subsidized on the local level and Government should be assisting in the CBC Transition.

[Flag](#)

Like



Shelley Corrin ★ [1 month ago](#)

I fully support local programming, and oppose the cable companies which claim payment for what taxpayers already pay for , and which they get for free.

I am one of the few who gets more than enough digital TV over the air, and I feel very sorry for those how have to pay exorbitant amounts for packages they don't really want.

Why doesn't the CRTC make an effort to alert people to the joys of ATSC tuners (eg, Sony Bravia) where a rooftop antenna with a rotor will do the trick? Then citizens will know how to cease being gouged by cable companies, or Bell packaging.

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Judy Ilan ★ [1 month ago](#)

I am not particularly interested in the impact on business. I am interested in how these changes will effect people like me who live in rural areas and will lose our reception with these changes. Now receive tv reception from an antennae on my house. I live on the north side of a mountain so a satellite is not possible. I understand there may be as many as 9 million people negatively affected by these changes. I am especially concerned about CBC reception. I pay for this on my taxes and I am very happy with the service. I will not be happy to lose it. What is being done about us?

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George ★ [1 month ago](#)

I can only say as an older person that I am content with the type of television equipment I now posses. I am deeply concerned that we are using both materials and energy in this constant

downgrading of electronic equipment which is too frequently junked and clutters the world's surfaces. I am appalled at the frequency with which my grandchildren dispose of their electronic gadgets.

I view my ability to hear and see my provincial news as paramount, hotly followed by Canadian news, and indeed changed my cable provider because they could and would not offer me New Brunswick news.

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berrywater ★ [1 month ago](#)

Cable and satellite companies should provide fee for carriage to the broadcasters because the advertising market today is too inadequate to provide enough funds to offset the costs of maintaining Canadian television sources. Without this, the local stations could be forced into bankruptcy.

Look at Canwest! Had there been adequate funding, they may not be in the position they're in today but on the other hand, had Canwest been properly managed in the first place.....

I believe that if consumers were faced with a reality of not having their local channels they would certainly be agreeable to contributing a little more on their monthly cable and satellite bills.

My personal fear is that, if a company such as Rogers decides to raise fees because of any extra-ordinary contribution to the local TV channels, they'd find another (new) way to ding the consumer again. Any excess fees they raise may be disbursed to more of their corporate boondoggles.

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f nord ★ [1 month ago](#)

I get more and more annoyed at people being shut out from the necessities. I barely have enough money for a roof and food, and I frankly don't care how it's done, but it is essential that basic services be available at no cost to those who cannot afford, without having to spend money they don't have for additional equipment.

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Jean Chard ★ [1 month ago](#)

I am concerned that local television find a way to continue to bring us local news and programming. I do not believe, from what I know, that the cable companies need to charge the consumer anything more, even if the local stations are given a fee for their signal. In any case, any additional cost passed on to the consumer should be minimal. I believe that the CBC should receive some of the revenue and not be shut out because they are a "public" broadcaster.

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Norman Farrell ★ [1 month ago](#)

If I disapprove of a broadcaster's work, I can avoid their product. Don't impose fees that force me to support them anyway. Broadcasters and cable companies have no guaranteed right to be profitable. If they don't want to upgrade to digital broadcasting, return their licenses and allow someone else to meet modern standards.

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judyarcher ★ [1 month ago](#)

I value local TV and think evrything should be done that is possible to maintain existing staaions

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*judyarcher* ★ [1 month ago](#)

The CRTC should do everything in its power to maintain the existing local TV channels

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*laurienicol* ★ [1 month ago](#)

Lost in all of this is that fact that broadcasters are not providing broadcasting. Cable TV exists as an option to receiving programming directly by antenna. The key word here should be "option".

The CRTC has been developing policy to stop Canadians from receiving "over the air" broadcasting by allowing lower transmission signals and enabling "the industry" to force folks to either pay for a satellite subscription or a cable subscription. I prefer to receive the broadcasts directly, and not subscribe at all.

If the TV stations abandon their broadcasting, someone else should be assigned their wavelengths.

If the cable companies re-transmit OTA signals for profit, they should pay for them. Period! (You can't sell somebody else's song.)

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*Lillian* ★ [1 month ago](#)

We need local TV stations all across Canada. The cable companies make enough money and should not be allowed to charge more to continue carrying local Canadian tv shows and Canadian programming. The cable companies should be made to pay fees (fines) for carrying garbage such as FOX TV and violent American shows and stupid American shows.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*Gary Douglas* ★ [1 month ago](#)

The major cable companies and local tv are frying up a beautifully juicy red herring for all Canadians, especially the ones who pay monthly cable bills in excess of a couple hundred dollars each month. For me, both are to blame. Stop charging me for channels that I never use. And, in so far as TV is concerned, stop paying those millions of dollars on CSI NY, Miami, and Las Vegas. What is the answer? Certainly not more Corner Gas!!!!

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*Media Watcher* ★ [1 month ago](#)

Amazing how many of these suggestions are a rehash of how things were 50 years ago before the mega corps and investment bankers took over broadcasting. Local broadcasters competed with cross border US stations by providing unique local content that would appeal to local viewers and therefore local advertisers. Sink or swim, it was up to the local stations to survive on their own merits.

Unbundle the cable/telco/satellite/internet channels and let the public choose to subscribe on a station by station basis. Then I will support letting commercial stations charge what ever they want. Let the market place decide.

The only stations that should be regulated, mandatory and supported by a true broadcast tax are the ones using the public airwaves to reach all Canadian's (rich or poor, urban or rural) and serve the public interest in times of emergency. Right now the CBC and a few non commercial broadcast outlets that still produce local content are the only ones that that justify tax based support.

If we fail to adapt then you can plan on getting all of your news and entertainment from Google (complete with the censorship that national governments are now imposing on Google). Your privacy will be gone as every viewing choice is logged and ad word indexed.

We can forget getting any local news at all when a natural disaster makes the internet inaccessible. Your battery powered radio or TV won't help you after all of the broadcast transmitter towers have been sold off as scrap metal.

Local cellular networks usually saturate within minutes of a disaster so forget them.

Thank goodness the amateur radio people will still be on the air. They started it all a century ago with free over the air broadcasts long before investors found ways to squeeze a profit out of commercial broadcasting. It looks like the amateurs and the non profits may be the last voices on the air a century later.

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 *D. Rogers* ★ [1 month ago](#)

We are perfectly happy with our current analog television images. We feel that broadcasters should transmit BOTH analog and digital signals.

[Flag](#)

Like

 *ray_s* ★ [1 month ago](#) in reply to D. Rogers

Remember that when colour TV was introduced it had to be compatible with existing black and white sets.

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 *Barbara Morton-Winters* ★ [1 month ago](#)

-cable monopolies should pay for the local signals they distribute
-cable should not be allowed to pass these payments along to subscribers
to make sure this happens, the rates for basic service should be re-regulated

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Like

 *Lawrence Maier* ★ [1 month ago](#)

I need local TV. I think it is fair to charge cable a fee to broadcast local signals. What I am concerned about is the rhetoric and blatant mistruths being heaped on us everytime we turn on the TV by both cable and broadcasters.

Turn the CBC back to it's original purpose - informing Canadians about Canada without political or commercial interference. That would solve a lot of problems, and give us a REAL choice.

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 *frankmitchell* ★ [1 month ago](#)

Satellite broadcasters should be seen as providing a public service to ALL. Costs are no higher for signals received in a farm or a city. Rates should be common for users everywhere. Rates should also be regulated for basic service. It is of second order interest just what is included in "basic service." My suggestion would be no program --- let residents decide what they want by paying for the channels they want to receive. If the provider wants to package some groups of channels, that would be fine too.

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liz ★ [1 month ago](#)

Local stations should not have to negotiate for the value of the signal as then only the strong would survive and the little guy would disappear. The industry doesn't need incentives to convert or transition as this is the way of their future industry and they will need to fund the change

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Trevor ★ [1 month ago](#)

How will Canadians be better served by displacing local content with foreign national providers. Currently, local content providers are not paid while large corporate providers such HBO do receive payment per viewer for their content.

Are we still distinctly Canadian when all local stores close for the sake of Walmart?

Is the communicated culture and information subject to a pricing war? No - there must be a base fee for local providers as a consequence of this switch to digital.

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David BCL ★ [1 month ago](#)

I am shocked that the content contained in the signal of the local station or the network is not considered the property of the local station or the network. They produce or purchase the programming. If I produce or purchase something, it is mine, and if I wish to sell it, I can. If I cannot negotiate a price with which I am satisfied, I can choose to not sell and maintain ownership of this property.

If the local stations and networks chose to do this, they would have exclusivity to the programming. If they chose how to programme wisely, the viewership would rise and the the value of their advertising space would rise markedly. This would solve the problem of funding local TV

Why is this even an issue? What is it in the Statutes that causes the Court to rule against such ownership? Is this not similar to intellectual property?

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shirleyhartery ★ [1 month ago](#)

To me local programming is essential if people are to understand the world around them, be in touch with their communities, form cohesive views about how events are impacting on them locally. We live our lives in community. That can only be enhanced by local programming, especially in non-urban areas. By the same token, we lose in many ways if local programming is taken away. This has happened in too many places over the years. We need to hear what's happening around us, to enjoy the talents of people living in our area, to celebrate with them, to share sadness with them, to support each other. Whether it's cable or digital, as long as local programming is a priority is the important thing.

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davurs ★ [1 month ago](#)

1. I am opposed to cable/satellite companies wanting to collect more fees in order to support local TV. The cable/satellite business should share with local TV from the copious fees they already require from their customers. I should have the freedom to support local TV stations through an individual purchase (at an affordable price and shared with the local TV) of the channels I want, not the channels that the cable/satellite companies think I should have. Right now I view only 10% of the channels I have to subscribe to in order to view the channels I wish to view.

2. No. The industry should already be well on the way towards implementing, if not already implemented, the transition to digital. If they have not, why are they so dilatory in seeing what

was already coming down the "pipe".

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Ken Collier ★ [1 month ago](#)

1. Local stations should be able to negotiate for, and be paid for, the value of their signals, even if digital TV is at our doorsteps.

2. The industry includes not only local broadcasters, but the cable and satellite operators as well. Their relations are complex and quite uneven in power and influence. CRTC should step up and regulate in a way that encourages Canadians broadcast, especially locally-produced broadcasting.

I live in Red Deer AB where the only local TV station folded after 52 years of broadcasting, so now it is too late for us. But local communities across Canada should get support and a regulated environment, adjusted every year based on the stats for Canadian content, in which to ensure continued operation and funding.

I support the presentation made by Friends of Canadians Broadcasting Dec 9, 2009 and hope the CRTC will take heed of their recommendations.

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Loretta ★ [1 month ago](#)

1. Absolutely - local stations are producing the product but are not receiving compensation from the cable companies, who distribute this product without paying the local stations.

2. No, they have been making money off the efforts of the local stations for years and they should simply be regulated into paying for what they are using. Re-regulation is required here not deregulation.

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CAM ★ [1 month ago](#)

Initially Cable companies were doing the local station a favour by carrying their signal to a wider audience and increasing their audience thus increasing their potential advertising revenue base, what's changed?

I will never pay for satellite or cable because I have to pay for loads of junk I don't want to get the few stations I do want. Fortunately I can now get most of what I do want over the internet.

Free satellite delivery of local channels is a great idea for a country the size of Canada providing the cost of the equipment is reasonable not the \$300-400 being talked about by Bell and Shawdirect, equipment is available for less than half that price providing an unscrambled signal is transmitted and spotbeams are used to control out of market signals as proposed by FreeHD Canada.

Right now much of rural Canada is lucky to get 1 snowy channel, 5 would be a vast improvement finally getting all of Canada up to 1960 standards.

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harryaleslie ★ [1 month ago](#)

I do think that allowing local stations to receive a fee from carriers would have an impact on the industry but I dismiss their complaints because the "public good" outweighs their concerns. An informed public is far more important than the private broadcaster or carrier industries. If the carriers threaten to discontinue service if forced to pay local broadcasters for their signals, impose a regime on them whether they like it or not. Someone will enter the market to replace them eventually. Call their bluff. Show them that their regulated monopoly exists at the crown's leave not some inherent right they wish they had. This is Canada not America. We have public

information needs that cannot be met with a strictly laissez-faire model.

I would have no problem with the industry getting tax breaks and tax credits for the CRTC imposing a "public good" model on them.

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B. Gallpen ★ 1 month ago

Access to existing channels needs to be preserved. I don't have digital TV & I don't think I need it. It would be nice to have a choice rather than being forced to pay more for something I don't need - something to fit the cable companies needs not mine.

Flag

Like



JosephRaglione ★ 1 month ago

Hi!

1. I dislike advertising even if it does create revenue streams for broadcasters. Why? Because much of the advertising on Television sells junk! It is basically false advertising. In my experience, quality products and the regulation of advertising products on T.V. has evaporated over the years.
2. Canadians do need local News Stations for local News. Yes, the government of Canada should economically protect local News Producers because that protection extends to Canada as a whole. Canada is the sum of it's parts. Without locals there is no Canada. Simple.
3. Yes, Tax the rich and give to the poor. If Cable is rich, ask them to share the wealth with local producers. Call it protecting Canada's national interests and yes, you do have a problem! Cable is bringing in American programs and Americans are advertsing to Canadians. What we need is to reverse the process. We need to sell quality local products to Americans using the existing cable networks, but if Cable does not like that concept, shut them down.

I am certainly not an expert on Television Broadcasting and Advertising, but this I do understand, I will never again sit like a Couch Potato and watch T.V. while I own an interactive computer. I have the ability to use my computer for more than watching entertainment presently created as vehicles for Advertising. At present, creating and programming "consumers" is the priority for Television Advertisers. Well I have sad news for them. I resent being brain-washed. People today are struggling against the concept of "consumerism." That does not bode well for Television as a popular Media.

Local T.V. News programs, however, are popular. Protecting them has social value.

One final thought. If Digital Television becomes a government attempt to control the interactive ability of our computers, you will discover how several million computer Geeks can effectively close down a corporation and/or a government.

Thanks for reading!

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Thanks for reading!

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 *James D Reeb* ★ [1 month ago](#)

I am concerned that my bills from Bell Expressvue and Eastlink are already too high for me. I would not want to pay an extra fee for local TV. I am also sympathetic with the Broadcasters who produce and pay for TV program that the cable and satellite companies then steal from the airwaves and charge us to see them. CTV, Global and CBC along with the A channel need a source of revenue that is no longer dependent totally on advertizing. Why should cable companies get the broadcasts for free and then charge us for seeing the free broadcasts. I hope God will give you wisdom as you try to deal with this issue in a fair and just manor. Digital tv is not seen by me as a necessity and I don't think many people would insist on it. Why should we pay for the companies to upgrade to a system that most Canadians are not yet ready to use?

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 *Kelowna Bob* ★ [1 month ago](#)

Most local stations are already struggling and would be in a very weak negotiating position.

There should be no support from the government to industry for the transition to digital television in 2011. It is simply the cost of doing business and all kinds of companies have to adapt to the changing environment in their field of endeavour. There could be the possibility of low income Canadians being subsidized to some extent if they have to purchase set top boxes to continue to receive off air signals via their rabbit ears or antenna similar to the scheme in the USA except that there should not be a blanket subsidy offered to everyone including those who can well afford to buy a set top box.

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 *Greg F.* ★ [1 month ago](#)

Soon most Canadians will have a PVR. Since getting mine I have not watched commercials, I just skip past them. It will not be long now and we will see advertisers pulling TV ads as their effectiveness fails.

TV networks will have to adapt or close their doors, they should not be given the opportunity to raise revenue through Cable companies, (who pass their costs on to the viewer). Opening that door will lead to an ever widening dependancy instead of innovation and evolution.

Greg F.

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 *alanmyers* ★ [1 month ago](#)

We don't get our local station (Kelowna) on satellite. It's ridiculous and backwards to what the argument is about elsewhere in the nation. Not only are they not receiving money for that

signal, it can't even be viewed. All Canadian TV stations should be available on Cable and on Satellite. There's plenty of channels available.

I think allowing local stations to negotiate for the value of their signals is the only way to proceed. Let the free market sort this one out. CTV, Global and CBC may have to launch a satellite service to compete with Bell, Star Choice, Telus et al. Bell may have to launch a network to compete with CTV, Global and CBC. Haha. Whoever is making money will have competition - or at least should have.

Satellite carriers say that all the networks do is provide US programming which is true. I guess that those satellite carriers don't see that they do the same thing. Both parties seem so indignant but both of them only exist and have an opportunity to prosper because of CRTC's existing rules. Threaten to allow US satellite carriers and see how suddenly everyone will get along in Canada.

Absolutely no industry support or incentives. They've both picked our pocket long enough with no effort by either of them to produce anything of value. They both "borrow" signals originating in the US and sell that to their clients. If they can't make money, then too bad. They'll have to go out of business or start producing something that's unique that people want to watch. The Littlest Hobo? Give me a break!

[Flag](#)

Like



Jeanne Randle ★ [1 month ago](#)

Local TV is essential to a democratic society. It must have adequate funding funding by one means or another. It should be part of the CBC mandate, which would require supplementary funds to enable and encourage local programming. The cable companies operate as monopolies, and it follows that they are the logical funders of such an enterprise.

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Kimberly Smith ★ [1 month ago](#)

I am not satisfied with cable, satellite and some digital media providers because they do not provide enough professionally produced local content. Public access community television regulations exclude local businesses from having full motion commercials on locally created programs while cable subscribers still get bombarded with ads from big business who's primary goal is to exploit rather than nourish communities. If there is apathy at the level of public access community television it is because local businesses don't have enough incentive to sponsor the professional creation of local programming. Free to air broadcasters have traditionally generated professional local news and other programming, but now cable, satellite and digital media services have scooped advertising dollars. If we allow the market to determine how things unfold, we will be exploiting our baser desires rather than taking steps to consciously nourish our communities in a meaningful and beautiful way that prospers all. Whatever we do, we must serve the greater good. That means give all businesses access to television signals in the communities they call home, but make sure they sponsor the professional creation of local programming.

Local content creators like local television stations must be paid for their work. Simple as that. However you define "the industry" these people can learn to be fair like everyone else. If their plans impinge on the rights of others to make a living, I would squash their plans immediately. The idea that they can distribute content that they paid nothing for and then charge other people to watch it and still other people to advertise on it is verging on criminal. Encourage honorable people to act honorably. Make all advertising dollars be divided in such a way that substantial portions are set aside for the professional production of local news and other programming. Make it so the advertisers must deal with the CRTC before they deal with the content distributors. I want to pester the people with my commercial message? You, the CRTC, regulate me the business person. You determine where I get to place my message and how much I have to pay. Take it completely out of the television industry's hands. Make big business pay for access to the public and control where when and how often their messages intrude into the consciousness of the people.

[Flag](#)

Like



Leon Hoffentoth ★ 1 month ago

Local stations can negotiate all they want as far as I'm concerned, provided that the CRTC puts an end to "bundling". Then we'll see the market quickly sort out itself and perhaps have some true competition.

As for digital television, it may provide technical benefits for service providers or networks, but given the quality of programming available, it's a waste of technology.

Any industry that requires support or incentives beyond that provided by the marketplace should not be calling itself an industry. As a taxpayer, I accept that I must support many social or political programmes to which I do not subscribe. However, I deeply resent being expected to subsidise any industry, and especially one that I consider non-essential.

Finally, and somewhat off-topic: why does this site, belonging as it does to a Crown Corporation, use an American-English version of a spell checker? Canadian content indeed!

[Flag](#)

Like



Ron Levesque ★ 1 month ago

OF course it will have an impact. The cable companies will whine that there profits will be cut. But they take few of the risks in terms of programming. But the cable companies don't care about Canadian content. It wouldn't make any difference to them if there were no Canadian networks as they would continue to bring American programming into the country and make their profits. It is time you insisted that they share the risks of bring quality Canadian programming in a meaningful way like the radio content rules did for the music industry. We now have a vibrant and international music industry.

Yes the industry needs support but the federal government ideological blinkers stand in the way of such policies. If there only US news on the box think of what else the government could lie about - the Afgan prisoner debacle for one.

[Flag](#)

Like



Michael Moyes ★ 1 month ago

Local tv should continue to be free and the money should be taken out of a fund from cable companies. They should also not be allowed to pass that cost on to the customer.

[Flag](#)

Like



Ted M ★ 1 month ago

I would like to see local stations be compensated for the value of their signals through a tax on all advertising and each broadcasters total audience for Canadian programs.

[Flag](#)

Like



Barb ★ 1 month ago

Definitely local stations should be paid for their signals. Cable companies are paying for other signals and they need to pay for local signals. Cable companies need to continue to be required to carry local stations and payment would help increase quality Canadian programming. I don't think the industry needs any support since Cable costs have drastically increased in the last while for no apparent reason. Our population does not know how fortunate we are to have the CRTC as a regulator and what valuable & crucial roles local TV plays in our great country.

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[anabela2001](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

Television in whatever forms either be cable or satellite is a luxury not a Necessity of Life.

Being asked to additional fee for television, to me is STUPID. With today's economy troubles, people can't afford an extra \$10.00 dollars a month.

If local stations can't afford to keep there doors open, than close it but don't ask me to help out. If I lost my job, I can't ask the public for money to help me out.

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[Meredith](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

I'm not the one who does the subscribing in our family, so I am only foggily aware of cost, which packages, etc. But I am aware that we receive both digital and analog through Shaw, and watch both HD and ...LD. I don't see why is it necessary to demand only one form of transmission from everybody in 2011. What's the matter with both on one cable? Seems to work fine - We watch our local station quite often; it keeps us up on local events and talent and news - and has an endearingly down-home quality - I'd hate to see that disappear entirely, but it's clear the station could use some new income. I'm afraid the whole station will disappear entirely if it has to digitise on its own, or broadcast outside, on a different system (gee, the boxes are piling up around here!). The cable companies should certainly pay for local broadcasts as they do others, and local ad revenues going to local stations would help too. I emphatically feel the cable companies DO NOT NEED compensation or subsidy for this service! They are doing just fine, thankyou.

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[JTS](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

- * local TV is under severe threat
- * to keep it alive, it needs new sources of funds
- * cable monopolies should pay for the local signals they distribute
- * cable should not be allowed to pass these payments along to subscribers
- * to make sure this happens, the rates for basic service should be re-regulated
- * the compensation to local broadcasters for their signals should be allocated based on each broadcaster's total audience for Canadian shows

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[Len Gibson](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

If one wants a quality TV picture they have to pay for the set that delivers that quality and the system that delivers that signal. Technical progress "outdates" old systems; if the consumer wishes to keep up with this progress there is a cost be it TV, phones, music players, etc. I am not against the route taken in US offering some government support to deal with the digital switch.

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[ray_s](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) [in reply to Len Gibson](#)

What do you mean by "quality". A finer grained picture is not enough because it does not give any significant useful information to most viewers. A person is physiologically incapable of deriving such additional information. This "outdating" is a bandwagon effect based on selling people more than they really need. The essential business applications on a computer that were developed more than a decade ago still work perfectly well as long as nobody tries to "improve" them.

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JHRkitchener ★ 1 month ago

Q1. Local licensing would be the best option, if there is a local presence in the transmitting area, then cable/satellite providers must provide it and can charge a small fee, with a large % paid to the local station. If no local service exists, then no fee is due. This should be a condition of the cable/satellite companies CRTC operating license.

Q2. Yes, the industry service providers do need incentives to implement the Q1 solution. A new open competition for area licensing should be made, to allow for those providers who have the viewers interest at heart for access to local and national services. If you can't (or won't) provide local service to your viewers - then there license to provide should be revoked immediately. The same with local service providers, if they can't or won't share there service with cable/satellite companies for distribution - they should have there license revoked.

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Like



Rob ★ 1 month ago

I don't think that it is appropriate for broadcasters to ask for more money at this point. If I run my own business, it is up to me to ensure that it is run properly, and profitably, and not expect handouts, or gov't mandated support if I fail, or just become greedy.

Sounds to me that the broadcasters are becoming a welfare case. I'm tired of subsidising bad programming ie. CBC.

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mark22001 ★ 1 month ago

1. Yes!
2. No!

[Flag](#)

Like



coxhorton ★ 1 month ago

To Necessary Evil

Yes Local News is Exciting & in British Columbia timely What with the Olympics, Sockeye , Cohoe & halibut debates Climate & enviornmental concerns it is imperative that all B.C. residents understand our Province. Then there is the Homeless education the economy etc. Get the picture. We do need our local stations.

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louisd ★ 1 month ago

I would have no problem with them as long as I have the choice to choose the channels I want. The problem is that this question already assumes that things will stay as is, and we'll pay more for even channels we don't want.

So let me be clear, you can give them the right to negotiate the value, but the consumer must have the right to choose what they pay for. No bundles, No packages, No channels that I don't want.

If the consumer doesn't get that right... then NO, they should NOT be allowed to charge for their signals.

If the local stations and cable/satellite negotiate their charges.. Then the consumer should have the right to negotiate their selected services. Give the consumer the power too.

I believe that the stations and broadcasters and cable/satellite companies make enough to fund their own upgrade to digital. They'd be investing in their future business. I had to pay out of my pocket to go digital... why can't they?

[Flag](#)[Like](#)[craigmcbride](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

I beleive that Local stations should be allowed to charge for their signals as they are a business if they wish to increase their rates then the customer can decide if they want to buy them.

If this is allowed there needs to be competition in the marketplace for Cable companies so that this cost is not just dumped on the consumer. Look what happened to Local phone rates when competition was allowed. Currently there is NO competition for local television, and

[Flag](#)[Like](#)[Jakespeare](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

This was in the New York Times today:
December 10, 2009
Cable Freedom Is a Click Away
By NICK BILTON

Welcome to our living room. Take a seat, make yourself comfortable. Would you like to watch a movie, or the new "Family Guy" episode?

Oh, that, over there. You want to know why there's a pile of gadgets and wires on the floor? My wife and I usually don't talk about that clutter. We actually refer to it as the Gadget Graveyard. Mostly, we pretend it doesn't even exist. But since you asked, I'll explain.

This digital necropolis isn't your typical sanctuary for retired devices. Instead, here you'll find technologies that tried to provide the best viewing experience and program options with a television, but ultimately fell short. Everything is relatively new, and comparatively unusable — to me at least.

Among this pile you can find my old remote controls and wires from my cable box. Then there's the dreaded Apple TV, now a \$250 paperweight. There's also the \$80 Roku box, a device that allows you to stream video from Netflix, Amazon.com and other sites directly to your television. But wait, there's more! A Vudu player, a Slingbox and a handful of other single-serving contraptions.

Those devices are all behind me now. I disconnected everything, threw it to the side and canceled the cable months ago. Instead, now I have a Mac Mini, wireless mouse and a Microsoft Xbox hooked up to my television.

This quest for cable freedom has been a couple of years in the works. Before I called the cable company to bid my farewell I imagined that I would need a vast array of devices to fill the entertainment void: a device for games, something for television shows, a contraption for streaming movies through Netflix and, finally, something to control all of the above. But it turns out a computer can do all those tasks with some software upgrades and a wireless keyboard and mouse.

I have to be honest, this isn't as easy as just plugging a computer into a monitor, sitting back and watching a movie. There's definitely a slight learning curve. One difficult part of this equation was getting used to the wireless mouse. We use a mouse called the Loop, made by Hillcrest Labs, that costs \$99. The Loop looks more like a chocolate-frosted doughnut with buttons than something that navigates a television set. To navigate the screen you hold it out and wave your hand from side to side as if you are conducting an orchestra.

As for the computer, you don't specifically need a Mac Mini. This set up can work with most inexpensive PCs; just make sure the video card can handle the streaming video requirements. Our refurbished Mac Mini cost \$380 online.

Although the initial investment was costly, totaling \$550, it took only a few months to recoup the money. Back in the olden days of cable we were forced to shell out a relatively standard \$140 a month, for television service alone. This cost gave us access to a digital video recorder and hundreds of unwatched TV channels.

Contrast this with today, where our only expense is \$9 a month to stream Netflix videos from the Web and the \$30 a month that we always spent on an Internet connection. O.K., maybe that's not completely accurate. When the wireless keyboard died a few weeks ago I was forced to spend another \$4 for two new AA batteries. We've not yet recovered from that financial loss. We still come home from work and watch any number of shows, just like the people who continue to pay for cable. We just do it a little differently, starting the computer and then using services like Hulu, Boxee, iTunes and Joost. Another interesting twist to this experience is that

we're no longer limited to consuming traditional programming. With these applications we can spend an entire evening flicking through videos from YouTube, CollegeHumor or Web-only programs.

Here are a few of the applications on our home setup:

Boxee is probably the most clicked icon on our television. You can download this free open-source application from Boxee.tv. It's important to note that it's still in test phase and a little rough around the pixels, but over all it allows you to access almost any type of video content online. You can easily stream CNN, Current TV, PBS and more. Most important for us, Boxee easily allows access to the Netflix streaming service, which offers up thousands of movies and television shows (just not always the most popular options).

Next there is Hulu Desktop, the joint venture among Fox, NBC, ABC and many other mainstream programming outlets. This service allows you to watch more than 1,700 television shows, including traditional favorites like "30 Rock," "The Daily Show With Jon Stewart" and "The Office." Hulu's downloadable desktop application, as opposed to hulu.com, works extremely well with large screens. Apple's iTunes application replicates all the features of Apple TV, allowing you to buy or rent movies and listen to your music collection.

Be warned though that iTunes can get expensive. If you watch premium-cable television shows, you can pay more than \$40 for the season of a single show. But even that is less than one month of cable. Since there are so many other entertainment options online, we just skip "Dexter" and "Weeds." Trust me, there is a lot of great free or ad-supported content out there. Finally there's Joost.com. Although it's not a downloadable application and only accessible through a Web browser, Joost offers free streaming movies and a strange variety of cartoons. While Microsoft's Xbox 360 (starting at \$200), is not absolutely necessary for this setup, it delivers an array of lively entertainment options. I can, of course, play video games, but I can also rent movies (through the Xbox marketplace or through Netflix's online viewing service), and browse Twitter and Facebook, with a new feature that lets you watch a streaming interface of your social networks flow across the screen.

I understand this kind of living room experience isn't for everyone. It's a lot less work to just click a button up or down on a standard remote control. And it can be difficult to explain how to use this unfamiliar toolbox of buttons, programs and devices.

Over Thanksgiving a friend graciously house-sat at our apartment. It took my wife more than an hour to write a detailed description explaining how to use our new TV setup. After explaining how to use the mouse and keyboard, we had to describe how to switch among applications. The instructions read:

"If you want to watch "Ugly Betty," or "Saturday Night Live," you will need to load up Hulu. If you'd like to watch some of the movies we've downloaded, you will have to quit Hulu, open up Boxee and navigate to the movies folder. To use Netflix, you'll need to switch to the Xbox and. ... " But after a few hours of randomly clicking into cyberspace, our friend figured it out.

There is one other showstopper. I know the sports and technology enthusiasts don't often mix, but if you're one of the few people who live in both of those worlds you might have to look for other options. To watch baseball you can buy a little dongle that plugs into the back of your computer and streams free over-the-air high-definition channels. I bought this for the Yankees games and it worked perfectly. If you're an ESPN fan you have two options. Stick with cable, or go to a bar to watch the basketball games.

Over all, I couldn't be happier with our computer television setup. Now, I just have to figure out what gadgets I'm going to buy with the \$1,600 a year I no longer send to the cable company.

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Jakespeare ★ 1 month ago

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[Kamiki](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) in reply to [Jakespeare](#)

This is a good description of the evolution of media technology. Internet Protocol will eventually dominate, (at least for a while), the delivery systems whether coaxial cable; satellite; fibre or twisted pair. Users will be able to choose programming on a source by source basis and bundling should be significantly reduced.

The representation of Canada to Canadians should not be regarded as the primary purpose of through-the-air broadcasting. It isn't really doing that job well even now and other technologies are a better vehicle.

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[wwwabit](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

A "FreeHD" satellite service should be paid for by the local TV stations that are no longer putting money into their transmitters. Then anyone can purchase a dish and receiver to get the local stations, just like they would have purchased an antenna to get the analog service over the air.

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[AMADHA](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

1. Basically, in my opinion, this whole discussion is driven by the shift to digital since it totally changes the broadcast model since signal doesn't travel as far before breaking up so dependence on cable/satellite will increase. I'm not sure if broadcast should negotiate the value of their signal, that's what advertising does, and they've already closed many smaller stations. I do believe that they should be reimbursed by those that redistribute them.

2. I think both industries (broadcast and cable/satellite) have enough capital that they don't need support. However, I think they do need incentives. Like don't count cable "community" channels towards their Canadian content levels, instead count their percentage of local channel coverage by service area and then Canadian show broadcast hours versus other broadcast hours. So a community like Brandon would add zero percent to their content percent since that local channel closed. If both industries get to maintain their license to make money based on there being local channels in communities above a certain size they have a strong incentive to put and keep them there.

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[Dave](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

The business models of local television stations and satellite providers are beyond me. However, I believe that local television is important and should be encouraged -- since the switch to digital is mandated there should be some assistance offered in the short term to support the transition in locations where the survival of local channels depends on such

assistance. This would likely take the form of payments from cable or satellite providers for the local signal (taken out of their profits not as an add on to existing fees) rather than satellite providers providing dishes to pick up local signals.

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Kamiki ★ [1 month ago](#)

It is important to distinguish between the technology of broadcasting and the program content thereby delivered. The need for through-the-air television broadcasting is disappearing rapidly. The replacement process began over fifty years ago with the development of coaxial cable; then satellite; and now fibre-optics and data transmission using internet protocol. Programming used to be local but is no more. It has been eroded by the rising cost of production and the efficiency of networks and the need for distribution to larger audiences.

Because "local television" has been built on the business model of selling the audience to advertisers, programming has always shifted to that which attracts the largest audience.

Because cable television helped to expand coverage and thereby create a larger audience, it also played a part in shifting "local television" away from "local programming".

It is a pretense to suggest that a local television station in any community provides local programming. All television stations now belong to networks and must by the very nature of their business model use programming that is distributed to a large audience. It is therefore pointless to expect that the continuation of "local television" based on advertising revenue and using through-the-air technology will ever improve local programming.

The future of local programming depends on recognizing that it is specialized and that in smaller communities in particular, it appeals to smaller audiences. The logical delivery technology is the internet and if it is to respond to the expectations of its community of interest, then it must be paid for more by its users and less by advertisers. Further, it will only be responsive to user demands if they can refuse to pay for it. Therefore, local programming should not be a part of any form of basic service mandated by government regulation and the programming source, (call it a station if you wish), should operate in a free market environment.

There is no "evil" cable television industry trying to steal programming from local broadcasters. There is however a world that is changing technically and socially. The "local" through-the-air broadcasters should recognize that they need to explain their decline in advertising revenues honestly and their strategy and plans for changes and improvements. Conducting a campaign of slogans and misinformation is not effective and is a poor reflection on their code of ethical behaviour.

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Randall White ★ [1 month ago](#)

Local programs are important to keep Canadians informed and to promote viable communities. In my opinion, cable monopolies should pay for the local signals they distribute, and cable companies should not be allowed to pass these payments along to subscribers. They are part of the companies' obligation to society. They have obligation to communities they serve as well as to shareholders.

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Kamiki ★ [1 month ago](#) [in reply to Randall White](#)

Programming that reflects Canada in all of its diversity to Canadians is important. There is no question about that. Whether or not through-the-air television stations are able to do a good job is highly debatable.

It is now clear that most informed Canadians search for information by skipping from channel to channel using sources such as Global; CTV; CBC; BBC; CNN and so on. They also get an increasing amount of information from the internet. This access to multiple sources including local and national newspapers and magazines means that through-the-air broadcasting serves an extremely small segment of the population. It is time for changes to broadcasting regulations. Yes, Canadian television networks should be allowed to negotiate for payment with the program delivery providers. But only if they choose to be classified as specialty channels and taken out of the compulsory basic service. As with other

specialty channels, their payments should be on a 'per subscriber' basis counting only those viewers that elect to subscribe to their service. Bundling must be limited by regulation to ensure that Canadians can express their preferences clearly.
By the way, cable companies are not monopolies.

Flag

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Peter B. Kilby ★ [1 month ago](#)

I have had some difficulty ploughing through the language used here. All I want to do is record my support for local TV in this current scrap with the cable companies. Recent news report indicate that the cable companies are doing very well financially while the local broadcasters are struggling. It is our view that our local coverage is vital to the maintenance of community identity and that cable should assist in any way possible to continue this coverage.

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stanfockner ★ [1 month ago](#)

television.askingcanadians.com is the URL where these CRTC discussions are hosted. Why would the CRTC use an American company to conduct consultations on the web with Canadian and not use CANADIAN resources?

Flag

Like



KristyS81 ★ [1 month ago](#)

Over the air broadcasts have been in existence for decades - so have the tv stations that are now complaining about funding. Hmm, seems to me anything in business for decades, making millions of dollars a year, is doing alright and in no way in need of any extra funding from me! For digital broadcasts or high definition functions, that is a different story but that's up to the station and cable service provider to negotiate a rate, not for the CRTC to enforce.

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ttun ★ [1 month ago](#)

The CRTC approved the LPIF fee which doesn't benefit me and now this. When will the CRTC start looking after the consumers needs. Networks get revenue from advertisements and now they want another source. When is this going to STOP!!! I can't afford to give out hand outs.

I strongly oppose the Local Programming Fee and will cancel my cable if this goes through.

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Like



passerby ★ [1 month ago](#)

I already pay too much for my cable TV, and watch too many American shows, with all the guns and violence etc. If I am asked to pay \$5-10 more for the same service, to support "local" broadcasters so they can buy even more of junk Hollywood programming, I am cancelling my subscription and buying an indoor antenna. That will mean less revenue for Rogers, less revenue for broadcasters (as viewership will probably decline), and less HST tax revenue. Everyone loses.

Flag

Like



carolineb ★ [1 month ago](#)

My only concern with the conversion from analog to digital is the loss of local information that many people may experience, particularly in instances of emergency. If there is a major weather incident, accident or event that local people need to know about, and if they are outside

of a major centre - rural areas where most people do not have a lot of extra cash, how will they be able to access necessary information that could prove to be life-saving? As we see the centralization of media, we potentially could also see situations where our rural communities are put at greater risk because their stories are not of financial interest to larger broadcasters to care about, or the media is unable to provide valuable up-dates in a timely fashion. While I do not believe in subsidizing Canadian content for television broadcasters and providers is a good idea (particularly when the Canadian content can still be made available internationally and relatively cheaply via the Internet), I do think that something does need to be done to ensure that people in rural areas do have access to some kind of media that would be able to provide them with vital information in cases of emergency. Perhaps we need to support radio instead!

[Flag](#)

Like



richard houle ★ [1 month ago](#)

The television industry has changed drastically and it's only fair that local station are paid for there programming. I watch the local news every morning and evening and would be very disappointed if we were to lose it. It would also impact local groups who use locals news casts to promote there programs/services. Its only fair to allow local networks to charge for there programming.

[Flag](#)

Like



bmairs ★ [1 month ago](#)

As long as the consumer price to cable is not increased, let the local stations and the Cable companies work it out. There is not enough local programing to justify a raise in price more than 12 cents per year, when taking into consideration the number of minutes of local programing as a percentage of the number of minutes of network programing on any given day.

[Flag](#)

Like



Richard ★ [1 month ago](#)

Allowing local stations to negotiate will result in nothing more than an added fee on my cable bill or I'll lose the local channel. Neither option is acceptable to me. The local commercial TV industry does not need any more of my money. If the local commercial broadcasters can't make money, let's give all the local stations to the tax supported CBC.

[Flag](#)

Like



Michele R. ★ [1 month ago](#)

I rely totally on local television. I do not have cable or satellite just rabbit ear antenna and I do not live in the city. I believe our local stations are the most valuable of all. I do not think it is right that I will no longer be able to have television after the switch to digital. We are a family of five, my husband works full time and I stay at home to raise our three children. We can not afford cable or satellite and that will not have changed in 2011. We rely on our free local station to stay in touch with what is happening in the world. The local stations deserve to be paid by the cable and satellite companies and people who can afford neither deserve the right to still have their local stations free.

[Flag](#)

Like



ruthbaleka ★ [1 month ago](#)

I think that the cable and satellite industry should give local TV stations a small fee if they carry the signal on their service. The cable/satellite providers have been able to use some of these services without compensating the local stations. I do not believe that the large cable broadcaster will introduce local programs for the smaller communities as the local stations do now.

[Flag](#)

Like

 *John "E"* ★ 1 month ago

My city local TV was owned by Global - it was going to shut it down but it was bought and now we have a 24 news and movie channel -- they seem to be able to operate without help how come the BIG companies always need help when the smaller more efficient can operate on their own .

NO HELP FOR THE BIG GUYS THEY HAVE ENOUGH PROFIT.

THINK ABOUT THE SENIORS AND PEOPLE ON FIXED INCOMES. HELP THEM

[Flag](#)

Like

 *kigg* ★ 1 month ago

The Cable companies are making very handsome profits.

The cable companies preempt advertising to insert adverts for which they receive payment – this deprives the programme providers of viewership for adverts that give them revenue.

Public services like CBC, CPAC, Knowledge, PBS, Provincial Government channels, weather, should be free to every one.

Viewers should only pay for the channels they want to view.

If they only want the Public services channels then a \$5 per month service charge (including HST) to the cable company is reasonable.

We welcome Freeview HD, and have experienced it in Europe and it is excellent. The public service channels on it, including the BBC, is all free.

There should be no tax on television viewing at any place in the process. Remember the Charter gives freedom of expression to mean freedom to hear and therefore of necessity to view as well according to the Canadian Supreme Court ruling.

All cable rates should be set by the C.R.T.C. after public hearings and input.

Any rates/fees between cable companies and channel providers should be negotiated between the two parties and be subject to reviews and change by the C.R.T.C. both before and after coming into effect.

Alternatively a licence to receive television should be available from the government and the proceeds given to cable companies and channel providers with no other fee being charged to the viewer by the channel or the cable company. \$100 per year is a reasonable figure for this. Remember they both receive advertising revenue.

Alternatively charge \$200 per year and prohibit ALL advertising. This latter is the best in my mind. After all, who enjoys watching advertising? Knowledge network does very well without it, and is my preferred network.

We have no interest in Pay per view and do not and would not use it.

[Flag](#)

Like

 *Shirley* ★ 1 month ago

I want local information from my TV but my satellite provider, Shaw, does not carry CHBC the only station that I know of broadcasting Okanagan news.

I don't know if this is the fault of CRTC, CHBC or Shaw, but I wish they would sort it out and start considering the consumers they depend on. My bill for Sat. delivery is already too high for specialty channels that I never watch. Cut some of them and put local broadcasting in their place.

[Flag](#)

Like

 *Nicole_in_NB* ★ 1 month ago

Get rid of local programming if they want to keep gouging the consumer. We get enough of that from the cable companies already, we don't need more. The local programming is usually pretty terrible anyway. I certainly wouldn't miss it.

[Flag](#)

Like



mark tyson ★ 1 month ago

I have concluded that in the area around the lower mainland (vancouver) there are no indepent tv stations that I know off . The knowledge network may be local. When we were on Shaw some years ago I recall a station but I have not see anything since moving to Bell.

I have no desire to pay billlion dollar companies another overpriced cent as it is. Lets be honest here(something some people are not) an admit that the industry is changing.

The industry is regulated because they use the "public"airways.I detect an air of privlilge stemming from both sides in this mad grab for more money! It seems that these people still think that they actually supply information and entertainment. Well,if watching people lose weight,backstab others and so forth is entertaing then they have a problem(broadcasters). Tv used to supply news as in news. Now it supplies talking heads,pretty faces and no reporting skills.We are offered "soundbites" instead ! I see no local shows but I do see locally made TV movies and Tv series that are made for bigger markets. These production companies are doing very well thankyou. So,they don't require my help.

Television production is American based, generally speaking, and I can live with that, even if the violence tends ro be numbing. Then I vote with my thumb and look for something else that is to my taste.

We allready pay too much for too little and stations we have no intrest in as in I have a stero system why do I want to listen to radio stations using my TV? I know people who do but I have no use for them. I also don't need endless sports channels showing reems of games.Where do people find all the time to watch this.

As for the pay channels,again far too many offering up far to little.Yet for some much(\$6.99 a movie) So much is just clutter.Now I see a station offering up OLD movies for 99 cents. Why should I pay 99 cents for something I can get for free?

I can see Canwest wanting more money as it is basically going to fail shortly ! Why should we have to help the Asper family keep control? Are they not worth countless millions? So what if the company is sold off ! It has no affect on me or anyone I know. It's just another company going the way that Nortel has gone.

When people lose their jobs do we bail them out? No!

Thats what they want. They want a bail out. Only they can't go the the federal government and ask for tax dollars because they don't emply thousands of people like the auito industry. I'm sure they have made some overtures but were turned down because of some simple baisc facts.

1.They pay themselves and those that work for them a better than average income.

2. The majority of programing is bought from the United States.

3. It's called "entertainment"

Its of no consquence to Canadian society if they go out of bussiness. Someone else will come in with newer fresher ideas that deliver a product that will sell instead of another tired "sitcom" that I have been watcuing since the 50's.

For the money I pay I would have thought that by now these esteemed leaders of industry would have figured out all of what I have said a long time ago. In fact they probably have but kept putting out the same drivel as long as it payed off. Up untill now it has but the market is shrinking for good reasons. People can look elsewhere now so they leave in droves.

Let them it cake!

Flag

Like



marygiuliano ★ 1 month ago

small communities dont have local stations, instead the only content that is local is provided by the cable companies, the CRTC should mandate funding towards more cable time to community television, that is what is needed, for rural communities, a larger presence that provides local and community events by the provider that happens to be cable not network stations

Flag

Like



Faizel Desai ★ 1 month ago

1) No. The CRTC needs to regulate (force) cable and satellite channels to freeze their current rates for 5 years. Then they can force cable & satellite channels to pay for local stations - if local stations eliminate any and all bonuses and stock options to every one of the employees and contractors and consultants - and cap all of there salaries to under \$100,000 per year. No pain,

no gain. Canadians should not be subsidizing corporations that gouge us and cannot keep their expenses in line. If local TV does not agree to get thier expenses in line, they should be allowed to go bankrupt. If cable/satellite companies cannot get their own expenses in line they need to forced to make due.

2) The industry requires no incentives or support. They need to cut expenses and compete or die.

[Flag](#)

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[slimsilver](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

And who will pay the price for budget cut's?

The little guy that is the gopher at the satellite and cable companies office.

Big bucks in the chair upstairs is not going to loose his big profit so us little guy's can get a cut in our bill's.

And you think that the guy running the business is going to take a salary cut to less then \$100.000 a year LOL nope he will just cut jobs till he can buy enough votes at the CRTC to get it changed back to the good ol days when he had control of the whole market here in Canada. Competition is a far off thing for us and i would be surprised if they ever come here to Canada ever again.

There are to many kiss a**es and greedy people in big satellite and cable and the CRTC to allow US based satellite or cable companies to gain access to the Canadian market's again they just could not compete with them.

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Like



[Brian](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

Bell's stance on FreeHD seems entirely reasonable.

[Flag](#)

Like



[Pat Lawrence](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

The cable companies are providing a service to broadcasters by carrying their signal. They should not have to pay for providing a service. In terms of digital welcome to the future. How many black and white TV'd and 486 computers are out there. The industry does not need incentives or support. They are private enterprise and need to run their operations professionally. I am a self employed business person and if my business situation changes I don't go running to the government to bail me it. It is my responsibility to keep up with the times.

[Flag](#)

Like



[leafboy214](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

1. Stations and broadcasters have known for several years now that they would need to transition to digital. If they are unable or unwilling to prepare for that, they do not deserve to be in business. As Canadians, we pay far too much for cable/satellite services. If those stations are allowed to negotiate for the value of their signals, then end result will be that we, the consumers, will pay for it. Until we are able to select channels to subscribe to individually, the tiered system of service we receive will just hold us hostage to increased rates...often for services we don't even want!

2. The industry has had plenty of notice that they need to transition. Why should we as ratepayers subsidize this when they wait until the last minute to make that transition?

[Flag](#)

Like



[Ken](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

2. The proposed FreeHD Canada and similar proposed Bell services makes a lot of sense. The

government should encourage this service. One would think that the television stations should pay for this service (rather than charging for it) as it would save them the cost of building, operating and supporting their own digital transmitters in smaller centers. The service would also provide some needed competition to the cable companies.

Flag

Like



younger ★ [4 weeks ago](#)

Local programming is important, but not at just any cost. There is enough revenue out there between the tv broadcasters and service providers. Make them sort this out without putting the charges back to the consumers. We pay enough. The CBC is government funded, don't they have a role to play to ensure local programming is available?

Flag

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bruiscasey ★ [4 weeks ago](#)

1. Yes, and to our detriment.
2. No, but they definitely shouldn't have to pay a monthly fee to the local broadcasters. I think the cable companies' proposed approach is fair.

Flag

Like



Ron ★ [4 weeks ago](#)

The CRTC and all players for that matter in this debate must be much more clear in the definition of "local TV". One of the largest cities in Canada does not have a local TV station and survives just fine and possibly better than most. Why not charge a tax paid to a broadcaster to start-up a broadcast station for Mississauga? The idea that someone in Burlington should pay a monthly fee to a company to do such a thing is absolutely absurd!

It is almost to the point of asking why the CRTC/Canadian Government is even considering such a thing.

Flag

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StanF ★ [4 weeks ago](#)

"The CRTC is looking at whether it should provide the television industry with more flexibility." This is NOT what the government directed them to do.

The government directed the CRTC to consult with consumers in this current discussion.

It is a shame the CRTC chose to conduct the on-line consultation using a web host in the United States of America rather than a Canadian company.

Flag

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paulpreville ★ [4 weeks ago](#)

The TV broadcasters applied for and received licenses on the basis that their signals are free to the public. They are now applying to change this model and charge/collect a fee to support local television. It is important to ensure that local TV is available across the country. If broadcasters receive a fee, it should be described as maximum amount and possibly it could be tied to an advertising fee index such that the fee is reduced when advertising rates rise. The cable providers hold a monopoly. Their prices are not regulated, they are too high and they make large profits on the backs of consumers. Cable rates should be regulated for a wide range of basic channels. Also, could cable services be opened to competition by requiring cable operators to allow competitors to use their lines similar to the requirement placed on phone companies when phone services were opened to competition. The broadcasters and cable operators need each other, they have not found common ground, and are not focused on doing what is best for

the public/subscribers. The CRTC should impose a solution that will require both groups to tighten their belts while providing some small funding to local TV and reducing the overall cost to subscribers.

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erinstockford ★ [4 weeks ago](#)

I am already being charged for local tv. If the CRTC does decide to say pay up they should stipulate that the customer not have to take on these new charges in order for them to do so. And if they are so broke how can they afford all this advertising telling us how local tv matters etc etc.. Something smells here I truly believe that the public is being fed a whole lot of BS.

[Flag](#)

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Tim Brown ★ [4 weeks ago](#)

It's essential that Canadians have access to over-the-air digital television channels. Replication of analog coverage should remain a fundamental objective.

While cable and satellite penetration is high, many Canadians are re-discovering over-the-air reception in the limited areas where digital (ATSC) channels are currently broadcast. I believe there will be an uptick in over-the-air as an access method to Canadian television because of the low cost and the technical advantages associated with ATSC signal integrity. This will only happen with broader availability of over-the-air DTV signals throughout Canada.

I should point out that I make these comments as someone who is out of range of over-the-air US signals.

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mikehatfield ★ [3 weeks ago](#)

As much as we may believe the digital age is everywhere, there are many areas where satellite, the internet or cable still do not go. The transition to digital broadcast should be a choice for private networks. For the CBC, I'm not sure.

The CBC was founded in part to create a coast to coast conversation as Canada was finding its feet as a nation. While I strongly believe that the CBC is still necessary to reflect our voices as a nation, I'm not sure CBC television is the medium we need to carry that voice. Perhaps we need CBC radio (1, 2 & 3) and television broadcast free to air and let the networks decide if they need that local coverage.

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



2erickson ★ [3 weeks ago](#)

Local channels are entitled to fees for the content that they provide. Cable subscribers are already paying fees to the cable companies in order to view these channels.

Capital costs of cable companies increase the value of those companies and should be a factor of the shares of those public companies.

[Flag](#)

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JLadan ★ [3 weeks ago](#)

1. The ability to get local TV stations reliably & clearly has always been one of the draws for cable & satellite. My region (Waterloo, ON) is vastly under served by what is available over-the-air, so I know plenty who get the most basic service they can just so they can watch something. Since service providers profit from their signals, the local stations should be compensated in some form. However, there should be flexibility in the compensation rules. If Bell TV, FreeHD, or others get these new services going, where a limited number of channels are actually free, I would hope that the TV channels would see value in potential advertisers.

2. Incentives may be needed in order to encourage over-the-air broadcast if the aforementioned free basic service deals don't pan out. I think whatever incentives are done should guarantee that CBC TV is available for free to all Canadians since it is our public broadcaster that we already pay for through taxes. Whether this is over-the-air or a few free channels on cable or satellite. I'm sure that broadcasters may appreciate not having to purchase as many HD transmitters if the cable/satellite services are available. The free basic 5-10 channel service could be a requirement for cable/satellite operators in exchange for whatever public resources/land they may use.

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Like

 *Tina* ★ [3 weeks ago](#)

The CBC Is a bastion of liberal/eastern propaganda and does not represent half of Canada. Dissolve the CBC!!!!

[Flag](#)

Like

 *mauricehartman* ★ [3 weeks ago](#) [in reply to Tina](#)

I agree, the CBC is supposed to be our public broadcaster and receives government funding for this. Why does the CBC sell advertisers air time if they are government funded? Is this not double dipping? At least PBS in the states operates like a public broadcaster should. As for their propaganda it is all linked to where they get their support from. So much for serving the whole country. CBC does what they will because they can.

[Flag](#)

Like

 *Sarah* ★ [3 weeks ago](#)

These questions are too complicated. I want local television to survive no matter the circumstance and be available to all Canadians through the very basic package offered by their cable or satellite companies. I think cable & satellite companies should be required to have a minimal basic package where ONLY local TV is available and the only fee to the subscriber is the rental of the conversion box. (The thing that sits on the TV, I don't know what that's called.)

If the industry requires government support and incentives to implement this, so be it, they should. I don't believe it's right for the cost of this to be transferred to other paying cable or satellite subscribers. The government decided to kill off analog television transmission, which some of the local stations required to survive, the government should do whatever needs to be done to ensure local television continues to survive.

I'll be honest here and confess my ignorance on the issue at hand. I don't understand the business end of it all, I don't really "get" what's going on, but I rely on local television to tell me when there's a snow day, the current events happening in my area and of course, the news. These are all very important to me and my community and if local television can't survive this transition, then I would hope that the government would support them in whatever needs to be done so they **can** survive and continue to thrive in a new marketplace. Local TV deserves the chance to change with the times and if they need a leg up to change their business models, then give them that leg up. Put a deadline on it if need be, say they'll only get X amount of years of government subsidy or this new standard is only applicable for X amount of years. Give them something better to work with than is the case right now.

And I guess that's all I have to say.

[Flag](#)

Like

 *ANDREA* ★ [3 weeks ago](#)

I prefer ground cable or land lines as opposed to digital services. Unless the lines are cut you still get service unless the power is out too. Digital the power goes out and you get no service. I had a phone that was hooked thru a modem that was digital. The power failed me and I was left

with no telephone. Customers should only pay for what they want and not garbage that they don't use.

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[Like](#)



[mauricehartman](#) ★ [3 weeks ago](#)

Local stations already negotiate with advertisers. If consumers cancel there cable service because of extra fees for local T.V. then would that not also affect what advertisers would pay for T.V. airtime? The television industry should get their heads out of the clouds and operate like any other bussiness. Perhaps they need to cut costs to remain viable.

[Flag](#)

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[slimsilver](#) ★ [3 weeks ago](#) [in reply to mauricehartman](#) 1 person liked this.

Exactly! If cable and satellite providers had to operate like any other business then they would be required to pay for all the programing they use not half. Everyone is saying that part of the fee that cable and satellite providers are charging you on your bill goes to local tv it does not they get \$0 in fee's. And till now cable and satellite providers did not complain they were getting away with not having to pay a dime.

Some say i don't care about local tv let them go under but wait till your provider has to pay for all his station's he offers and then see what your monthly bill is.

\$87.08 a month is nothing compared to the \$100 dollar+ range you will be paying if they drop your local's and have to buy US or other foreign station's to fill there channel slot's.

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[Like](#)



[mauricehartman](#) ★ [3 weeks ago](#) [in reply to slimsilver](#)

The CRTC says that cable and satellite providers must carry local stations. Do we not live in a democracy or do we need the CRTC to dictate to us what we should watch and what Cable and sattelite providers should offer? If the loacal stations are broadcasting there signal into my backyard for free then why should I pay for it through my cable? Take the local channel out of my cable and I will be fine with that.

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



[ray_s](#) ★ [3 weeks ago](#) [in reply to mauricehartman](#)

Quite apart from the mind-numbing contents and repetition of ads, one needs to recognize that the number of advertisers has not grown as fast as the number of stations, and with the growing number of broadcasters the market share of those who once dominated the air waves has diminished considerably since cable became so widespread. And nothing changes the unavoidable truth that no matter how much choice you have you can only watch one station at a time. Choice is a great thing if your choices are limited to start with, but when the available choices are already big the marginal value of an additional choice is very small.

Local stations have a limited ability in their negotiations with advertisers. In a one industry town where that industry produces for a national market what interest could that company have in advertising locally?

The CBC French station in Vancouver has ads for merchants that only do business in Montreal. Are they including Vancouver viewers as a selling point to the Montreal advertisers when there is no reasonable expectation that Vancouverites can ever avail themselves of these merchants' services?

While I strongly believe that there is a level of local service which must be viewed as essential (and I don't know where the line should be drawn), beyond that we need to be aware that at some point, as in Web 1.0, the whole house of cards will become unsustainable. No model based on unlimited growth can be.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*Catherine Risser* ★ [3 weeks ago](#)

Not living in an urban centre, having access to cable or having a satellite system 2011 will be the end of any and all television for me. I would not support satellites preconditions for the delivery of service

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*Dorothy Dobbie* ★ [3 weeks ago](#)

Why shouldn't cable operators pay local broadcasters for their signal if they are already paying American broadcasters? And that payment should be commensurate with the payment going south. As a former MP and Parliamentary Secretary for Consumer and Corporate Affairs, I can think of no good reason why the current policy should not be changed -- and without penalty to the consumer.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*Dave* ★ [3 weeks ago](#)

1. If someone gets something for nothing, the other person got nothing for something. Cable got free channels. Local TV got erosion of their market with the only way to recap them being "rebroadcast" by their competition. Cable companies should pay.

2. I do not have cable nor do I want it. I do use rabbit ears. I am not in Toronto. Advertisers pay for the airing of their message. I watch the adds. that should be enough. Should digital TV make local reception impossible, I will go to internet programming. I will not pay cable. So you know where I am starting from.

You are changing the landscape under analogue broadcasters for the benefit of others. Those who benefit should pay the transition.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*derekhrynyshyn* ★ [3 weeks ago](#)

The industry does not require support. The corporations that produce content and the ones that distribute it are highly profitable. Some incentives are needed to ensure that some investment is made in production of local content, and the digital over-the-air broadcasting of it, and this can be paid for through higher charges for national content, of which there is far more than enough to demonstrate effective market demand.

But residents of smaller communities should not have to rely on expensive satellite services to receive digital transmission. FreeHD is an excellent idea, and I see no reason why the entire country can't be served by such a system for basic services. IT would require having every local broadcaster on a national satellite system, but I see no reason why this is not feasible. Local news ought to be considered a public service and should be made freely available. This should be a requirement of anyone who is granted a licence to broadcast an over-the-air signal anywhere. At the very least, the tax-payer supported CBC should be made available to citizens across the country at no charge beyond that of the equipment necessary to receive the signal.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*Dwayne Keir* ★ [3 weeks ago](#)

Local channels should be mandated for inclusion in all available media options in order for private companies to use public airways, land, roadways, etc. to distribute their product.

This enables those not wanting the product to choose, and those wanting the protect available to connect and understand issues on a local level, leading to a more holistic society.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*tomcox* ★ [3 weeks ago](#)

Local TV is critical to our Country, all content should be sold at its value, nobody should be able to rebroadcast and collect fees from ads for free content airing.
 IF cable and sat companies charge me for content, then they should pay local providers for that content.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*Donna* ★ [3 weeks ago](#)

Things like the local news and emergnecy information in case of any pending emergency that affects citizens and thier families should not have to come at a cost to a cable company. I don't care to watch sitcoms, dramas, movies etc. I prefer to spend my time doing insted of sitting. That being said I do not think that I should have to pay a minimum of \$100.00 to find out what is going on in the world or in my own back yard. Cable companies already make a fist load of money and canceling the ability to see local TV without having a subscription to the media moguls is ridiculous. Why is everything always about the almighty buck. What do they give back? Not jobs that is for darn sure. So why should they charge more and push out the little man? because our government allows them to and does not care about EVERY Citizens just those who can fatten thier wallets.

That is my two cents.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*Ted M.* ★ [3 weeks ago](#)

1. Yes. It would allow the people who PRODUCE the content to get a fair share of the OBSCENE profits they reap because they have been handed a monopoly, enforced by law!!! Maybe GM should have switched to cable TV instead of cars, might not have needed a hand-out.
2. Break up the monopoly, it's days are done. Most "cable TV" is digital now anyways, allow anyone with the bandwidth and the capitalistic spirit to offer TV via broadband instead of 'forcing' us to pay a handful of corporations mandated by the government.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*CKelly* ★ [3 weeks ago](#)

Cable companies pay for American programming-they need to pay for local programs as well. I refuse to pay the extra \$2.85 Shaws asks for for digital service-I don't need it. I pay alot of money for my phone, internet and cable service through Shaw.-who else to compete with?

I get in return for my money crappy reality shows (American) Spike TV, CNN, HLN, Fox channel 23, a Sports channel and TLC-all stations I seldom watch.

Canada and Canadian issues are seldom, if ever discussed on CNN and how many Canadian viewers are there?

If cable companies pay for all those American channels that I don't watch-then why will they not pay for Canadian and local programs that I do watch?

There should be no fee imposed on viewers for our local and Canadian content and networks-the cable company, with no competition-should pay directly from their own fat pockets from the money they have taken from me-for American programming that I don't watch.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)



Gary Kubisek ★ 3 weeks ago

V Beats GLEE: CTV Ends Fall Season on Top

- CTV leads Global by nearly 60% in primetime, claims 7 out of Top 10 series -
- V is Canada's #1 New Series -
- /A\ Leads Citytv as Canada's Third-Ranked Private Network -

CTV heads into 2010 with the hottest schedule on television, as evidenced by another Fall Season squarely at the top among Canadian broadcasters. With the Fall Television Season now complete, data from BBM Canada confirms that CTV leads its nearest competition by 58% among total viewers on average in primetime. In a season that saw the introduction of many new series, viewers remain dedicated to returning hits, as CTV delivered seven out of the Top 10 programs among total viewers. Nevertheless, with a Fall schedule that saw little tinkering, CTV still emerged with Canada's #1 new series, V, among the network's prime selling demo of A25-54. With 1.004 million viewers, V averages 11% more viewers than GLEE (907,000) on Global.

More viewers flock to CTV than Global in primetime in Canada's two largest television markets as well, with CTV delivering higher ratings in Toronto and Vancouver than the competition in the key selling demos of A25-54, A18-49 and A18-34. Meanwhile, /A\ remains Canada's third-ranked private network behind CTV and Global, delivering more viewers in primetime than Citytv.

CTV demonstrates particular dominance at 10 p.m., where it delivers 133% more viewers than its competition in total viewers and double the audience among A25-54 and A18-49. The spread is even greater against THE TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO on Citytv, where CTV delivers five times the number of viewers.

>> A heartfelt congratulations once again to CTV. Congratulations for making the phone calls to buy US programs a little faster than Global, and buying what you thought were the more popular programs.

Hopefully you'll continue the great tradition in 2010 by sitting on your ass and making the calls to the Hollywood studios in a timely matter to stay on top.

Great job!!!

Flag

Like



Bob ★ 3 weeks ago

Nothing, and I mean, nothing is given away anymore. Unless I am legally required to give information, I do not. I don't see why the local stations should not charge for the information they are sending out over carrier waves. The cable and satellite companies are profiting from these 'free' signals and that should stop. My personal cable bill went up three times last year for an almost 9% increase but inflation was at almost 0%. The average inflation rate is around 5% annually over the last 40 - 50 years so they are making EXTRA monies. These extra monies, or a portion thereof, should be allocated to the private stations and we consumers would not have to pay anything extra. There is no need for a 'tax' from the cable/satellite companies.

As private stations/networks are businesses and are in competition with cable and satellite companies for advertising monies, the laws of the land have been 'arranged' in favour of the cable/satellite companies to the point that monies for the private stations has largely dried up. The private stations need to be included in this new share of the wealth of the cable/satellite companies.

Our very strong cable/satellite companies positioned themselves very neatly in the 'grey market' killing American intrusion into our land thereby effectively killing free trade, at least in this industry. Their motto seems to be, "what is good for me is good for the rest of the country".

Flag

Like



Gaelyn Kennedy ★ [3 weeks ago](#)

The television programs I watch are mainly local television such as the news. Without local television news, I would have no need for television and would throw away my TV set.

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



nancyclark ★ [3 weeks ago](#)

the whole digital/hd issue makes me mad, as it involves more cost for people who already have difficulty affording tv with the high cost of cable and satellite. i don't believe local stations getting paid for their efforts will have any impact on cable or satellite except to lessen their profit margin a tiny bit...they pay huge sums for other programming, particularly programming not from canada. keeping some of that money here would be a good thing and local tv needs the funds for upgrading and continuing to produce excellent local programs. i believe there is enough money in the coffers of cable and satellite to pay for the transition to digital without any help from the government, and without passing the cost along to viewers. our rates go up and yet i don't receive better service.

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nancyclark ★ [3 weeks ago](#)

as far as i am concerned allowing local stations to be paid for their efforts will in no way impact cable or satellite and their future plans...they pay for every other station they broadcast, why not local tv. the whole digital/hd thing upsets me anyway because it seems to me that it is simply going to cost people who can barely afford tv anyway, even more. because as sure as anything the cable and satellite companies are going to pass on every extra cost to us, the consumer...which should not be allowed, as the cost goes up all the time, but service does not get better.

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murphy ★ [3 weeks ago](#)

I already pay for local TV as part of my basic cable rate, but none of my money goes to local TV stations

- It's time for cable to start paying for the local TV they charge me for. If the cable greed continues, I'm afraid my local TV station could be shut down forever

- We shouldn't have to pay more for local TV - my cable company can afford to pay. In the last five years, my basic cable rate has increased four times the cost of living with little to no increase in service

- At a time when local Canadian television stations are closing down and Canadian networks are losing money, Canada's cable and satellite companies are paying over \$300 million a year to US cable channels. This doesn't seem right to me

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Dawn ★ [3 weeks ago](#)

I'm not sure this is completely relevant to the two questions above - however, it is a concern that is personal. I live outside a major city and have neither satellite nor cable [yes, Virginia, there still are people with rabbit ears on their televisions!]. I seem to have a choice [forced upon me] to either cough up for one or other of the over-priced services or go without TV. Communication is essential in my community - we have only a weekly newspaper [a very fine paper, but weekly] It is important to have a sense of what impacts our community and be able to share it on a more immediate basis. The proverbial gossip grape-vine is hardly a substitute for local programming. The more support that can be given to local stations to maintain this vital communication link, the better. We are a far-flung people and the closer we can be in touch, the

stronger our nation will be

Flag

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Gabrielle ★ 3 weeks ago

I think it's atrocious that cable companies want to charge extra so they can then pay the local stations for their programming. I pay for their cable, they should take a portion of that to pay local TV. This is kind of absurd, when you think about it. It's the equivalent of me wanting to take my family out for supper and then charging my clients more for that. You should pay for the rights to someone else's work. Period. How was this allowed to have gone unnoticed for so long?

Flag

Like



Violet ★ 3 weeks ago

we must keep our local tv stations, we should also receive discount certificates to purchase a digital box as they have done in United States. Not everyone can afford cable tv and it would be a crime if these people could not receive their local news

Flag

Like



Paris ★ 3 weeks ago

1. In a democracy, everyone should have a voice, that also includes local stations. Payments should go back and forth, not just a one way stream. If US stations get money, than so should Canadian. If you take money from here, there should be a regulation that close to 80+% of that money should be spent here, supporting the local economy and our broadcasting stations. These companies are holding consumers hostage as well. Some people barely watch TV because THEY HAVE LIVES, and generally tune into the local stations to find out what is going on in the community, and DO NOT want to know what is going on in the US in great detail in -----Last I knew, WE ARE CANADIAN, NOT AMERICAN----. I can say with confidence that many people feel like I do.

Give to the local broadcasters and see the rewards.

Flag

Like



Lorraine ★ 3 weeks ago

My aughter went missing in 1985 the Only place I could get any help came fe. our local T.V CTV in 1986 her pic was first seen on Our local TV ontill this month 24 years later. Lorraine MY DAUGHTER;S NAME IS Kim Amero

Flag

Like



nathant ★ 3 weeks ago

Cable companies have been benefiting from local TV companies for to long without paying. If you use a product you pay for the product! Thats the way it is for the us(cable/sat) customers. I will not pay any more for cable/sat. These companies should buy less U.S programing at inflated rates and maybe provide more canadian programing.

Flag

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sheilaosmond ★ 3 weeks ago

FAIR IS FAIR!! Cable companies have raised their rates and profit margins at will while paying nothing for local tv since they began - at the same time as they DID pay for specialty channels and American channels. True, the advertising revenues used to be enough to carry the Canadian tv companies so this was not as much of an issue. Times have changed and advertising revenues have dropped dramatically for the TV companies but profits continue to

soar for the cable companies who continue to raise their rates and still get the local channels for free.

The CRTC needs the COURAGE TO ACT. I remember when Canadian content was legislated in the music industry to assist Canadian talent getting exposure in our own country while the airwaves were dominated by American content. This bold move by the Commission was criticized then and yet how many talented Canadian artists today would be unknowns if that trend had continued. Bravo to the commission courage at that time for acting in the interests of Canadian artists. I enjoy visiting other countries but am always surprised how glad I am to get back to the Canadian news, journalists, analysis and programming on CBC radio and Canadian TV.

Imagine if it were not there and our TV companies were sold to foreign interests or we had to depend on American channels for our information and culture.

The CRTC must act to insist that the cable and satellite companies be responsible, and pay for local TV out of their huge profits. They must not be allowed to pass it on to their subscribers by calling it a tax as they did with the LPIF. How disingenuous to call paying for something you receive for free, a tax. Perhaps the amount could be based on the amount of Canadian content in the TV station's programming. The Commission is the watchdog for communications in this country which is in a crisis. The CRTC need to act. FAIR IS FAIR.

Flag

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valm ★ 3 weeks ago

I have read many comments over the past several weeks and, suddenly, there appears to be a very articulate group espousing the merits of cable and satellite and decrying all things local. Prior to the heating up of this debate, there were very few well-reasoned comments supporting this view. I have to wonder if many of these new submitters are on the payroll for the cable and satellite industry.

I would suggest that, just like CBC, local television is extremely important to providing a local and national identity and to building a cultural identity in a vast land. Without local broadcasting, many residents of Canada will not have access to local and national programming. I agree with the argument that the consumer should not be paying a "TV tax" because cable and satellite companies can and should absorb any costs associated with paying local TV stations to broadcast their signal, not the consumer. After all, in the last five years, basic cable rates have increased four times the cost of living with little to no increase in service.

Flag

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StanF ★ 3 weeks ago in reply to valm

I don't know how many of the comments posted here were authored by employees of the CRTC, satellite and cable companies. However it seems that many Canadians want to choose what they watch and pay for on satellite and cable services.

Flag

Like



Cher ★ 3 weeks ago

The main thing I think we need to value is that television has always been "free" in Canada. Yes, we watch commercials in order to receive it, and yes that should continue. However, we should be able to continue to receive "free" (totally no strings attached... no monthly fees) if we are satisfied with the limited channels those of us with antennae are accustomed to receiving. The cost of cable and satellite in Canada is ridiculously high and although the majority of Canadians may subscribe to these services, there are still a great many, like myself, who use only an antennae and are happy receiving only 10-12 channels. There is excellent programming on CBC and CTV as well as city tv and global.

Flag

Like



Saeed ★ 3 weeks ago

The Canadian government should offer any kind of support needed by the national public broadcaster, CBC, and help other stations as much as it can, so they remain independent and

viable.

Putting the broadcasters at the mercy of greedy distributors would ruin the fifth estate of our democracy.

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Wendy Grimstad-Davidson ★ [3 weeks ago](#)

Just to add my two cents, I'd like to say how important it is that there be local news. I live 2 hours out of Edmonton and consider that as my local news. When there are major events, the Edmonton stations make sure that we are covered. When something as important as the Fallen Four Marathon, which honours the lives of the four mounties tragically killed in March 2005 in Mayerthorpe, would a news station from Toronto cover the event? Do the stations in Toronto even care what happens in the west? If the local stations need to charge for the broadcast fees to survive, then they should be allowed to do so. The loss of local news would be an extreme detriment to our communities.

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Helen ★ [3 weeks ago](#)

Yet again the greed of large corporations are the reasons for the consumer being burdened with the new technology. With the change to digital - no regard to those who don't care or need this - is the basis for the crisis that the television industry is in. In addition to the cost of this questionable upgrade, everyone is now affected. The end result will be the demise of the poor, small, individual stations that provide far more important service to their local area than any large conglomerate ever could. This is the end of television as we know it. We will be burdened with whatever the 'powers to be' decide what we should watch. Of course this influence, unfortunately, is because of our southern neighbour - the USA which determines so much of our lifestyle. It is unfortunate that we Canadians are punished with another country's standards - or rather lack of. The only channels left worth watching will be Public Service - ones that are supported by members paying in addition to what they already pay to cable or satellite. The PBS offers intelligent & interesting commercial-free programming. Local stations provide local interests & if we lose that then we lose our identity - what little we have of it. Technology marches on & to those who don't really care nor need it - tough - you don't count so get used to it is what we are being told by the 'so-called' gurus of the communication world. Keep up or get out is what the local stations & ordinary folks are being told & our government goes along with it. The end of Canada is coming - watch it on CNN, oh maybe not as they don't know where Canada is!

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thomas ★ [3 weeks ago](#)

I don't know why our Canadian networks are crying foul over 'local tv' there is little to no 'Local TV' being produced on these channels. Have a look at their programming it's all sim-subbed American content and national Canadian broadcasts. American programming is constantly dominating.

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robertcashin ★ [3 weeks ago](#)

I need local TV to keep me informed. I'm a semi-invalid and falling fast. I depend on local television to keep me informed about issues that affect me. It also gives me a voice. I'm absolutely shocked that I pay for local TV as part of my package...more than \$30.00 a month, is not at least shared with local stations. Local TV has a right to payment for its service from cable companies; they collect it from me.

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jimgl ★ 3 weeks ago

The digital system (ATSC) was approved for testing in the US 15 years ago ('94). It was licensed for broadcasting twelve years ago ('97). The US originally had the beginning of '06 as its conversion date and it was delayed several times, finally occurring in June of this year. Most other major countries have also changed or will have before us. Canada, a former leader in general digital research and development, is among the last.

It tests logic to see how there should be a sudden upset in the broadcasting business about digital conversion. Surely they've bought new equipment over the last dozen years. Surely, they would assume that Canada would adopt the same system as the US (particularly after the DAB digital radio fiasco). Surely they would have bought digital ready equipment over this time. Their US brethren seem to have coped without government or consumer aid. Why should we be expected to enhance their revenues to do something for which they've had a dozen years to plan? They are large private conglomerates (plus the CBC). They should have had business plans in place for 14 years (1997 to the 2011 conversion).

They should not expect to come to the trough each time something gets in the way of their profits. The regulator should ensure that the trough is not filled from our pockets. Oh, yes. Do not extend it to 2015 as I understand they have requested. How much new consumer equipment will be produced for an orphan Canadian analogue system since the US '09 conversion?

Flag

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Edward & Catherine Conderan ★ 3 weeks ago

We believe that local TV is as important to all viewers as world,national& provincial news.We have already lost some programming time-so it is unacceptable to lose any more. Local TV stations encourage a sense of community,&support the local businesses with ads----which the larger stations cannot.Whether cable or satellite service--the fees are high as it is---even more than some families can afford.TV used to be a luxury-now it's everyday routine.

Flag

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M Craig ★ 3 weeks ago

We absolutely positively need local TV.

TV stations must be able to obtain enough money from their advertizers to keep it going.

Maybe the directors need to fundraise to keep local TV on the air.

High Speed internet is not available where I live in Ontario less than an hour north west of the Capital City of Canada.

We need high speed internet to access news on demand.

Bell TV is already too costly. If we had to pay an additional \$10.00 we would cancel it all. Too many programs are repeated on dozens of channels which we are paying for. This is unacceptable.

CBC has the same broadcast from Atlantic Canada at 6, Ontario at 7, Sask. at 8 and BC at 9 yet we are paying to receive all of these channels.

If we did not receive local news on Ottawa CTV and A Channel we would not be able to receive ANY LOCAL TV NEWS OR PROGRAMS.

This is absolutely UNACCEPTABLE to even THINK what it would be like to only get Toronto news which is 4.5 hours west or Montreal News at 4 hours east.

Maybe decreasing the number of on air personalities would be a way to cut costs.

On AMorning there are too many people on the show. Kurt, Angie, Leanne, Bill and several more are falling over each other rather on focusing on news, views and programs.

One person could do the nws while another do stories from the community and another do weather and sports.

Three on air staff could do the job and cut costs?

Is CTV, Global and AChannel all owned by the same company?????Then why do we have Ottawa CTV, Global and AChannel in Ottawa?

If they had one channel they would not need so many staff to bring us the news, views and programs.

We already pay WAY TOO MUCH for satellite TV which repeats the same news from the Atlantic Provinces to Ontario to the West to BC.

If costs increase we would discontinue Bell TV, which is our only option to TV where we live.

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[barbarahudson](#) ★ [3 weeks ago](#)

The "value" of the "additional local content" from most local stations is nil. News? Already outdated by the time it's on TV - the Internet has already gotten the story, analyzed it, commented on it, and provided links to deep background, which is far more than a 30-second to two-minute spot on the evening news, squished between moe and more ads, can ever hope to do.

Right now I'm receiving beautiful hi-def digital signals from CBS (channels 3.1 and 3.2), NBC (5.1 and 5.2) and PBS (57.1, 57.2, 57.3 and 57.4) on a cheap indoor antenna. Guess what doesn't get watched? the local stations with their lousy standard-def signals.

The transition to high-def broadcasting isn't as expensive, in constant dollars, as the original set-up of the tv broadcasting system was, so the cries of "it's expensive to change" are false. Also, transmitter power for digital signals is a LOT lower - a 1 megawatt station can drop their power by more than 90% and yet cover a wider area. That's a saving of a half-million a year, every year, to help offset the one-time costs.

I used to watch only Canadian TV. Between the Internet and US HDTV signals being so readily available over the air, there's no real reason for me to watch more than an hour or two a month of Canadian TV - if I remember to. I suspect that, as more and more people find out that even a cheap antenna will pull in HD signals, Canadian TV is going to lose even more viewers.

Want to get people like me back? Broadcast over the air in HD now. There's no law that says you have to wait until the last minute to make the change. If US stations with smaller demographics can do it, there's no reason stations in Canada's major markets, and some of the smaller markets, shouldn't already be 100% HD over-the-air.

And try to provide some real content - not just simulcasting US signal feeds with local commercials, or "Canadian" versions of US shows. Otherwise, what's the point - it's just a waste of bandwidth.

It won't matter in another few years anyway - by then anyone with a few grand to spend will be able to fully equip a local team to "broadcast" over the Internet in 1080p, and most of the newer TVs have PC-in and/or Ethernet jacks, and those that don't there are network-ready blu-ray players that do double duty, so even people in remote communities, provided they have a half-decent local Internet connection, will be able to both generate and watch "local content."

Local TV is about as relevant as local newspapers - both are facing huge challenges because of the Internet. Those that refuse to adapt should be allowed to die quickly, to give others a chance to gain market share, and as a warning.

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[BLH](#) ★ [3 weeks ago](#)

1. Of course the economic relationships and respective plans of suppliers and distributors of television programming will be impacted if the suppliers are allowed to negotiate a fee for the value of their programming. That's to be expected in business, isn't it? And it would make for a fairer market system. The fees earned by the suppliers of programming will benefit them in adjusting to digital television transmission. But the whole industry's move to digital is supposed to result in more economically efficient distribution and ultimately cost savings for the cable companies, so they'll be able to make even more money. No assistance is needed given the exorbitant rates they already charge customers.
2. Canadian broadcasters including local stations should be allowed to negotiate fees for their programming with distributors, subject to regulation by the CRTC to ensure this new revenue results in the maintenance or enhancement of local/domestic programming. In turn, however,

cable companies should be prevented from increasing their rates in order to simply pass along their new costs to customers. They do not need any support or incentives. As in the US, individual customers who still possess only analog television sets should be assisted somehow with the transition to digital, particularly in areas outside the major markets.

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GeorgeToronto ★ [3 weeks ago](#)

I can't believe how biased the CRTC has been with this process.

Each and every question for this inquiry process has been cooked to be in favour of the TV stations.

One can tell the CRTC has already made up its mind, and the cash grab will be approved.

[Flag](#)

Like



William Hepburn ★ [3 weeks ago](#)

1. I have no issue with the general idea of TV stations negotiating coverage fees with cable.

2. Only stations whose DTV signals covers the cable headend should be part of the basic package. All other stations should be classified as "distant stations" and be part of the discretionary tiers. CBC and SRC would be included so the ridiculous situations in Kamloops, Brandon, etc. (where there are no longer OTA CBC signals on the air) do not reoccur or spread.

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WiMax ★ [3 weeks ago](#)

STOP SUBSIDIZING THE TELEVISION INDUSTRY! It's MY MONEY that is used to do this! Let ME decide what to watch! The television industry has been around long enough that they should have figured out how to be self-sufficient. They are all just looking for more money from me. Well , FORGET IT! Until I'm offered more choice and better quality, NO MORE MONEY! Let the industry continue to fight amongst themselves and blame each other, I could care less. But raise my satellite bill one more cent and I'm gone back to antenna and will NEVER go back to cable or satellite. LET THE CONSUMER DECIDE! And the only way to do this is to ABOLISH THE CRTC.

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Peter Clark ★ [3 weeks ago](#)

1. Of course allowing fee negotiations will have an impact on business plans. Extra money CTV/Global will be used to increase profits and will accrue to the benefit of shareholders. That is why I am opposed to this. They already own most of the specialty channels which do generate these fees. All the networks have done in the profitable years is cut back on Canadian content, to the point that this is now mainly local news shows. They spend obscene amounts of money to purchase US programming and almost nothing on local production.

The only way I would support "fee for carriage" for these networks is if:

- a) they are no longer mandatory for me to purchase in a basic cable package.
- b) they are accompanied by a dramatic increase of Canadian and Local programming requirement in the Prime Time period.
- c) cable/satellite providers must offer "a la carte" choices, so I get only the channels I desire.

2. Except for CBC, all broadcasters are private enterprises. As a condition of license, they should be required to convert to Digital transmitters, as was done in the USA. If they can't or won't convert, they can relinquish their license. No subsidies should be given.

[Flag](#)

Like



zee c ★ [3 weeks ago](#)

Local TV is all about the people NOT the technology. It is for the people in front of the cameras, behind the cameras and the public people.

Satellite and Cable TV is NOT the people. It is strictly business and it represents an ongoing, ever increasing cost to the public people and MASSIVELY INCREASING PROFIT MARGINS for companies with MONOPOLIES.

Allow the public people to affect this issue AND STOP THE MONOPOLIES for the sake of the public people. The latter is out of control.

I CONTROL WHAT TV I WILL WATCH and I will make my decisions for myself. PROTECT LOCAL TV and the PEOPLE.

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 *Barb T* ★ [3 weeks ago](#)

It is absolutely necessary to protect local stations. It has already been proven that when services move away from a locality the services are substandard. I am very interested in what goes on in my community and surrounding communities: news, sports, weather, community interest stories. Cable already packages their product so you have stations that you don't want with those you do so you are paying for channels you don't watch. Cable is charging for these local stations already as part of their cost to subscribers but aren't paying the local stations for their product.

Without local TV, citizens will miss out on many great opportunities.

We need local stations that care about and report what is happening in our cities, towns, villages, country. The people working for these stations also commit countless hours to help the people and the organizations locally.

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 *StanF* ★ [3 weeks ago](#) [in reply to Barb T](#)

Barb T

You've got that right.

When CJOH in Ottawa sold out to CTV we got Toronto CTV news on Christmas and New Years Day (last year).

[Flag](#)

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 *ckc* ★ [3 weeks ago](#)

Of course each station shall be allowed to negotiate...welcome to entrepreneurship and locality. Air Canada has different prices for different flights from different locations even the stamps have different amounts....should be minimums set.

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 *irfinlay* ★ [3 weeks ago](#)

I think that local transmitters should be shutdown completely, the bandwidth sold and put to better use for terrestrial (interactive/realtime) digital services, and the transition be made to satellite dish and/or cable, with location stations using the funds they would spend on local transmitters to pay the satellite companies and cable companies to carry their signal ... AND these networks should be completely FREE from the satellite and cable companies - just a token connection fee/installation fee comparable to the cost of the digital box that will be required anyway. The funds the government receives from the sale of the bandwidth could be used to subsidize the transition by paying for the satellite receivers/dishes or cable boxes.

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kmfry ★ [3 weeks ago](#)

I believe that the best single that that the CRTC can do on this issue is to force the cable industry to compete within itself by simply removing the monopoly that currently is held by the two major companies, Shaw and Rogers. The companies have "carved up" the territory so that each operation does not have to fear the other in a given territory. Not many national industries have this and cable should not. Eliminating the monopoly would force the companies to innovate, to compete for our business and help to put the brakes on runaway profit taking. It would also create an atmosphere where a 'royalty' paid to the broadcasters for local television and radio signals would not simply be passed on to the beleagued consumers. A small, but reasonable 'royalty' such as above is long overdue and would help us to all keep our local stations on the air in these times when their sponsorship dollars are in short supply as businesses across the country tighten their belts to survive. Often, the first cut in a small business is the once-a-day television or radio ad. A small royalty fee to the local stations may not fully correct the issue, but the prospect of a regular income may be the difference to many small stations' bottom line.

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Chris Printup ★ [3 weeks ago](#)

I think it would be only fair to provide the regulatory framework for compulsory negotiation for local TV to access some of the money generated by the cable companies. However, I do not think it would be fair to the consumers to allow the cable companies to pass this cost on to the subscribers. They already make enough and are constantly gouging the consumer for more dollars and less and less quality of services.

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Kamiki ★ [3 weeks ago](#)

The price for the minimum level of cable tv service in my area is 35.95. If an additional business expense is imposed on the cable companies due to mandatory negotiation with the broadcasting networks, then this rate will surely increase. Perhaps not immediately, but certainly as soon as the spotlight shifts from this topic.

And yet there has been no public commitment by the broadcasting networks to improve or increase local programming. I submit that the only proper action is to allow any Canadian network or station to apply, if they wish, to be removed from the basic package and placed in a separate package such that the subscriber can choose to pay or choose not to pay. At the same time, the minimum entry cost of the basic cable tv service should be reduced.

Also, the CRTC must recognize in its decisions that supporting an environment in which programming is designed to attract large audiences for the purpose of generating advertising revenues is not necessarily in the public interest nor does it lend itself to the production of local programming.

We are now well into a new medium of communication in which digital technology provides a huge number of television channels which should have enhanced our ability to choose. Excessive bundling has however limited choice by making the available variety much too expensive. Hopefully the Internet will continue to be structured with minimum regulatory interference so that a wide variety of sources can thrive and serve a wide variety of interests. In that environment, we can choose what we want without having to pay for that which we don't want.

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Scott_S ★ [3 weeks ago](#)

These are tricky questions because they are actually short sighted. But I'll give quick answers then explain after.

1. No it wouldn't impact because it would be coming out of the consumer's pockets and why would they need to collect from a source different from what that money would be supplying, i.e. cable distribution paying for over the air.

2. Yes, because they are companies and if you say that you might give them money then they'll look at a way of getting it. Basically you might have let the cat out of the bag already.

The situation that the companies are in have nothing to do with the transition. And if you try to tie it to that, you are only helping them grab money. That being said, I'm glad that there is a realization that the future of TV (and entertainment) is changing. If they can't make it though one long foreseen transition, how are they (both sides) able to keep up with the fast paced unknown changes of tomorrow. The best thing to help them with that is allow others (bring in competition when possible) to come in and help.

I've explained on the other pages my ideas, but I still felt that it was important to address these questions for a complete picture.

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[Jeremy Maddock](#) ★ [3 weeks ago](#)

Broadcasters should be free to negotiate with cable companies (or better yet with consumers directly) regarding the value of their signals. Regulators should not mandate a solution, however. The key point here is that the transaction should be voluntary, not imposed by government.

If cable companies and/or consumers are willing to pay for a signal voluntarily, then fine. If not, the broadcaster should not be bailed out by the CRTC.

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[VanIslander](#) ★ [3 weeks ago](#)

We already have a system in place to relay CBC Radio (and Television) to vast areas off the country. Could this not be adapted to digital TV? Even in large urban centres we have paid for infrastructure to receive vast varieties of channels. Remote areas have to do this themselves. Receiving TV stations (not withstanding CBC) is not a right or necessity. At some point in the past the CRTC made the decision to go digital, they must have been aware of the costs to broadcasters and the public. The transition period has been very long so all parties have had adequate time to plan. Do not start asking me for more money to support this.

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[patbowie](#) ★ [3 weeks ago](#)

) Re cost: The CRTC lets cable companies like Rogers in my area run a monopoly -- deregulation meant big phone companies like Bell were forced to share infrastructure with many others, whereas cable runs a monopoly -- and charges excessive amounts. No wonder the cable companies make such gigantic profits.

2) re programming -- yes, cable provides great inspiring programs like "Weeds" and uncensored nudity, violence and profanity, or pseudo-American pap.

3) re community and canadian content -- Canada needs local TV programs to help maintain a sense of community, and keep people informed about what is going on locally.

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[Mike](#) ★ [3 weeks ago](#)

No incentives or support is needed for industry, the fact that everyone is purchasing HD tv's already should be incentive enough to tell industry to move forward on transitioning to digital HD programs. I can't argue local stations being able to negotiate for the value of their signals if consumers and cable/satellite companies can also choose to offer and take local programming or not. It has to work both ways.

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Glenn ★ 3 weeks ago

I want to see local programing, I live minutes away from the local tv station but can not recieve local programing from my satelite company. They already broadcast a half dozen feeds from CTV but not my local one why cant the satelite providers use the interactive technology available to them to provide access to the local stations?

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n.augustine ★ 3 weeks ago

I have been an OTA viewer for over 10 years. My only complaint has been insufficient coverage in smaller communities. I was shocked to find after moving from Vancouver to Kelowna, BC that the Okanagan is limited to only 2-4 channels OTA. I still cannot figure out how CTV can have must carry status with the BDUs in the Okanagan without providing a signal over the air here. While I was busy enquiring about how this could be so, the digital transition discussion began, and I suddenly realized not only was there no hope that CTV would start broadcasting in Kelowna, but that even our few channels will soon be gone.

The point of the above is context. If the numbers were available, I'm pretty sure we'd see rebroadcasting transmitters / repeaters have already been shutting down. There's no way on earth that any digital transition of OTA towers will take place outside mandated markets without incentives in place.

If broadcasters negotiate VFS, they should be required to at minimum replace existing towers. Start with manadated areas and work outwards, keeping analgue transmissions going until all are complete. Broadcasters should be further prodded to expand coverage. Every canadian should be able to reive basic reception. OTA transmtion should be better linked to advertising opportunities. I can't understand why broadcasters don't want to invest in transmission. The only reason THEY shouldn't have to pay BDUs for delivering their signal to canadians is because they're already supposed to be providing that by themselves. Why can't broadcasters expand broadband capabilities independent of cable communities with the new digital towers as well? Seems to be shortsighted thinking.

If it is decided that broadcasters don't have to transmit digital signals OTA in smaller communities, then multiplexing is a cost-effective solution. Preferrably broadcasters would split the cost. Industry Canada should spend some of the money they get from reselling the vacated bandwith to put up Multiplexing towers. Job creation for whoever actually builds them.

Build the towers, expand coverage and services, broadcasters need to connect to viewers idependently, don't force us onto cable, and broadcasters shouldn't expect to get more money for less service.

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