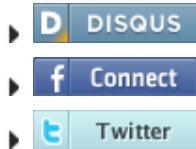


Canadian Radio-television and
Telecommunications CommissionConseil de la radiodiffusion et des
télécommunications canadiennes[Home](#) > [Other issues](#)

Other issues

Are there any other issues you believe should be considered? Why?

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[Michael](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) [54 people liked this.](#)

If I choose to watch an NFL football game on Fox, then why is there a CTV logo on the screen??? If that's all Canadian channels are good for (copying content from the U.S.), then it's time to turn off the lights and close the doors.

I am Canadian and I don't care about Canadian content! Sorry if the truth hurts....

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[timw](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) [in reply to Michael](#) [25 people liked this.](#)

The truth is that the CRTC has set up the system (probably unwittingly, or more likely at the behest of powerful television and cable lobbyists) to allow a few rich Canadians to profit off of imported content without any real incentive to create Canadian content. If there was a requirement to create Canadian content and an incentive to do so (and a punishment for not doing so) then Canadian content would become higher quality - and every once in a while you would be influenced by Canadian content and values rather than the US-centric set of values found on Fox.

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

I absolutely agree with everything Michael has said. I DESPISE 'FOX' - especially their so-called news programmes. They are nothing but sensationalists! Having said that, I have only ever watched a portion of one Fox news programme, that was enough for me. Never again.

We need, and deserve, decent Canadian television and not hand-me-down crap from other countries.

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)

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

Is Canadian news really that much better? I find that news casts spend most of their time advertising what is coming up over and over again. If they were telling me what was coming on after the commercial break, it would be useful, but instead they advertise everything with shock value making you wait to see if the comment has any validity. Basically we have entertainment with no substance. That says a lot

about our lowest common denominator, doesn't it?

Canadian News, American News and World News has no value anymore, since they only rehash news releases instead of searching for validity. The best example would be the complete failure to explain the environmental policies of any of the political parties during the last Federal Election. They were nice enough to tell us that we thought it was an important issue but did no interviews to try and define policies. Dan is right we need to get people in the cable companies and the local stations that can think as well as those people that insisted that we have freedom of the press way back when.

Flag

Like



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

timw has hit the nail on the head. Unfortunately, with the system that is now thoroughly entrenched and the greed of those elite few in control, Canadian television is doomed.

Flag

Like



John Wesley Chisholm ★ [1 month ago in reply to timw](#) 8 people liked this.

I agree. I think we should have access to the American channels. It's important. Here in the Nova Scotia we have a real historic and family connection to New England and we want to share entertainment, information and stories with our natural and traditional partners.

But why then repeat it and let it take up space on Canadian stations. The proliferation of cable long ago stopped this from making sense now they should just stop it.

I want to watch the US shows and, if I choose I want to be able to find Canadian programs on Canadian TV. I would even like to see some regional representation... not just central shows about the regions or seen through the central filter... I mean real properly developed and financed series.

I watch Michigan outdoors on PBS. It's shocking that there is not a single outdoors show dedicated to the Maritimes. Michigan has nothing on our woods and waters.

Flag

Like



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

Well said!!! you've nailed it exactly.

Flag

Like



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

My local Fox affiliate, WNYF-CD, is not on the cable anywhere in Canada. It comes in quite readily on a digital subchannel of CBS affiliate WWNY for anyone with even the smallest of outdoor antennae in Kingston, yet the cable here replaces it with some Buffalo station due to arbitrary CRTC regulation and then butchers that signal with signal substitutions.

How, exactly, does this benefit broadcast localism? You are doing more harm than good here.

Flag

Like



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

The reason why this is done, is because the CRTC is protecting the advertising revenues available to the Canadian stations that have paid the USA station or network, a fee to

broadcast that signal in their area. Note... the key point here is PAID A FEE.

Flag

Like

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

The FEES that Canadian TV channels are paying are too high. Each year the Canadian industry fight amongst themselves for rights to American shows, bidding up fees to the stratosphere. If they need extra money, maybe Canada's stations should reign in their own expenditures. Don't come after me to support a broken model.

Flag

Like

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

Abolish signal substitution and one key incentive for domestic networks to spend the majority of the non-news programming budget on duplicative US-originated programming would vanish.

Flag

Like

Sean M ★ [1 month ago in reply to Gary](#) 11 people liked this.

And he's saying to them "stop paying the fees!" We can watch that programming on American channels. We don't need a Canadian broadcaster buying that programming, blowing their budget and then crying poor when they make no money. They are Canadian broadcasters. Use your money to develop decent Canadian programming and leave the American programming to the American stations we watch them on anyway.

Flag

Like

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

What people don't always realize is that CTV et al are buying rights to programming they are not even broadcasting. Some of it is to hurt the competition by outbidding and driving up the cost. They also want an alternative in case a program is canceled in the US.

They are more or less buying the programming prepackaged off-the-shelf. To elaborate, they are not taking any risks in developing the program. Unless the program is filmed in Canada, they are not doing anything to support the Canadian economy, let alone employ actors, writers and other workers too numerous to list.

To be fair, CTV does co-produce programs like Flashpoint. In this case, I will watch Flashpoint on CTV as opposed to CBS. Any program that isn't Canadian such as CSI, I expect to watch it on CBS without the CTV logo appearing. The CRTC should not allow simultaneous substitution unless a program has some Canadian-ness to it.

Flag

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R. Connolly ★ [1 month ago in reply to Michael](#) 2 people liked this.

You are living in the wrong country!

Flag

Like

eastercanadian1 ★ [1 month ago in reply to Michael](#) 2 people liked this.

If you don't like Canadian content go south!

Flag

Like



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

Great stuff Michael. How many times have you been watching Tennis, Football, NASCAR or some other sport and TSN in their wisdom just switches to another sport before the game or race is over. And in some cases runs a ticker just before they switch to tell you to turn to a US - such & such a station. Just appalling. This never happens with ESPN.

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

Hi Michael,
When you watch "Fox" NFL football, you are only watching a re-broadcast of the American network by a Canadian network. It isn't really Fox showing you the picture. That's why the commercials are all Canadian and you can't see the SuperBowl ads.

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Chad K ★ [1 month ago in reply to vassellebarber](#) 6 people liked this.

He clearly gets that. His question is why he has to pay the middleman

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

In addition to Vassellebarber.

The Yankee football we are watching is not only re-broadcast, it is also "PAID FOR" by the Canadian network showing it. Granted the Canadian broadcast will have Canuck ads in it, but that NFL game aint free folks!

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

They're not copying it. They pay huge amounts of money to rebroadcast it in Canada. Who cares what logos are on your screen?

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Lauren Roberts ★ [3 weeks ago in reply to Michael](#)

What makes you Canadian then? Your address?

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Gerry ★ [1 month ago](#) 48 people liked this.

Why should we pay for services which are distributed for free over the airways? The cable companies actually help the broadcasters earn larger profits by carrying their broadcast signal and advertising to millions of additional people.

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Warren Heggie ★ [1 month ago in reply to Gerry](#) 31 people liked this.

This is absolutely correct. I was a partner in an ad agency for many years and the TV stations survived very well on CPM (cost per thousand viewers) until they got greedy and overcrowded the marketplace. They would have no audience in my neighbourhood without cable because of multiple signals bouncing off high buildings. They should thank (perhaps

pay) the cable and satellite companies for carrying their signals so they have a larger audience to sell to advertisers. Their arguments for payment by cable and satellite companies are stupid. They started out by sending out their signals through the air for free to viewers. They are supposed to be supported by ad revenues, not the carriers of their signals.

If the CRTC thinks they should charge for their signals, the CRTC should also give the carrier companies the right to opt out of carrying their signals. Then see if they could survive!!

[Flag](#)

Like

 *quest* ★ [1 month ago in reply to Warren Heggie](#) 10 people liked this.

Right on the money Warren, I was a tech for ctv,cbc and chum, the latter being the worst run company. Technology and especially poor management has taken me out of the business. They have made cuts in staffing for the last 15 years but now the executives behind their mahogany doors are feeling the pressure. And of course they have friends in high places, (sometimes family) . Desperate times , desperate measures. I guess this is in their desperation.

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 *cfd* ★ [1 month ago in reply to Warren Heggie](#) 8 people liked this.

The cable/satellite companies have supported & kept local TV alive for years now by getting their signal out to the local TV audience locally and nationally. Local TV does not pay to have their content on cable or the bird. Now Local TV wants the head of the golden goose for supporting and keeping them alive????

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 *robert metcalfe* ★ [1 month ago in reply to cfd](#) 2 people liked this.

they haven't really supported these greed mongers, the CRTC says they have to carries these station, on cable thats why they are the basic service.

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 *Don* ★ [4 weeks ago in reply to Warren Heggie](#) 3 people liked this.

The opt out option of carrying the signal would end the TV Tax debate quickly.

[Flag](#)

Like

 *Rob* ★ [1 month ago in reply to Gerry](#) 18 people liked this.

I agree. Local TV Broadcasters need to become more creative in solving their finance problems. Business is tough these days, but so is life. Too bad there weren't bail outs for people who get laid off (by companies like this) and can't find work, and have to find a min. wage job just to keep a roof over their head. It's always us little people who get sh*t on.

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Like

 *Sharon* ★ [1 month ago in reply to Gerry](#) 12 people liked this.

I agree with you Gerry. I remember having a large satellite dish and the signal was free and there was no subscription. Only paid for the hardware back in the early 80's. Thats what commercials are for! We shouldn't have to pay anything for the signal. I think somewhere someone is greedy!

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

Regarding greed. Cable/Satellite companies steal signals and send them to their subscribers (who watch and benefit from these signals..local news, weather, info etc). A product made in a factory for a \$1 (COST) is sold out the door to a distributor for \$2, who sells to a retailer for \$4 who sells to a consumer for \$8. Also consider the number of people employed from the factory to the retail point of purchase. Cabl/sat pay nothing for the local product and a "bundle" of local channels (now being considered as an offering to placate the issue and pressure by CRTC) is probably going to cost at least \$5 to \$8 plus tax per month. Work the math back and the local broadcasters should split \$1 revenue per subscriber from cabl/sat companies for their product. They manufacture that product, including some spectacular (and often NON VIOLENT) shows, good enough to be aired on American networks (EXPORT). Local TV employs many more people in their business than a cabl/sat provider (money into our economy..even locally). Cabl/Sat companies get their programs for \$dirt and retail direct to subscribers ..these are huge markups/profits. People are angry about paying more or the possibility of paying more. They are already paying too much. If local TV could garnish the profit margins of Cabl/Sat companies there would be no issue.

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

I value everyone's opinion, but facts are better stated when there is research behind them. Cable doesn't "steal" signal contrary to what a lot of people think. We would've been in court by now if that was the case. You don't just steal signal and get away with it, it's ridiculous. Secondly, the CRTC regulates what cable/satellite companies can sell as bundle packages, so there goes your other theory that we charge 8\$ per channel or whatever the case may be. Basic cable, or basic satellite, comes WITH local stations, because there is no CHOICE to include them as part of a package, because as mentioned above, it's all CRTC regulated. The markups/profits aren't made from local tv stations, I can promise you that!

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robert metcalfe ★ [1 month ago in reply to Sook](#) 3 people liked this.

get educated its not stealing when the CTRC says you have to show these stations. that you can get for free.

I also hate to break it to you that the shows you refer to are not produced by these stations they are produced by independent production houses that fund the shows with government grants and often with support by American companies and affiliates. so its not really an export. and these stations simply buy the product.

also if you haven't noticed only one company provides 100% local programing and its own and operated by a cable company that would be rogers TV. further if you look at the finical track record of these stations you would notice that many of them have huge finical short falls due to over spending on executive pay as well as on american programing. did you also know that the CBC which I assume you were talking about above produced shows with your tax dollars, and had a short fall of 60 million dollars last year because the pay scale they work on is so high. thats your tax dollars hard at work now you want to pay more. well have you considered that CTV is close to going under, and not because of the revenues aren't there but because they spent so much money on american show in the last few years that they are now looking for a way out. buy the way a canadian alternative to american idol was cancelled by your precious local TV because an executives kids liked it better, or had you not noticed that canadian idol was cancelled. so much for local TV.

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[Lori McGibbon](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to Sook](#) 2 people liked this.

That's right. If the two sides can't come to an agreement the CRTC should effectively garnish the portion of the basic fee for cable and give it to local broadcasters and make it illegal for cable companies to raise their rates

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[John](#) ★ [4 weeks ago in reply to Lori McGibbon](#)

Ha ha ha. Now that is funny Lori. Thanks for injecting some much needed humour into this discussion.

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[John](#) ★ [4 weeks ago in reply to Sook](#)

Time for a reality check. The broadcasters want cable and satellite to pay for a product that has been free and remains that way. The business model is advertiser supported. Do a better job and those advertisers will pay for your product. Bring back local TV. How can you claim to be local with two hours of news that covers 3 minutes of local news and then everything else is provincial, national, international or lifestyle filler content.

Broadcasters give their product away out the front door over the air, out the back door via the internet yet they want cable and satellite companies to come in and pay for it.

Get real, shake your heads and cut your costs to increase your revenue.

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

Unfortunately in vast parts of this fine country you can't pick up anything over the airways. Without satellite or cable you have NO TV. Not everybody lives in a big city.

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

I live in a deep rural setting and do NOT want these changes. These proposals are madness.

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



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

I'm with you Jim, living in a small town. Without satellite I would have next to no TV at all. Keep it status quo!

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

Agree 100%. If I want to deliver products to thousands of customers in any other business model, I would need to pay the distributor, not demand that he be required to deliver my product and pay me for the privilege!

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

You have that backward. The cable company is selling a product produced by the local station that they got for free.

What other business gets a product for free, and then is allowed to sell it to their customers for outrageous profit?

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

@Kevinh,

I work in logistics and NO ONE distributes anything for FREE!

The Cable companies carry local TV because they are required to by CRTC regulations.

Those are channels that they could earn profit from with other content.

Therefore your argument is flawed. Cable is giving up potential profits to comply with broadcast regulations and not charging local TV for the privilege of having their signals broadcast to all Cable subscribers in the network. That subscription list is extremely valuable for setting up local TV ad rates. It will only become more valuable when the transition to digital TV is fully realized.

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

The TV stations distribute their signal for free for reception by individual households.

The cable company is not doing the local station a service, the signal already reaches all of those homes over the air, it's just the choice of the home how they receive that signal.

You have a choice how to receive TV signals, a one time cost to purchase antenna gear, which is approximately the cost of 3 months of cable, or an ongoing subscription to a cable service, where you will pay a lot more.

The cable company is not a household, it is a for profit business that charges customers for all the signals they distribute, whether or not they are required to carry them.

The cable companies are not giving up any revenue with local channels, they bill you plenty for the basic cable package, which primarily consists of channels the cable company receives for free, and then sells to you.

Digital TV signals are no different than analog signals, you just need a digital tuner.

In many ways, digital signals are much easier to receive than analog with a house antenna, the signal locks in better and you don't get any of the ghosting or snowy problems that analog has.

If anything, the transition to digital signals will make it much easier for people to give up cable, and get their own antenna.

If you don't like the cost of cable, the answer is simple, cancel it, put up an antenna.

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[Markmcd](#) ★ [3 weeks ago in reply to kevinh](#) 1 person liked this.

I am not sure where you live or what your technical background is so keep that in mind while reading this. The number of Over the air digital signals that most people are able to receive would not constitute much of an offering. While you are right the ghosting and snow are not an issue in the digital world what you are forgetting to mention is that reception is totally lost if the signal strength is diminished by movement of antenna or any of

the other factors that influence signal strength. At least with analogue you would have tell tale signs that there was a problem before you totally lost reception. Along with that, as I understand it, there are towers that are not going to be updated for digital carriage that will be abandoned. Hope you don't live near one of those.

Not to dig up the past but the whole reason cable companies ever survived in the first place is that people found what they were offering to be a far better option than committing money and time for the purchase and maintenance of antenna systems just to get a viewing experience that was less reliable and more limited than what the cable companies were offering. If you check your history, all the channels originally carried on cable were free over the air channels. Better quality signals and more offerings from farther away than a household antenna could receive sold the service. subscribers are paying cable and satellite companies a "basic fee" to use the infrastructure they built and maintain so that the subscriber does not have to maintain their own systems. Adding channels beyond the basic offering is a totally different animal and costs more because they are generally fee for carriage signals. I wish you all the best as you try to receive any of these channels with your antenna.

As cable companies grew and offerings expanded the CRTC mandated that the cable companies carry these signals that you say they are getting for free. Along with that mandate were conditions on where these channels had to be in the lineup, simulcasting so that local ads replaced american ads etc. Now what you have is a company whose original business model included projections based on only what homes they could reach with their transmitters being able to take great advantage of the infrastructure of these cable companies. Their markets were expanded exponentially at no cost to them. In turn the interest they could generate for market penetration of advertisement also greatly increased. These companies and the cable companies alike benefit mutually by this arrangement. It is my opinion that the broadcasters come out on top of the cost/benefit equation. And now they want to charge the cable & satellite companies while maintaining all the mandated advantages....

You are right about one thing, the choice is up to the consumer. Cancelling the service is always an option. I would submit to you that not many will be doing that in favour of erecting an antenna.

Flag

Like



kevinh ★ 3 weeks ago in reply to Markmcd

It was more difficult and expensive to have your own antenna in the past, but not now

Antennas are much less costly now, and many different designs are available now that have much easier installation requirements.

Hi-gain antenna plans are available on the internet that can be used to build an antenna for very low cost, and pick up the signal from far deep fringe areas.

Signal strength shouldn't be a problem after the transition is complete and the digital transmitters are allowed to go to full signal strength.

I can receive all over-the-air channels with my antenna, the only channels I can not get are the specialty channels because they are not broadcast over-the-air.

I think the whole issue is moving in the wrong direction. It's pretty funny how with phone service we are reducing the wire service and increasing the wireless use allowing people to take their phone anywhere.

TV is moving in the opposite direction, more wire service and wireless seems to be in big trouble and in danger of disappearing.

Doesn't seem to be forward progress.

Flag

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 *andyyaworski* ★ [1 month ago in reply to kevinh](#) 1 person liked this.
Then why aren't there more Digital antennas in the country? Probably because cable services offer more than just a few local signals...

Sorry to burst you bubble kevinh, NOTHING IS FREE! Not even television signals.

Any signal broadcast is paid for by someone. In Network TV it is the advertiser. In Cable it is the subscriber. Now the Networks with specialty channels (and they all have them), are now double dipping. They are benefiting from their share of the subscription payments as well as ad revenue they take in by promising a certain number of subscribers will see those ads (whether they do or not is irrelevant to ad sales).

I agree with the posters who are not interested in supporting a "broken business model". It's bad enough my tax dollars went to bail out the auto sector a second time and yet no expectations from this minority government were strongly communicated to the big three. So in about 5 years they'll still be building crap cars for too much money as per usual.

The Networks want a private bail out - for poor business practices, over extending their debt loads and a lack of vision toward emerging technologies.

In the business of "my personal finance" that wouldn't get me a hearing with the board of directors of my bank to get more money, but a foreclosure notice!

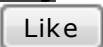
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Like

 *Suzanne Phillips* ★ [1 month ago in reply to andyyaworski](#) 5 people liked this.

If the cable companies charge another 5 to 10 on my bill, like they're threatening to do, then they'd be the ones who are double dipping. We already pay for local channels on our basic service.

[Flag](#)

Like

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

"Digital Antennas"? Do you even understand the difference between digital and analog signals. You do not need a different antenna to receive digital TV, an antenna that can receive analog signals will also receive digital ones.

It's the tuner that has to be digital and if you have a new TV, you most likely already have one.

The digital transition is done in the US only, in Canada it's still in the works, and won't be finished until September 2011, only then will the analog transmitters be shut down.

I know who pays for my TV signal, the advertisers who run ads on the stations I watch, and I am OK with that.

You are paying a hefty premium just so you don't have to have an antenna, which is all cable really does. Figure out the cost per channel vs. the channels you actually watch, you will be surprised at how much each one of those channels is costing you.

You are choosing to pay for those specialty channels, no one is forcing you to subscribe to cable, if you don't like the price, cancel your cable. The cable companies know most people really have no idea how to receive TV with their own antenna, and if the local stations go out of

business, people who currently get a TV signal for free, will have no choice but to get cable if they want to get a TV signal. Perhaps that's what the cable companies really want, no free off-air signals to compete with their service, since they could never directly compete on the basis of price. Smart people see the vast price difference between the two options, and would never get cable. The cable companies even rip you off with a digital HD signal, they compress the signal before they put it down the cable giving you lower picture quality. With an antenna, you get full uncompressed HD signal, a noticeably better picture than cable can deliver. You're getting away from the real issue: should a business be able to take a product from another business for free, then resell it to their customers for high profit.

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 [Lori McGibbon](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to kevinh](#) 3 people liked this.

Kevinh wrote: "You're getting away from the real issue: should a business be able to take a product from another business for free, then resell it to their customers for high profit."

WELL SAID!!!

[Flag](#)

Like

 [Anonymous](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to kevinh](#)

The product....again, is NOT taken for free.....it's so sad how some people think, I do pay for HD channels, and I'm very satisfied, compressed or not, it's better picture quality and sound then analogue or digital.....shows you don't subscribe to cable or satellite actually :)

[Flag](#)

Like

 [kevinh](#) ★ [4 weeks ago in reply to Anonymous](#)

Really, are you trying to tell me that the cable company pays the TV station for the signal that they rebroadcast down the cable and sell to you.

Yes you do pay for HD, to the cable company, and they don't send one cent of that to the TV station that they got the feed from.

Of course I don't have cable or sat, it's because of the outrageous price they charge. I have saved myself approximately \$8000.00 in the last 15 yrs.

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Like

 [Anonymous](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to kevinh](#)

There is a huge difference between analogue cable and digital cable, again please do your research before you decide to post something on here that doesn't make sense to people who know how things work....with digital cable, first of all, you DO get much better picture and sound quality, I know with us, you get many canadian timeshifting channels included with it, and since everyone is so hard up on costs, it actually saves the consumers quite a bit of money in the run of a year. With digital, you can call (or go online) and get channels or full packages added to your account for your viewing needs. With analogue, everytime you make changes, a technician needs to

go out, which in turn, costs money. I'm not familiar with the digital antenna or how it works, but I would rather have a service that's provided, guaranteed, and if I ever have problems it's covered as opposed to spending 3 months of cable money on a digital antenna, and if it ends up not working, no one replaces it, no one cares, and I'm out 3 months worth of cable bills to go out and spend another 3!

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[kevinh](#) ★ [4 weeks ago in reply to Anonymous](#)

I never said there is no difference between the signals, did you even read the post?

I know how it works, do your own research before you post stuff that doesn't make any sense, or even relates to my previous post.

You sound like you don't even know how your own cable works. With analog when you make changes to your package, the "technician" comes to your cable line and either installs a filter so you receive less channels or takes a filter out so you receive more.

With digital they filter you electronically, it saves them a lot of money, which of course they keep as profit and will not pass on to you.

If you're so hard up for money, how can you justify spending that kind of cash on a cable subscription, antennas are very reliable, and come in many price ranges from simple rabbit ears to big Yagis. There are no moving parts to wear out, just think about the radio antenna on a car, how many do you see wear out and need replacement? That's right.....none.

There is only one way to really save money on TV, cancel the cable, advocate for more over-the-air TV signals.

[Flag](#)

Like



[Anonymous](#) ★ [4 weeks ago in reply to kevinh](#)

1 person liked this.

Providing digital services does not save money for distributors. Yes, they can change it electronically rather than sending somebody to your home. Which means you get better and instant service you previously had to wait for.

But the savings you think they get from not sending a technician are outweighed 100 times by the phenomenal costs involved in building a digital network. These companies have gone into debt for years to come to provide all the services that can only be provided by digital.

The broadcasters, on the other hand, won't be digital until 2012. Yet another example of the cable and satellite distributors investing in new technologies while the broadcasters sit on their hands and cling to old ways.

[Flag](#)

Like



[kevinh](#) ★ [4 weeks ago in reply to Anonymous](#)

The cable carries the digital signal just as well as it carried the analog one, The only difference for digital is the transmitters and tuners. The broadcaster is providing the transmitter, and the viewer is providing the tuner, the cable company has minimal costs to transition to digital.

Several broadcasters already have their digital transmitters on the air, that's how the cable companies get their digital signal, from the broadcasters.

It's the broadcasters that have the additional cost of running

two separate transmitters until 2012 when they can shut down the analog ones.

The government set the dates for all this transition, it doesn't really matter when each station builds their digital transmitter. Everyone has to be finished by the mandated date.

[Flag](#)

Like



Anonymous ★ [4 weeks ago in reply to kevinh](#) 1 person liked this.

First, the distributors all had to upgrade their networks in advance of the digital transmission. Information is available on the CRTC's website, but they have invested millions upon millions to carry digital. Why? Because they need a drastically higher bandwidth capacity to do so. These are not minimal costs. These are actually the highest portion of costs for any distributor. Bell testified and supplied supporting documents to the CRTC that their network debt amounts to \$9/month/subscriber.

Second, the broadcasters are almost all behind schedule, and have almost all testified at CRTC hearings over the past month that, in fact, they won't even come close to meeting the deadline. Some broadcasters have plans through 2013. Some won't even guarantee they can manage that.

I understand what you're saying, and you're simply wrong on these points.

[Flag](#)

Like



Anon ★ [1 month ago in reply to kevinh](#)

Here you all go again - remember that millions of Canadian live where there is NO signal from anywhere, analog or digital, available to them. Their one and ONLY option is satellite.

Your arguments hold well for your own little worlds, but not for the bigger picture.

[Flag](#)

Like



kevinh ★ [4 weeks ago in reply to Anon](#)

You may want to check your facts.

Millions with no signal at all? Not true, CBC was set up so that it can be received all across Canada, it's the only station that has total Canada wide coverage.

Since at least 80% of Canadians live in cities that have over-the-air broadcasts, that would mean at least 80% of Canadians have a minimum of 2 channels they can receive.

I will agree there is a very small number of people who cannot get any signal, but it is certainly not millions.

[Flag](#)

Like



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

"The Cable companies carry local TV because they are required to by CRTC regulations. Those are channels that they could earn profit from with other content." Bloody nonsense. There are hundreds of channels available for cable companies to broadcast other signals. If they could charge for local stations and weren't required to carry them, they would still carry them and charge for them.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)**Carl B** ★ [1 month ago in reply to Jonathan](#)

There are not "hundreds of channels available... to broadcast other signals" on analogue cable. If anything, this "must carry" that forces cable companies to carry the domestic station on both analogue (in a favourable channel position) and digital is wasting space which could be used by the cable company to provide several additional digital-only stations.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)**Spook** ★ [1 month ago in reply to andyyaworski](#) 2 people liked this.

Your position is flawed. There are many channels BLANK on cable/sat networks that could be used if there was "content" to fill it...like a new bundle of special interest channels (religious or ethnic television..being considerate of the canadian mosaic).

The transition to digital signal is mute. It has nothing to do with value per se..it is just an improvement in overall quality of signal (and many other technical advantages for the consumer). This is much like the evolution of radio..AM, then FM and now XM. All technical advances producing consumer benefits, like mono to stereo and better overall signal quality. It is interesting to contimplate WHY? the modern automobile radio still recieves AM and FM.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)**Suzanne Phillips** ★ [1 month ago in reply to andyyaworski](#)

1 person liked this.

What are you talking about? There's 500 channels on the dial and you're saying the cable companies if they had a choice wouldn't carry CBC and it's hockey or the other networks that own the Canadian rights to all the top rated U.S. programs.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)**Anonymous** ★ [1 month ago in reply to andyyaworski](#)

A-M-E-N!!! Thank you :)

[Flag](#)[Like](#)**JR** ★ [1 month ago in reply to kevinh](#)

The cable company is selling a service that replaces your off air antenna. The TV station is selling a product that goes through the air and is received by the home owner's "antenna replacement service". That is why they used to call them CATV companies....Community Antenna Television companies.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)**kevinh** ★ [1 month ago in reply to JR](#) 3 people liked this.

You're right there. The big difference is the cost.

The cable companies charge you a lot more than it really costs them to distribute the TV signal.

The're bluffing by threatening to jack your bill up even higher, call them on that, cancel your cable and get an antenna. If a lot of people cancelled their cable , you can bet those rates would drop quickly.

You can do it, I cancelled my cable 15 yrs. ago, and I don't miss that bill at all.

It cost me about \$120.00 to get my own antenna and I receive 12 channels with it. \$120.00 over 15 yrs. = \$8.00 per yr. and decreasing.

How much have you spent on TV reception over the last 15 yrs.?

[Flag](#)

Like

 *Anonymous* ★ [4 weeks ago in reply to kevinh](#) 1 person liked this.

You're either trying to bullshit people or don't know what you're talking about. Not including debt, it costs Bell \$33 per customer just to distribute the basic package, for which they charge \$34. If Rogers had to pay for their network with just cable, they'd be out of business already.

Don't use your anger and ignorance as an excuse to blast these companies when you actually know nothing about the real economics of the situation.

[Flag](#)

Like

 *kevinh* ★ [4 weeks ago in reply to Anonymous](#)

You must work for Bell if you have reliable info on costs and revenue. How can it cost that much per customer to deliver the basic package, when I can receive almost everything in the basic package with my home antenna for pennies per channel. You sound like a spokesman for the cable company.

[Flag](#)

Like

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

Oh, so that's where we differ. I do actually watch more than 12 channels on my tv during any given week. People won't cancel their 300 channel cable to go buy an antenna for 120\$ to get 12 channels. I know I wouldn't....

[Flag](#)

Like

 *kevinh* ★ [4 weeks ago in reply to Anonymous](#)

That's fine, pay for your cable, but count your channels, you do not have 300, check it out.

The difference here is the cost, if more people had antennas there would be more over-the-air TV stations, since the stations would have to broadcast over-the-air if they wanted to reach those homes.

If the majority had antennas, some of those specialty channels would start to broadcast over-the-air, if they wanted viewers.

Check out <http://www.digitalhome.ca/forum/index.php>, for good factual information on what's available in your area and how to receive over-the-air TV with an antenna.

[Flag](#)

Like

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

I agree. People have more money than brains. It is amazing that employers are paying them so much that they can afford digital cable or satellite and the fancy receivers and the big flat screens (to display more of their ego than their intelligence). On a per hour basis of television watched, it is expensive TV. Of course, many do it to provide the electronic baby sitter function because they are too busy making that money to spend any quality time with the next generation, and will perpetuate these misplaced

and self centered values along with the disintegration of the family unit and our society.

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)

 *Anonymous* ★ [1 month ago in reply to Sook](#)

I know I'm commenting a lot, but seriously Spook??? So because I have a 50 inch flat screen in my living room upstairs, and a 46 inch flat screen in my basement, it means I have an ego, lack of intelligence and hire an electronic sitter? Wow....nice try at insulting my intelligence, but I'm sad to say you failed miserably. We are a 2 income household, no kids, I work full time, yes I make good money, and it's wonderful that I can spend it where I want. I REALLY enjoy my tvs and my fancy boxes because it gives me the quality of programming I want. My partner and I live together, own a house, both work full time different jobs, different shifts. We spend quality time together every single day, and you would never guess what I have next to my big flat screen in my living room????????? A book shelf, imagine that, I still manage to read too!!!!!! It's not because of our fancy television viewing that we don't spend quality time with people, or have no morals or values. Just wanted to clear that up. Once I have children I will be a stay at home mom for the first 5 years....family disintegration stems deeper then what sits in your living room or hangs on your walls...we're talking cable/satellite fees, not lack of good parenting skills!!

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)

 *Sue Lamping* ★ [1 month ago in reply to Gerry](#) 2 people liked this.

Yes the cable companies are not paying for the local signals because they're nice and want to do people favours.

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)

 *Suzanne Phillips* ★ [1 month ago in reply to Gerry](#) 1 person liked this.

We are paying for them now on our bills. The TV stations just want a cut of what your already be charged for.

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)

 *Jill* ★ [1 month ago in reply to Suzanne Phillips](#) 1 person liked this.

hi there

I was visiting Ottawa last Christmas and I found out that my mom was paying \$100. dollars just for basic cable, if she got the other statons what would the cost be. She lives on a fix income and just makes it month to month. She would have to give up eating to watch cable. There are so many who can't afford cable and the idea of cable raising the rates for local TV is not right. Being they are getting it for free they should pay the locale TV staions.I am interested in the local news and weather and the shows they have and to pay twice for it is just wrong. What is even worst I still can't find anything good on cable that hasn't been repeated a 100 times in a week. With the way the economy is why should we lose local TV or pay twice for it

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)

 *Anonymous* ★ [1 month ago in reply to Jill](#)

Satellite is the same, but analogue packages for cable start at around 30 and digital around 35, so if she was paying 100\$ for basic cable, I'd say it's a good thing you paid her a visit....

Unless she was getting much more than basic and wasn't realizing it, that happens too, people sign up for stuff and have no idea what they are getting, it's important to ask questions.....hopefully she got that fixed.

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



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

Aren't they already collecting a 1.5% TV tax as the Local Program Improvement Fund (LPIF)?

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



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

The CRTC told the cable companies they should absorb the LPIF and not pass it on to consumers. It was a recommendation, not an order. The cable companies ignored it and added it to the cable bill. Nice job cable companies and useless CRTC.

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



[fred](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to Gerry](#)

we already pay for local channels!!!!!!!!!!!!fred

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



[Anon](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to Gerry](#)

We pay because not everybody (in fact a very small portion of the population) can access anything at all free and over the airwaves. To pay is only fair so long as what I'm paying for is relevant to me and not forced upon me because the American broadcasters have the \$\$\$\$ and the clout to make it so.

As well, what's the point of having 100 HD channels if at any given time there are only 25 different programs available because THEY ALL SHOW THE SAME CONTENT - American!!!

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



[Gale](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) 44 people liked this.

Both the Networks & cable companies are like "pigs at the trough" gouging the Canadian consumers & the CRTC is the caretaker of these greedy entities with their own agenda to keep Canada in the dark ages. We are denied access to international programming in a vain effort to protect Canada. This results in the consumers paying far too much for far too little service. Same goes for the internet, we are blocked from viewing foreign streaming video because we live in Canada.

Seems like it might not be so great an advantage living here when we pay higher than anyone in the world for TV, Internet & Telecommunications. Shame on us & the CRTC for allowing this to happen.

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



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

THE PIGS AT THE TROUGH HAVE TO GET THEIR FILL NOW..ONCE EVERYTHING IS WIRELESS THE CRTC AND CABLE COMPANIES WILL HAVE NO REASON TO EXIST..THERE WILL BE NO BORDERS.

[Flag](#)

Like

spook ★ [1 month ago in reply to gvhthecat](#)

Marvelous forward thinking insight...your right.

[Flag](#)

Like

Bill Johnstone ★ [1 month ago in reply to Gale](#) 3 people liked this.

You're right, Gale: our Canadian media have been too U.S.-centric all our lives. It's pathetic that CTV, Global and even the CBC show so many U.S. programs.

Our diverse country would love to see the best programs produced around the world. We get The Latino Network, but where are the top shows from China and India, from Africa and non-English Europe? Canadian broadcasters mostly treat us like we're part of the U.S.

Really, you'd think the network and cable/satellite managers would realize how profitable more truly international programming could be.

[Flag](#)

Like

andyyaworski ★ [1 month ago in reply to Bill Johnstone](#)

@Bill Johnstone.

The problem is that thanks to American TV and movies we have outstanding production crews, but our creative producers, writers, directors, etc... are either lagging behind or are opting to work down south were they can make a living doing their work.

Canadian productions will not rival the pay scales of US productions, but they are certainly not paying enough to make any careers.

The other issue is that lack of adequate funding for quality productions in Canada. The private investment incentives for Canadian content is not where it needs to be for a market 1/10 the size of our US cousins.

[Flag](#)

Like

Janine Size ★ [1 month ago in reply to Bill Johnstone](#)

They carry those American shows because so many people watch them and it gets them viewers. If other programming could bring in more money they would air it.

[Flag](#)

Like

Paul ★ [1 month ago](#) 42 people liked this.

The CRTC should put consumer concerns ahead of industry needs. Stop coddling Canadian businesses and open the market to international competition.

[Flag](#)

Like

paul London ★ [1 month ago](#) 34 people liked this.

Open up the market! If I want to purchase Direct TV or DishNet then I should be able to (not allowed to). Why are we Canadians putting up with this? All the CRTC has done is ensured that Canadians pay MORE for services such as TV and Cell phones. It is time this stopped! If Canadian content was entertaining then people would ask for it - not have it rammed down their throats!

[Flag](#)



reinhardschlosser ★ [1 month ago in reply to paul London](#) 16 people liked this.

I agree 100% . The CRTC is a huge problem in this country.

[Flag](#)



Gregg Chamberlain ★ [1 month ago in reply to paul London](#) 9 people liked this.

I disagree regarding "ramming Canadian content", Mr. London.

Being Canadian in content does not mean bad, automatically. If you want comparable good Canadian shows I would cite Flashpoint as an example of prime-time crime drama equal to, if not superior, to similar fare from the States and identified as set in Toronto. Heartland another example of good drama.

We also have a long history of good partnerships with other countries' T.V. and film production outfits to produce quality shows and movies.

[Flag](#)



Carl B ★ [1 month ago in reply to Gregg Chamberlain](#) 14 people liked this.

The bulk of the domestic networks non-news programming budgets is not going to Canadian anything. It is going to the pointless duplication of programming already available from local US network affiliates. I see no reason to protect this business model as there is no value added and no vital public interest being served through this pointlessly duplicative programming.

[Flag](#)



Gary ★ [1 month ago in reply to Carl B](#) 13 people liked this.

Right on the button Carl. Unfortunately the CRTC confuses Canadian content with Canadian commercials. Signal substitution all in the name of Canadian content (ie. Canadian commercials) should not be allowed. If I tune my TV to an American broadcast, a broadcast that I am paying for, then I should damn well receive that signal. It should not be substituted with Global or CTV or any other station for that matter. Canadian broadcasters need to develop their own programs and if they survive great, if not, too bad ... that's business. They should not be allowed to exist simply by simply off the backs of programming developed in other countries or by living off the subsidies and tax dollars (CBC) that we provide. That is not a viable business model.

[Flag](#)



Janine Size ★ [1 month ago in reply to Gary](#)

It's a copyright issue. It seems the Heritage minsiter is not alone in his lack of knowlegde of copyright. The Canadian networks pay a lot of money for the Canadian rights to those American programs.

[Flag](#)



Anon ★ [1 month ago in reply to Gary](#)

Glad to see that you like to limit local business's access to advertising. So you think it's better that 90% of our commercials would be for American businesses, (that you can't shop at anyway) than substituting the local furniture store for? You'd really rather see Big Bad Bob's BarBQ House advertising rather than your local eatery?

Gary, where you going to get a job when they go out of business and the local economy crashes?

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



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

I agree 100% - no need to post my own comment because Carl's is perfectly worded. If the Canadian broadcasters are losing money, perhaps they should quit paying so much to purchase US programing that I can watch on the US networks or via the internet. The Canadian broadcasters' current business model wouldn't exist if not for the protective umbrella of the CRTC.

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



[Janine Size](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to Jeff](#)

But they're making money on that US programming. That's why they pay so much for it. The problem is the profits from that ad revenue is used to help fund local programming and the ad rates are down.

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



[Greg H](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to Gregg Chamberlain](#) 5 people liked this.

Then, Gregg, I think you should have the right to subscribe to - and pay for - "Canadian" content. As for me, if it's good enough, I'll choose it. If it's not, I won't. Let the market be the judge. I don't need government bureaucrats or the Can-con parasites dictating what I can or cannot watch.

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



[Rob](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to Greg H](#) 4 people liked this.

I completely agree! There are some great Canadian TV series out there and they seem to be getting better over the years. But, I feel that the consumers in Canada should be given the freedom to choose what they watch.

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



[Glen Strathy](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to Greg H](#) 4 people liked this.

Like most "free market" policies, this would result in a handful of the wealthiest (American) enterprises controlling the entire industry, like it once controlled the music/radio industry, and like it now controls movies. There would be no Canadian TV - and no Canadian identity either.

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



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

On the big networks, there are a handful of shows that are made in Canada. On the smaller, pay-for-service channels, there are dozens of great shows.

I don't need the CRTC to give me my culture. Rick Mercer will not make me more Canadian. Neither will the guy with the suspenders on Breakfast Television. Reading a book, going to a museum or seeing a hockey game, however, will. Let's focus on those things rather than failing business platforms.

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)

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

Um, not sure that will either. Lets see your examples: the book industry is dying and has been for the last decade. I work in publishing and it is a highly dysfunctional model. We are lucky to produce the few books we do and most of them are written by people employed at universities, not full time authors. Museums are public institutions do thats fine unless the government overspends (like right now) to protect, sorry aid all those people who gambled their retirement on the stock market and lost, poor babies. Finally hockey will make one Canadian? Really? I thought swearing citizenship did that? How does giving money to private enterprises such as the Leafs actually confer me a place in society? If they were to close why should any private money come into play supporting a bunch of grown-up who haven't put away childish things?

On the issue at hand, if people can't afford to purchase cable that really isn't an issue the CRTC should concern itself with. Guess what, tv isn't a necessity. Its an option. If you couldn't get power or water I'd say, yes, Government should step in and make sure that you received the services as they are necessities. But if you can't afford Opera or Grey's Anatomy or 'shudder' television news why should that be an issue?

Flag

Like

 [andyyaworski](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to Gregg Chamberlain](#)

I agree with Gregg, that in the face of limited funding opportunities for Canadian production, partnerships should be encouraged and beneficial to their investors.

The Tudors is a joint BBC / CBC / Showtime funded show that is outstanding. Battlestar Galactica was a SciFi, Sky TV and Space funded show. We can produce shows with Canadian content (even if its employing Canadian actors and crew) in partnerships if there is a profitable benefit to the investment.

Flag

Like

 [Sean M](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to paul London](#) 4 people liked this.

I agree with Paul 100%. We have American competition in pretty much every area of our business market place. Why in the world would they be kept out in an industry Canadians favor them in?

Flag

Like

 [Gail](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to paul London](#) 2 people liked this.

I agree the CRTC's requirement to broadcast the Canadian broadcast over the US one is annoying and unnecessary. It was started to protect Canadian culture many years ago. The Internet has been an unregulated way to do that so does that matter anymore? I am still Canadian and have no desire to be, act or think American. Stop protecting me!

Flag

Like

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

Gail,

Canadian content is not there to protect "you" it is to protect Canadian productions and crafts people. Considering the utter crap passing itself off as entertainment coming out of the US these days, I'd rather have an alternative.

Granted, Canada hasn't yet produced many compelling TV programs and I suspect that is due to the talent going South where the pay is better and the lack of benefits to fund

such enterprises here.

Flag

Like



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

Nobody's ramming it down my throat - I can't get enough of it! And I'd like to get some English language programming from a few other countries too. Some British programming would be a nice option to all that American crap - and I do mean crap.

MORE CANADIAN - not less!

Flag

Like



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

I absolutely agree with you. I subscribed to Direct TV until Bell Express put a stop to it. The Government should get rid of the CRTC and quit using tax payers money to support Canadian programming. If I want local news I can get it on the radio. I would like to be able to pay for just the channels I watch and I would like to be able to get baseball from the East (Yankees, Boston, etc.) instead of the Blue Jays and Mariners. I have to order it from [MLB.com](#) and watch it on my computer.

Flag

Like



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

The local news on the radio sucks. Not all stations but about 90 per cent of them. It's usually a 10 second soundbite. Local TV does a better job at news.

Flag

Like



Sean M ★ [1 month ago in reply to paul London](#) 1 person liked this.

I agree with Paul 100%. We have American competition in pretty much every area of our business market place. Why in the world would they be kept out in an industry Canadians favor them in?

Flag

Like



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

Absolutely.

Flag

Like



Norm G ★ [1 month ago in reply to paul London](#)

Agreed, 100% Paul. No need to add anything to your comment.

Flag

Like



R. Morrison ★ [1 month ago](#) 31 people liked this.

The entire system should be opened up to any and all foreign content and any and all foreign ownership. Let the market decide what people want to watch (by having completely a la carte programming) and let the market decide what suppliers/cable companies survive and or thrive under better and or different management / ownership. Enforcing Canadian content or Canadian ownership rules is not helping anyone and it ensures inefficiency in the entire system.

Flag

Like



timw ★ [1 month ago in reply to R. Morrison](#) 7 people liked this.

I agree that we should give the consumer choice. But the current "choices" are too few. If we opened it up now - where the only quality content available is American - it would be game over. Canadian content has been ignored by almost every canadian channel. We don't yet know how to produce quality content because the system was set up to reward cable companies and broadcasters that ignore Canadian content. Change the system so that customers have real choice of a lot of quality programming.

I suggest that the entire system be opened up to any and all foreign content. Consumers should choose what to watch, but a portion of the proceeds should go toward producing quality canadian programming until we are on an even footing.

Flag

Like



kwillcox ★ [1 month ago in reply to R. Morrison](#) 5 people liked this.

I agree but I would go further: the entire system should be opened up to any and all private ownership. The CRTC should be ended and the government should gradually phase itself out from all interference in the market. Our right to trade freely with one another (i.e. free from government interference) should be recognized and protected by the government. This is their proper function.

Flag

Like



chrisvinzenz ★ [1 month ago](#) 30 people liked this.

I know the CRTC and the Canadian Government may not agree with me but I say let them all die. Let me have access to DirectTv or Dish Network from the U.S. for 1/3 the cost of what I pay for cable and twice as many channels. I don't care what the Canadian content is! If I want Canadian news I will get it online. As long as the CRTC is involved I always end up paying more! That goes for cell phones too!

Every time you want to keep it Canadian you go into my wallet.....I have nothing left!

Flag

Like



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

Canadian networks should not be allowed to force black outs of US programs they own the Cdn rights and show whenever they wish. If they need to go to that point to protect their commercial interests then we have too many networks. That would be akin to blocking all foreign newspaper web sites where the same story is reported in Canada. It is self serving to the networks. Canada and Canadians are strong enough in their culture that we do not need big brother continuing to protect us from the evil empire to the south.

Flag

Like



kenst vital ★ [1 month ago in reply to paul](#) 5 people liked this.

Agreed: A warning to the CRTC, CTV, etc:

The first blackout I see, I will be canceling cable. I will not vote for any political party that will not legalize DirecTV, as we will no longer have a legal option to get decent television service in Canada.

Hopefully the cable companies will tell CTV and the CRTC to put the blackout requests where [I think you know what I'll say] Otherwise the cable companies will want a bailout too.

Flag

Like



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

Let me start by saying I am not a big supporter of either the cable companies, or the networks;

they both have their issues.

However, for the networks to complain that the cable companies are getting rich while they suffer the hardships of a changing technological world leaves me cold. Cable companies spent / spend millions on infrastructure to supply the network signals across Canada. Networks base their advertising rates on the broadcast coverage that being part of a cable package gives them. If networks don't want to deal with cable companies, they can resort to broadcasting over the air, and see how far their ad rates slide when their viewership drops.

With the advent of the internet and streaming technologies, networks should be looking to focus on revenue streams from the internet, instead of trying to gouge Canadians by proxy through an ill-conceived 'provider-pay' system. This is reminiscent of the Napster / record company battles of the late 90's early 2000's, where "downloading was going to ruin the record industry". Well, downloading didn't ruin the industry, the industry's lack of inertia and desire to maintain an out of date business model ruined the record industry. The same thing is now happening to television networks. They don't want to change, so they want more of your money, cuz it's your fault that they don't want to adapt to a changing marketplace.

[Flag](#)

Like



[dc2](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) [in reply to wadecomer](#) 5 people liked this.

wadecomer, you expressed PRECISELY my thoughts on the subject.

I'm a senior on a very limited income and can't get out much and TV is my hobby. So, if I get charged an extra \$10 a month by Bell, I will cancel my satellite service, and watch my fave programs if they are available online. If they aren't I will wait until they are. I bet others will do the same thing, and that will leave Bell with that much more to moan about.

[Flag](#)

Like



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

Why should we be coerced into paying more so that network executives can continue riding in limousines? Especially when all they do is re-sell American programming to us.

Why should government agencies mandate that Canadians have to subsidize failing industries? Let them fail! Clear out the dead wood so that others can take a chance at succeeding.

[Flag](#)

Like



[Suzanne Phillips](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) [in reply to Mark](#)

Yes, the local TV signals should have their signals stolen so the cable company can buy a major league baseball team, a multipurpose stadium, several luxury boxes at said stadium and perhaps an expansion NFL franchise.

[Flag](#)

Like



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

You are so wrong. Cable companies do not supply signals across Canada, they only bring signals to urban areas where maximum revenue can be generated for the lowest possible cost. They are not interested in bringing cable to rural areas where costs are higher and revenue is lower.

Local stations and networks already broadcast over-the-air, that's how the cable company gets the signal for the local stations (for free), then they rebroadcast the signal down their cable and charge their customers for it.

The only reason most people have cable is a lack of technical knowledge on how over-the-air TV signals work, and how to properly receive them, and a wrong perception that

antenna TV results in lower picture quality.

The truth is that over-the-air digital HD signals recieved with a good antenna are better than cable because the cable companies compress the HD signal giving lower picture quality even though they charge you more for it.

The only reason

Flag

Like



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

CTV is making a bundle from its ownership of various speciality channels. None of this revenue would exist were it not for cable or other pay-TV BDU's.

Flag

Like



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

WE'VE HAD ENOUGH!! WE'VE PAID ENOUGH!!! LET THE CABLE AND SATELLITE COMPANIES PAY THIS ONE ON THEIR OWN! THEIR HUGE PROFIT MARGINS ARE MORE THAN ENOUGH TO PAY A MERE PITTENCE TO LOCAL TV BROADCASTERS.

Flag

Like



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

The problem with this logic is that the costs that the statellite/cable companies incur, will be filtered down to guess who? The consumers, and in the end we get screwed over again.

Flag

Like



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

Only if you convince the CRTC to let them pass it on.

Flag

Like



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

CRTC make too much decisions for us anyways... Wonder where they're hands lay?

Flag

Like



Suzanne Phillips ★ [1 month ago](#) in reply to [DAVID](#)

The government will override the CRTC if it makes any ruling that will affect their buddies in the cable industry. James Moore has made this clear with several statements in the House of Commons saying he will protect the consumer (the cable companies will hike rates for fee for carriage so I won't allow fee for carriage)

Flag

Like



Lori McGibbon ★ [1 month ago](#) in reply to [Suzanne Phillips](#) 1 person liked this.

The head of Shaw cable pretty much predicted in front of the CRTC this week that the government would side with them no matter what the CRTC decides. Maybe he knows something we don't.

Flag

Like



Dan ★ [1 month ago](#) 23 people liked this.

I think it's sad that so many companies have turned to this "bailout" (not just the TV industry) for their answers. Poor decisions and poor business practices have led to their demise. The world evolves, even as many people try to stop it, and things need to change with it. It would be the perfect world if we all could just remain the same not have to use our brains and keep it business as usual. Companies need to adapt to the environment in which they are faced. If advertising is no longer keeping your business a float, then find a way to make it float. The consumers who work hard for their money should not have to pick up the slack for companies not wanting to use their own brain power. These big companies need to use the people whom they pay rather well, and rethink the way they do business. We the consumer do not receive a pay check from you, so why should we find your answers? There is way to many alternatives out their to keep the ship on auto pilot. Everybody would like to have their cake and eat it too, but this in not the world we live in today. You look at certain stations who a few years back purchased other stations for way too much. Why should we save you? Being greedy and making a poor business decision is not our fault. Did we have a say when you wanted to purchase all this? These same stations own and hold onto other forms of media which are a dying breed. Parts of business that have not turned a profit for some years now. I do understand that the older generations want to hold onto things which they have grown up with, but for somebody in the heart of this technological boom, a younger generation has different needs.

I guess we shouldn't expect the same people who have gotten in way over their heads to figure out a different way of doing things. Why turn the switch to the on position in the brain, when the easier way can keep it off. You don't get paid to turn it on...wait...yes you do. Evolve with the times, hire the correct people, use the brains we were all given, and you will succeed! I know it's not the mundane "business as usual" way, but lets not get lazy. Don't make others suffer because of poor decisions. Stop this irresponsible tax!

[Flag](#)

Like



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

I agree with you dan

[Flag](#)

Like



Milton Mike ★ [1 month ago in reply to Dan](#) 3 people liked this.

Way to go Dan!!!

You see very clearly. I would like to point out just one more thing. In most companies, if revenue is down, employees usually get hit with a wage reduction. These days it would make more sense if the Corporate CEOs and other greedy, over paid, over rated, over bonused, over perked, and under worked executives would take the pay reduction!

[Flag](#)

Like



Jill ★ [1 month ago in reply to Milton Mike](#)

I agree with you also

[Flag](#)

Like



firecracker72 ★ [1 month ago in reply to Dan](#) 2 people liked this.

I agree with you totally, yet they drive or fly in ways that our dollars gave them a way to.

[Flag](#)

Like



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

You sound very much like a shill for big cable companies.

[Flag](#)

Like

Chris ★ 1 month ago 24 people liked this.

I think the CRTC should let US cable and satellite companies offer their services in Canada. This would create necessary competition and keep the current companies from gouging their customers.

[Flag](#)

Like

facebook-800445251 ★ 1 month ago 20 people liked this.

An underlying issue in this whole debate is the CRTC itself, an outdated and inefficient entity if I ever saw one.

Even the name is outdated, with it's focus on radio and TV when the future is clearly in digital distribution, the web, mobile technologies, etc.

The CRTC is built for an era when someone had to apply for a license to have a broadcasting voice, that is no longer the case.

The CRTC is built for an era when signals could be blocked, channels blacked out and content filtered, this is no longer the case.

The CRTC was built for a time when large monopolies were in charge of the sector and it was in their best interest to keep them happy, this is no longer the case.

Abolish the CRTC, they are holding Canada back, hurting consumers and lining the pockets of the telecom and broadcasting oligarchs.

[Flag](#)

Like

John Wesley Chisholm ★ 1 month ago in reply to facebook-800445251

7 people liked this.

But video didn't kill the radio star... and TV didn't kill the movies and a surprising number of people still read books and go to the theatre. We're building an entertainment and information pyramid. Our air waves should be free and open to all competition and change but if someone buys a Canadian licence then they should be making Canadian content. I can watch my favourite ABC shows on ABC the way their programmers intended it to be. Why should the CTV or Global or almost incredibly CBC repeat the same stuff and mess up the signal.

I think they should strengthen the CRTC and abolish the crazy geoblocking (of internet and digital signals) and abolish the wasteful and deceptive simulcasting.

[Flag](#)

Like

angry3 ★ 1 month ago 20 people liked this.

I think the Networks simulcasting American shows and presenting them as theirs and then threatening to black them out is tantamount to criminal behaviour.

I do not watch Canadian produced shows, not even the news...and to force me to pay for local networks and give them the power to deny my watching of shows produced elsewhere by people who actually know what they are doing, is so ridiculous it could only happen in a Kafkaesque hell.

Simulcasting has given CTV, Global etc a license to print money for too long. If Canadians want to watch "Flashpoint" "Little House on the Prairie" or "the National" and they are willing to pay for them, good for them, give them that choice. The Canadian networks should look at the ability to buy American programs and simulcast them as a gift from an impotent regulator rather than a weapon they can use against consumers!

There are two evils here. Both the Networks and the Cable companies are abusing the consumers because we have no options (my condo is exclusively wired for Rogers).

It's time for the CRTC to halt these monsters.

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Carl B ★ [1 month ago in reply to angry3](#) 7 people liked this.

Indeed, duplicating American programming on Canadian stations adds no value. The content is already available on the American station, and in OTA HDTV no less.

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

John Wesley Chisholm ★ [1 month ago in reply to angry3](#) 5 people liked this.

It's interesting. I don't think people are clear about what shows are Canadian. I've seen bad Canadian content since I was a kid. It has a certain look, a sound, a voice. So when something sucks in that special way I suspect it's Canadian. But I'm also surprised how many shows I've seen and they were so good I didn't know they were Canadian.

Maybe there should be a way to ID the good Canadian shows just so people will know they are out there... not just in Canada but in the US and all around the world.

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

PM ★ [1 month ago in reply to angry3](#)

Do you think taking a TV signal, paying nothing for it and billing your customers for it is criminal too?

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marklenn ★ [1 month ago](#) 19 people liked this.

The crtc should be a consumer advocate organization and stop catering to the big business interest, the consumers buy the channels, we pay the bills, we pay the taxes and we pay the crtc. I don't mean to be rude, but the crtc better force the cable companies and satellite companies to cut their outrageously high prices and force them to give consumer better value for their money, no more packaging and bundles, individual channel choice, no more subsidizing the tv industry they are charging to high prices.

The problem is cable companies have a monopoly, either allow americans and foreigners to compete with rogers and satellite companies or force them to lower prices.

Make the popular shows cheap and turn the local stations into specialty channels that people have to pay for, no canadian would rather watch barrie local news over cnn or little mosque on the prairie over dancing with the stars or the superbowl.

allow in all the good stations like hbo, this is canada not china, we should not have tv channels being blocked from our country.

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Larry L ★ [1 month ago in reply to marklenn](#) 5 people liked this.

"The CRTC should be a consumer advocate organization", nuts, This moonbat group is why we are in this mess. Stop the regulated network garbage and kill CBC funding, let them compete. If we end up without networks, or CBC would anybody notice?

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

marklenn ★ [1 month ago in reply to Larry L](#) 5 people liked this.

Yes in theory it is nuts because they have done everything to screw the consumer historically, but they better start working for us and remember who pays them, They are

there to serve us not big rich corporations

Flag

Like

 *andyyaworski* ★ 1 month ago in reply to Larry L

Hey Larry,

Last time I checked this is Canada. You're living in the wrong country my friend.

The CBC should not be spending my tax funding on Yankee programming, however, I see no need to make room for FOX TV Canada either!!

Flag

Like

 *Buzz Aldrin* ★ 1 month ago in reply to marklenn 4 people liked this.

Good point! What do you say we get rid of the CRTC too? :)

Flag

Like

 *PM* ★ 1 month ago in reply to marklenn

We have CRTC that is being threatened by a heritage minister who is a UFC fan. Canadian TV has no chance.

Flag

Like

 *cmlondon* ★ 1 month ago 19 people liked this.

Hey CRTC, Don't make the Wind Mobile mistake (don't get me started). Re-Gain Canadian support, read these Comments and make informative decisions based on what WE THE PUBLIC WANT.

Don't let Ivan and the Aspers shove \$100 dollar bills down your pockets or let Rogers wave their GRRF and 911-Fee on your next Blackberry Bill.

If you haven't noticed there is a Dissolve the CRTC website floating around..... This is make it or break it for the CRTC!

Flag

Like

 *brent* ★ 1 month ago 16 people liked this.

I don't care about Canadian content. I am also tired of being forced to pay for it. Lets get rid of the patronage board called the CRTC.

Flag

Like

 *timw* ★ 1 month ago in reply to brent 3 people liked this.

Every market requires regulation to function properly. Unfortunately, the CRTC of the past has been overrun by corporate lobbyists. Now would be a good time for the CRTC to truly support canadian programming and lower prices for consumers by ending the favorable money-grab policies that favour big cable/tv companies (especially the cable companies).

Flag

Like

 *too late to turn back now* ★ 1 month ago 16 people liked this.

POOR PLANNING and MANAGEMENT is at the core of this mess ---

Here's the heart of the matter ---

If either one of the major players on the broadcast side (CTV or CANWEST) would, in essence, "open their books FULLY" to the public and show where any increases would help LOCAL broadcasting - I'm sure most people would want to keep their local newscasts (Ottawa, London, Windsor, etc..) as a small trade off for a fee -- BUT THIS IS SIMPLY NOT THE CASE -- every bit of propaganda being shuttled out by CTV and their ilk regarding "save local broadcasting" is merely a case of this :

(and this could come from either the president of CTV or CANWEST if they really wanted to "level with you")

Oh whoopsie !!! Sorry. We got killed by our own traditional ad selling strategies (tied solely to rating points in major markets) by growing fat on U.S. cable substitution laws (and massive spending sprees to acquire said U.S. programming) and then when the TV ad margins got hammered by the recent economic downturn of late 2008 and now into 2009, we had no "backup plan" because we were already playing a "leveraged game" by this point. Sorry. You wouldn't mind picking up that slack, would you?

Oh, and another thing, prior to this "massive hit" on overall TV ad spending, we also compounded our own mess of mass fragmentation and lack of any thought to real content by swallowing up everything we could and then just re-airing (or what we call "re-purposing") the same content in 10 different places - and then we expect the ad buying community to buy the same schlock on three different channels!! Same shows - on three different ad buys? Whoopsie!! Don't know how that strategy was flawed...

Oh, yeah, and for those who forgot how this groundwork was laid - (somewhere in the early to mid 90s) we decided to buy national newspapers and national web entities and specialized marketing companies (all funded at the time by our broadcast TV coffers) and spend even MORE acquisition money to push something called "CONVERGENCE" to the ad community -- something they (in hindsight) never wanted, never worked and is now considered by many to be the biggest waste of time and money (not to mention mis-management of a company's holdings) in the past 20 years. Whoopsie!

Again, we're real sorry about this mess we're in now, and admittedly we don't have a clue what we're doing now that we're this far down the road -- but really, you won't mind picking up that extra \$10 a month would you?

... and that's the truth.

Corporate greed, senior level mis-management and a really, really flawed acquisition strategy (with the goal of building mini-empires) that took root over the past few years and has now come home to roost. And they want YOU to pay for this!

I know first hand because I worked for most of these guys over the years of convergence/acquisition (at CTV, at Corus, Astral, TSN, etc..) and a lot of my colleagues are still there and KNOW this to be the case - most won't leave since they're close to retirement age (and are set in their ways) and many, many are just hoping to be "packaged" out when the NEXT round of cuts comes through. Yes, your extra \$10 per month WILL likely go to really, really nice severance packages in some cases.

I got out when I saw the "house was starting on fire" but had enough sense to leave before she totally went up in flames -- (Canwest Communications stock was at about \$19 in my last dealings with them, it was at, I believe 23 CENTS yesterday!!!) -- Izzy must be rolling over in his grave...

If someone in the "outside" media (that is to say, media not now owned by either CTV or Global) would do a "timeline" - it would boggle your mind - unfortunately the lack of a critical eye in this mess of ownership circles is staggering.

PLENTY of money was being made when multiple companies were running their own "de-facto networks" or other "network" offerings (the numbers and margins, even adjusted for the

economy back then, would floor you) -

Conventional Television had it's lion's share of the pie and fought over the U.S. sub/sim money at the top along with actual MARKET PRESENCE (local news, sports, local shows, etc..) - the amounts hauled in by CFTO/CJOH/CFRN/ATV models were the original "licenses to print money" -- heck, even CBC was relevant to the conversation as a local play - and this was ON TOP of the cobbled together national networks that eventually grew into what we now know at CTV / GLOBAL -

Then Specialty TV came along and JR Shaw and the boys boosted Corus' offering under one umbrella (YTV, W, CMT) the Greenberg family built Astral Media up, Alliance/Atlantis was doing it's own thing (built out things like SHOWCASE and LIFE NETWORK), CITY-TV was local and in the mix, Rogers was doing it's local thing and keeping a foot in the game, the Craig's dabbled out west, the Allard Family was in the mix, the list goes on -

... you had people like Ted Rogers, Izzy Asper, Michael McMillan, John Cassaday, Ian Greenberg, Moses Znaimer, heck , even "admitted eccentrics" like Douglas Bassett and others on a long list -- all smart, savvy guys who loved "the game " and made it a COMPETITION (or personal vendetta, depending on which side of the table you sat) to see who's "better mouse trap" could generate the most money for shareholders and whose "horse" could win in every race.

Market competition and NOT umbrella ownership and "cost savings through synergy" was what was driving a massive and thriving industry sector.

Then, at some point the bean counters took over the game (although JR Shaw still gets a good shot in now and then) and thought it was wise that :

(1) Globemedia basically buy up everything they could and have "one voice" - grab as much as possible whether it made sense to what CTV was all about, shut down local newsrooms across the country, re-air the SAME schedule across the country (good-bye local presence or relevance) and in turn,

(2) Canwest decides, yup, that's a good strategy if the guys across the road are doing it - so let's make the SAME MISTAKE, but since we don't have near the backing CTV does from BGM, we'll just BORROW whatever we have to in order to play "keep up" -- yeah, that always works (?) -- by this point,

(3) CBC has been removed from any "national" discussion as it could never really keep pace - and is basically "Rick Mercer, HNIC and the National" -

and (here's the killer) each other element that USED to be at the table, competing mind you for the SAME TOTAL "advertising pie" that drives the whole machine, is sucked dry of whatever made it a unique offering and its left completely lifeless as it gets swallowed up by one of the acquisitions -- and then they wonder why they have trouble when the economy dips?

I'm old so little of this matters to me now. I'm happy with a mix of rabbit ears / my old antenna, the internet and Hulu (via proxy).

But just when I saw the ad this week in my local paper for "STOP THE TV TAX" - I thought it was a brilliant counter to the B.S. spewing forth from 9 Channel Nine Court, et al. -- and thought this rant might raise some interesting "other side of the fence" insights.

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Like



[Lori McGibbon](#) ★ 1 month ago in reply to too late to turn back now

And the cable companies don't have mini empires? Doesn't Rogers own a whole string of radio stations, speciality channels, a baseball team and a stadium to name just a few?

[Flag](#)

Like



Ivan Woodburne ★ 1 month ago 15 people liked this.

The CRTC has done little or nothing to improve the situation for Canadian consumers. It is unlikely that this will change, so lets abolish the CRTC and open up the market to all interested parties. Those parties offering competitively priced products will thrive and survive and the dinosaurs will disappear.

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PM ★ 1 month ago in reply to Ivan Woodburne

The CRTC has a gun to its head with threats from the cable companies to hike rates and veiled threats by the government to overturn them.

[Flag](#)

Like



joeapro ★ 1 month ago 14 people liked this.

I want the CRTC to open up the market to competition. Whether this means letting in foreign competition or breaking up cable monopolies. The CRTC should start paying attention to the consumer rather than cCanadian businesses.

[Flag](#)

Like



radio_tech ★ 1 month ago in reply to joeapro 1 person liked this.

'Consumer' has nothing to do with it. The airwaves are public property licensed to private firms under specific stipulation of use. The reason for that is bandwidth is finite and its importance high. Effectively handing it over to foreign concerns and control is a betrayal of that public use, and entirely unnecessary now that technology provides so many other ways to distribute a product. I'd rather see it turned off than become an arm of Hollywood.

[Flag](#)

Like



Paul ★ 1 month ago 14 people liked this.

Ditch the Canadian content restrictions on stations. They don't do anything but restrict the ability of Canadian stations to compete in the market.

If the market were open then this whole issue would not have arisen. The local stations would be competing with the US stations directly for air time within Canada. If they had some good programming they they would survive, if not then nobody will miss them.

Open up the broadcasting market. There is no real competition in the Canadian market and as a result we pay more for service. While your at it start treating all communications broadcasters equally; it no longer matters what medium they use to broadcast (cable, phone line, satellite), if they broadcast they should come under the same rules. Force broadcasters to open up their networks to encourage competition. The Canadian taxpayers paid for the majority of those networks anyway.

[Flag](#)

Like



brian_in_kelowna ★ 1 month ago in reply to Paul 4 people liked this.

CTV and Global have little canadian content, other than the news and sporting events. How and why they get away with content rule belies why they should even be asking for financial help.

[Flag](#)

Like



Guest ★ 1 month ago 12 people liked this.

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12/01/2010 4:27 PM

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Chandler ★ [1 month ago](#) 9 people liked this.

The commentary here is nearly unanimous. The themes - stop catering to monolithic cable/satellite providers and broadcasters, un-bundle TV offerings, incentivize innovation and preparation for the digital age in TV and internet, allow market forces to work by rewarding high quality local programming, stop propping up a failing model and failed "local" offerings, and recognize that costs have pushed consumers to a breaking point.

I dare the CRTC to listen to this symphony of united opinion. I dare the CRTC to fulfill its public service obligation. I dare the CRTC to stand up to special interests and lobbyists. I dare the CRTC to give the public a meaningful seat at the table and recognize that Canadian consumers are a party to this discussion. Until you do, this website and the concept of public consultation generally is nothing but lip service and nothing but an opiate.

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Like



David S. Inman ★ [1 month ago](#) 9 people liked this.

When I was young everyone had an antennae or rabbit ears. All you could get on T.V. was local programming within about 100 miles of your home. Maybe 5-6 channels and you did not have to pay for this. The advent of cable meant that by paying a premium to the cable companies you could get much more channel choices and better reception. No problem it seemed worth the cost, a value I suppose.

Today with a basic cable package I can get about 70 channels. Trouble is I only watch about 20. The other 50 I am paying for weather I want them or not, that somehow seems like less of a value. Special interests groups and channels lobby for funding which the consumer pays for whether they have an interest in them or not. Please note I am okay with Canadian content it is important to us.

Why is it that I cannot have an option to only purchase the channels I want to watch. This may include some local stations or special interests channels. The current "negative option marketing" packages we are offered are way out of date with the times. Even if it meant we could only choose a handful, let's say five of our own non premium channels. Needless to say, at no extra charge. The technology exists with the digital cable boxes today.

I believe all three parties, the CRTC, cable companies and local stations are missing the point here. Give the consumer what they want. Not a no choice bundle with negative options. Let's put the value back into consumer choice!

[Flag](#)

Like



Roy ★ [1 month ago](#) 9 people liked this.

Both cable companies and broadcasters are getting enough money. We should only pay for what we want to watch.

[Flag](#)

Like



Ryan ★ [1 month ago](#) 9 people liked this.

CRTC is wise to allow people to submit their thoughts.
But are they wise enough to act on the feedback?
Or is it just an opportunity to vent before getting shafted?

I'm tired of my pocket being picked. I pay for my satellite and am 100% legal, but will resort to DirectTV if the costs go up even by \$1. Enough is enough.

If a company cannot survive on their own merit, what right does the CRTC have to pick my pocket to subsidize a bad business case? That only breeds mediocrity.

In the world where I live, a business that cannot survive on it's own merit will go broke - fast. That encourages healthy competition and raises the quality, may be the best win.

[Flag](#)

Like



jonmarvin ★ [1 month ago](#) 9 people liked this.

I feel the monopoly of cable companies in certain geographic areas is a mistake. This is a throwback to the days when someone had to pay for the infrastructure to be installed (ie: run cable). I feel this should be opened up. Different providers for internet service are able to use existing cable, I don't see why it shouldn't be the same for cable tv.

[Flag](#)

Like



johnmclaren ★ [1 month ago](#) 9 people liked this.

CTV and Global, other than news broadcasts do not produce local shows. Any local/Canadian revenue they generate is used to purchase the best and most expensive US shows. When Canadian broadcasters reportedly spend more than \$800M in Hollywood then it's a weak argument that local programming budgets are in peril. The CRTC has also enabled these same broadcasters to take on enormous debt purchasing specialty channels to the extent that US investors are now holding major stakes in these Canadian signals (eg: Global acquiring Atlantis-Alliance specialty channels). Its all about bottom line. Broadcasters hold licences for terrestrial signals and their promise of performance requires them to provide citizens local programming. If their debt load or US expenditures do not allow them to fulfill their promise to viewers and the CRTC then they must relinquish their licences. The airwaves belong to the people of Canada and should not be sold back to them through "carriage fees"

[Flag](#)

Like



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

It absolutely amazes me that the invisible communications signals have created such an uproar, especially among the profiteers, whose only goal is to continually leech out of the consumer his last cent! The worst insult is the product attached to that leeching ! When I was a child, some 50 odd years ago, I remember rabbit ears on the top of that little box in the living room and don't recall there being such dollars attached to it's viewing other than the original outlay for the television itself. We didn't have the programming choices, that is true, but today we still don't have any choice we are given a lot of programming that is utter trash! The few channels that promote good programming are few and far between and I have to pay for the trash package in order to get the good local television! Now, we have a quagmire of conspiracy and greed that extends as high as you can envision up the corporate ladder, while we, the consumer/viewer are held to task for the ensuing and continuing battles of the elite. Time to pull the plug on the little box and teach them all a lesson!!!!!!

[Flag](#)

Like

Lyn Dennis ★ 1 month ago 7 people liked this.

This is an outrageous concept! Once again, the Canadian consumer is the subject/object of gouging by multimillion dollar industries. At first I couldn't believe it but as time has progressed on this issue, I simply have become angrier and angrier. For sure, if this actually comes to fruition, I will reduce my overall subscription costs by reducing services. I will NOT increase my out-of-pocket expenses to subsidize the greed of broadcasters.

[Flag](#)

Like

meeganmom ★ 1 month ago 8 people liked this.

If the cable companies are charged to carry local TV, this cost will be passed on to the consumer. I believe that if we are able to receive local TV over the airways for free then why should we have to pay for it over cable. I don't mind paying for something that is not available over the airways for free but not the signals that are free. Local TV costs should be covered by their advertisers as has always been the case.

[Flag](#)

Like

PM ★ 1 month ago in reply to meeganmom

First of all, you are paying for local TV as it is now. Look at your basic service on your bill. That includes the local channels. Secondly, the CRTC has the power to stop the cable companies from passing the cost on to you (ie double billing)

[Flag](#)

Like

Chantelle ★ 3 weeks ago 4 people liked this.

The market is changing for TV stations with the advent of YouTube, etc. What worked in the past will not work going forward. Here is what I believe.

- * 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. Having grown up in Saskatchewan, I watched many local TV stations die off... and cable wasn't even an option at that time in small communities.

- * In the last five years, my basic cable rate has increased four times the cost of living with little to no increase in service; into whose pocket does this go?

- * Canadian television stations are closing down and Canadian networks are losing money.

Canada's cable and satellite companies pay over \$300 million a year to US channels. Why this imbalance? Just because it has always been this way does not make it fair or right.

[Flag](#)

Like

Rob ★ 1 month ago 7 people liked this.

I want cable companies to stop making me pay for stations/channels I don't watch. Let me choose what I want - stop forcing them to "bundle."

[Flag](#)

Like

JS ★ 1 month ago 7 people liked this.

If "the customer is always right", then someone needs to start listening to the customer.

[Flag](#)

Like

McGoo ★ 1 month ago 7 people liked this.

I object to the fact that the networks that are complaining are the same ones that own the specialty channels that the cable companies complain cost too much. CTV claims huge losses, but they also own a number of channels like TSN, Comedy Network and Showcase which generate revenue because I can't delete them from my cable bill. The cable companies charge me exorbitant rates for specialty "packages" that I have no option to delete programming from to either save money or avoid having.

In short: Why do I have to have The Shopping Channel or W Channel, and why does it cost me money to eliminate it from my options? Specialty programming isn't essential Canadian content, and freedom of choice is in the Charter of Rights.

Flag

Like



Ian M/ ★ 1 month ago 7 people liked this.

I am an over 60 year old Canadian - and with very few exceptions I have not wanted to watch any Canadian programming for years. The CBC is predominately crap - as is the "local" programming I get. I am fed up with being forced to pay for Canadian content/channels that neither I nor the majority of Canadians want to watch. No matter how much money is thrown at Canadian programming, until it provides the same entertainment value as much of the U.S. programming, I'm just not going to watch it. I watch perhaps, on average, a couple of hours of Canadian programming a week - tops - including weather channel & news - so what does that tell you. Loosen up the requirements for the cable companies - let them charge & provide product by the channel - they have the ability to do so now with digital - I don't have a problem paying for what I want to watch - but I'm sick of paying for channels that I don't want to watch just because the CRTC forces them on the cable broadcasters and they have to pay for them somehow. If a channel (Canadian or otherwise) can't live off its direct revenue & viewing audience - then it shouldn't exist - period. Let the free market decide. Canadian individuality & sovereignty went the way of the dodo bird years ago to most of us - and we've got to quit trying to protect something that is of no value except to a few (very few, I'd wager) people who still think we have (or should have) our own identity & culture -

Flag

Like



pedror ★ 1 month ago 7 people liked this.

It would be great if the CRTC would work to the benefit of Canadian citizens first, rather than pander to the lobbying of the telecom industry. The individual has a very weak voice compared to the Rogers and Bells of this country and we are paying for it with over-priced, under-provisioned services that threaten our competitive position as a developed nation.

Flag

Like



Peter ★ 1 month ago 7 people liked this.

deregulate and get out of the way. CRTC is an outmoded model which distorts the market from an economic and programming perspective.

Flag

Like



James ★ 1 month ago 7 people liked this.

Protect the consumer from outrageous fees with both cable and satellite. Very poor value for money all around!

Flag

Like



Bill Chalmers ★ 1 month ago 7 people liked this.

the CRTC should actually read what people are posting here instead of hearing corporate dinosaurs fighting in the sandbox. People are tired of being nickle and dimed by these incompetent, outsourcing, shareholder pleasing fatcats, the latest add campaign by BOTH

parties makes me want to throw my television in the river.

Stand up for the consumer once! This web posting site is a good start!

[Flag](#)

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

added thought: from what I see, the TV station ads are asking for "the chance to talk"... while the cable ads seem like war propaganda (tv tax, bail-outs, etc).

I think the cable companies are being far too manipulative in ther ads.

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PM ★ [1 month ago](#) in reply to Doft F

The cable companies are using scare tactics and it even has the government scared. They pulled that \$5 to \$10 figure out of their backsides. The broadcasters have not put a figure on it and negotiations have not yet started.

[Flag](#)

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

The fact that the stations can block American programming because they own Canadian rights proves that the CRTC has already given them too much power. Don't give me this Canadian Content argument, it's a waste of tax dollars to produce these shows that very few people are watching and the actors that you see preaching that we owe them a living can audition for television that people watch. If the stations wish to be paid for thier stations to be broadcast, give us a choice as to if we wish to subscribe to it. I can see them dissapearing very quickly. These suits have been watching all other execs getting bailouts and apparently want a cut. Will the CRTC give in to them? I'm betting they already have.

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

Every year the head of CTV stands and proudly displays his top twenty shows in terms of ratings. 19 are American. Anyone in Canada can get on a plane and fly down to LA and buy content. This does not require talent. It is sickening to watch Fecan stand there looking so proud. It is like someone showing off their new iphone acting as if they invented the damn thing.

The CRTC allows this to run rampant. Hundreds of millions of dollars surging south. If a reasonable percentage of those amounts was retained in this nation and invested in Canadian programming and local news this debate would not be necessary.

If a cable company carries someone's content then they should pay. If a network wants to extend its reach it should pay. It is up to the two sides to negotiate an agreement. A business deal is only a deal when both sides are happy.

Why this war of advertisements and finger pointing from both sides? Because the CRTC is weak and lacks leadership and vision.

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

Regional Television is threatened everywhere in Canada. Our National consciousness is like a tree whose branches are dying. Regional TV has disappeared in our region; with exception of a few minutes of CBC Northbeat News which combines short "news" pieces from three territorial capitals. The bulk of the one hour program is network feed of little relevance to our region.

Service has declined steadily over the last two decades. There is now no CBC-supported documentary production in any of the three regions (not even "Current Affairs"); nor is there window for programs produced in our regions. Consequently; reflection of our regional identity, ancient and emerging cultures and languages is virtually nil; at a time of dramatic social change. This is a betrayal of the promise that Canada made to the North when Anik I and Anik II brought television to the North in the early 70's. Only Inuit/Nunavut may have received local support for language and culture. Consequently Canadians generally and agencies such as CRTC seem to think the North is only composed of Inuit and the only Northern language is Inuktitut. There is a great ignorance across this land; the full scope of Canadian geography and peoples is ignored; because policies are directed toward commercial interests and reflective of consumer demographics; which in turn direct broadcasters away from "Canada" and into "global" production models... cultural identity of these productions are somewhere south of Buffalo.

With regards to cable providers and broadcasters other than CBC; there is virtually no inclusion of programming reflective of our Northern regions. The closest you might get is "Ice Road Truckers"; which focusses on individuals of an itinerant population with little understanding or investment in our regions. Such programming symbolizes our involvement in such ventures... we are bystanders; watching the trucks go by. Our own programming does not find a window with Canadian broadcasters precisely because of our "point of view"; we don't represent a demographic large enough to buy quantities of beer and tampons. It will take CRTC to discipline and encourage improvement in service to our regions on the part of both CBC and our Cable/Satellite Industry. It is in our national interest to see that TV reflects and advances our regional cultural heritage and identity. It is the mandate of CRTC to do so. So far; they have done very little in this regard; CRTC seems exclusively reflective of one tiny geographic region with a tenuous grip on what is Canadian: Toronto. I suspect CRTC member composition reflects that region and that local TV industry predominately. Our Heritage resources support an industry which has lost it's compass. If CRTC is to be an effective national voice; that has to change. If CRTC wishes to effectively produce change in the core of national production; the regions hold the key; give regions the power and mechanisms to produce locally for the Nation and the World... and we will see "Canada" emerge. If current trends continue; our Heritage dollars will continue to be abused and misdirected by consumer interests.

Flag

Like



Mel ★ 1 month ago 6 people liked this.

In order to form an opinion on this, I watched a 'local' station yesterday. After the american programming was over the news began. The top story on the local news was all about the American golfer that cheated on his wife. That's not news relevant to my province or even my country. It's something I'd buy a tabloid mag to read about if I was interested in that gossip.

If these so called local channels want to charge the cable/satellite providers, that's fine. Pull them out of the basic package and give everyone the option of paying seperately for them. I'm certainly not interested in supporting them.

Flag

Like



Pete ★ 4 weeks ago 4 people liked this.

There is absolutely no reason that Local TV has to be paid more to survive. If I paid them more money, will the quality increase? Last time I checked, "local" television stations were still turning a profit. Let's not forget that they are also being handed 100 MILLION DOLLARS - PER YEAR - for Local Programming. And now they want more???

Flag

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Frameboy ★ 1 month ago 6 people liked this.

Canadian networks should be FORCED to provide quality signal if they are going to own the rights to US broadcasts.

Too often I am looking at a CTV stamp at the bottom corner of my TV and a grainy picture when I am paying for HD service.

As a businessman myself, I'm all for a business to make their share, as long as they add value!!! What value does CTV or Global add to US programming? I pay them, they pay the US and the only difference is I get to watch Canadian Ford commercials instead of US Ford commercials.

Add value or change the rules.

[Flag](#)

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

The broadcast networks have been saying a lot about how fee for carriage is necessary to support local television. But the truth is, local television is terrible. If it's going away, it's because no-one wants it. It is now much more convenient to disseminate local news online, than to wait for the local news to come on and just gloss over the broad stroke of a few local events. If the federal government is doing anything to support local media, it should be local newspapers and their websites, not local television.

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

Well said Matthew, and furthermore, the world and business model is/are changing. For example, I think CBC would do better to spend money on it's website than two hours of "local" news! I'd rather read the local websites than flip on the tube!

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james039 ★ [1 month ago](#) 5 people liked this.

I find the CRTC's policy on genre protection amongst Canadian TV stations to be ridiculous! If a competing company wants to launch a sports service, or a music station, or whatever type of channel that competes with an already existing service, they should be allowed to do so! Competition makes industry stronger as companies fight for the attention of the customer. Too many times I've seen the CRTC deny an application because it was "competitive with an already existing service". This logic is silly in the 500 channel universe. I feel that we are ready for more choice.

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

I have a major concern with the TV networks wanting funds from Cable and Satalite providers for their local programming. Here in Toronto, we can get CTV, Global, TVO, City and other channels without an antenna, free. We can buy an antenna and get more channels free. How can these TV networks ask for payment just because the service comes from a middle man?

- Local programming in prime time is a joke, there is almost none. Most of the prime time programming is American. A lot of money is paid for it. Local programming usually appears when American prime time is over. Even off hour programming is a lot of old American reruns.

- If cable and satellite providers have to pay the TV networks to watch their programming then the Canadian networks should be speciality channels so we have the option of taking them or not. To me the only difference during prime time would be seeing American commercials instead of Candian commercials.

- If the TV networks get their way, I want to have the option of opting out of the Canadian networks. I do not want to have to give up all my other channels. The only time I see Global, CTV, CITY and CHCH tv is when they substitute the American signal.

- If the TV networks get their way, will they be required to spend all of the money they do now on local programming plus the new windfall they would be getting?

- I only see a new charge to consumers that will go up every year in the name of local programming.

- If the TV networks institute a charge, you will see a spectacular rise in pirate systems and a lot of pressure to allow American providers.

- A lot of senior have only basic cable. The \$10 per month would almost double their costs on a fixed income.
- The TV networks should be a lot less greedy. They should stop bidding against each other and share events such as olympics

Flag

Like



Pete ★ 1 month ago 5 people liked this.

Why should I pay more because the Canadian networks went out and blew all that money on American programs. This is nothing but a buy-out plan because they are not getting the American advertising money due to the down turn. What happens when the Americans start spending more on ads are we going to get money back. I

Flag

Like



RD ★ 1 month ago 5 people liked this.

1. Firewire ports on Digital Cable Terminal boxes ought to be mandatorily available.
2. All channels ought to be unencrypted and unprotected to allow me to record programming that I pay for to any PVR including my HTPC.
3. Digital cable terminals should not be proprietary to the cable providers - i.e why can't I use a Rogers box with Shaw cable if I move from Ontario to BC - nope I have to buy or rent new boxes even though I already have spent huge amounts on technology that does not have any portability.
4. In line with 3. above, all hardware should be portable between service providers.

I doubt any of these recommendations would ever be implemented or supported by cable companies - they really ought to do more to be like the internet, rather than trying to stop the internet.

The new world is about consumer choice - if the cable companies won't step up the internet will continue to service the "real" expectations/service delivery gap.

Flag

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brian_in_kelowna ★ 1 month ago 5 people liked this.

The CRTC decision on net neutrality left the consumer high and dry and at the mercy of the ISP. The definition of net neutrality states "the internet should be kept open and free from interference or restrictions from service providers. That is, certain users or applications should not be favoured over others." Clearly, the CRTC has bowed to corporate demands and has screwed the consumer, yet again!

Blackouts of american shows because Canadian networks are too lazy to develop their own unique entertainment is OUTRAGEOUS! Force the canadian networks to either put their profits into canadian productions that canadians will watch or forfeit their broadcast license.

Allow competition from foreign entities to provide internet, cell phone and television packages for the canadian consumer. If the Canadian companies cannot compete then they should go out of business. Why Canadians are paying amongst the highest fees in the world for these services is an outrage!

Flag

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Alan ★ 1 month ago 5 people liked this.

When I drive to the next town, I don't take a road that belongs to a corporation. Why is that? Because roads are seen as critical infrastructure, essential to the common good (although in one case I can take a road that is managed by a private corporation).

When I take a train, I travel on routes owned by corporations, but the service I use is subsidized by the government. Why is that? Critical infrastructure.

We live in an era when communications has become critical infrastructure, yet there is no equivalent mechanism for public access. This is the essence of the problem. I see three ways to proceed.

1) Remove foreign investment barriers in telecommunications. This will take a long time to have any effect, because the capital investment required to build competitive networks is massive.

2) Sever the carrier and content aspects of the business by forcing Bell, Rogers, et. al. to split their businesses into distinct corporate entities. Then regulate the carrier business, ensuring that all content providers and service providers have the same cost bases. Make the regulation based on price, not profitability, so that the carrier businesses are forced to achieve better service and cost efficiencies to maximize profitability.

3) Nationalize the infrastructure. The problem with this is I don't think governments / Crown corporations can do an efficient or cost effective job of this over the long run. Any case where there's an effective monopoly (such as the status quo) tends to fail.

These approaches are not exclusive. Personally I think a combination of the first two approaches is optimal. Every Canadian should be able to choose from two or more regulated providers of communications infrastructure.

Broadcasting itself is becoming anachronistic. We live in an on-demand world. Consumers should be able to connect directly to content, accessing it when they want. We talk about "local programming" but we should instead focus on "locally generated content". The relevance of broadcasting will be reduced to news and little else.

As for so-called "Canadian Programming", I think that as a nation we have grown up a lot since it was introduced. Grown past the point where cultural protectionism is a positive force. It is now possible to produce good content without multi-million dollar studios and the people required to support them. Local programming is going to change a lot over the next decade, and a mandated transfer of funds from one pocket to another is simply going to delay the inevitable and slow a healthy -- if disruptive -- transformative process. The CRTC should completely back away from regulating content.

Finally, to those who wonder why they see US stations with a Canadian feed: advertising currently pays the bills. An ad for a product that's not available in Canada is pretty much useless to everyone involved. This also must change. The advertiser-supported revenue model is in steep and inevitable decline. Many of us skip or ignore the ads anyway. At some point, we're going to have to be able to subscribe, not to a bundle of channels, nor a channel, but to a specific program. The relationship -- and the revenue transfer -- should be between the creators/distributors of the programming and the viewer. This is yet another reason to encapsulate the carrier function into a regulated public/private utility model.

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[Rockwoodbass](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) [in reply to Alan](#)

After cruising the comments on this site for the last hour, this is by far the most intelligent comment I've found. It actually gets past the things that get my goat to propose some sensible actions to resolve the main issues. The only risk I see is that new artists getting started in the next few years will be limited to YouTube and live performances.

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[j_hare](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) [in reply to Alan](#)

Alan, you talk about communication infrastructure as critical to the nation yet what is on discussion is not the access to communication infrastructure but access to entertainment. The points regarding access are not invalid but ignore certain realities. First is the type of

country Canada is; physically large but with a tiny population spread over a vast area. The infrastructure requirements are vast and supported by only a small market. This means that we will continue to be technology followers, not leaders since if a type of infrastructure is implemented and becomes rapidly obsolete the scale of the loss is enormous. This has the double edged problem of allowing unmitigated competition into the market place. The profitable centers become less profitable due to more players and this results in a reduction in service to a greater physical and arguably population area of Canada. It sound like it should work (competition = lower prices) but more many people the opposite happens as companies either stop expanding their networks (cost benefit) or reduce service area (cost benefit).

Finally; returning to the main point, what is being discussed here is entertainment. As I've said elsewhere, for entertainment I have no problem with cable or satellite companies charging what the market will bear. If people don't like this tough, its just entertainment not a necessity. Complaining about it makes one look foolish and out of touch (and entitled). Yes content can be produced for lower cost but have you actually watched any of it? Check out youtube some time and see what lower production values looks like. If that's the future then I think most will be disappointed.

Also, think about what would happen if Canada opened up full to US networks, as you say advertising pays the bills but US networks would have already made all the money they needed on the US market and could undersell any ad offer a Canadian competitor could make. They could give the ad space away if they wanted since it would cost them nothing extra to do so. This would wipe out any Canadian company engaged in broadcasting and prevent any from starting. The job losses would be huge in the industry. If you want to see what the effect would be take a look at Canadian Magazines. When the big US players moved in after nafta most of them closed because you couldn't compete with the ad rates the US publishers could offer since everything about the magazine aside from paper was already paid for and profit made. I agree that the model will change but change does not have to be so disruptive to people as to be harmful and change can be made in a managed way rather than a chaotic and often damaging way some have proposed.

Flag

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jayne ★ 1 month ago 5 people liked this.

If the remote control is in my hand .. I, the consumer, want to watch whatever I please. Dismantle the CRTC; cut the fat caTs loose. Quit babysitting us ... it is annoying and embarrassing.

Flag

Like



avidviewer ★ 4 weeks ago 3 people liked this.

There is a lot of misinformation going around.

1. US cable companies do pay local stations. However, they have the right to place them anywhere on the cable system or the local station pays to get a prime channel placement on the cable system.
2. In Canada, cable companies do not pay the local broadcaster but the local stations (by CRTC Regs) get priority positioning (at no cost) between channels 2 and 13. (this is considered prime real estate in the TV business)
3. Canadian cable companies do negotiate fees with specialty channels such as TSN, TLC, Spike, Weather Network, etc.
4. Simultaneous substitution which is a big bug-a-boo, is a rights issue. For example, when CTV buys Law & Order, they purchase exclusive rights to the program. To protect the exclusive rights and the advertising revenue, the CRTC brought in the simultaneous substitution rule.
5. The Canadian stations have weathered recessions in the past. The difference this time is that they face a perfect storm. They have huge debts because they went on a buying spree. (CTV buying CHUM TV, Global buying the WIC TV stations and Alliance Atlantis). Simultaneously they have to upgrade their facilities for HD and digital transmission.

Flag

Like



GMA ★ 4 weeks ago 3 people liked this.

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, and receive close to \$600 million in benefits from cable and satellite providers annually. 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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slimsilver ★ 4 weeks ago in reply to GMA 1 person liked this.

Local tv made 400 million in operating cost ((last year)) yes they did and Cable and satellite providers made 375 million + in every third quarter report and paid nothing to local broadcasters (True known fact).

We need to take a stand and not let Big cable and Satellite broadcasters take from us the people again.

Let them dip into there big bank accounts and pay for the use of our local stations the same as we do through our taxes already and let them pay the increase in there operating cost for these stations themselves for once and not just give them a license to steal more from us.

And this LPIF fund your are talking about has nothing to do with our local stations being paid for the programing.

It say's that the CRTC give's to Conventional television stations in non-metropolitan markets.

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Caroline ★ 4 weeks ago in reply to GMA 1 person liked this.

I completely agree with you! This is ridiculous, we should not have to pay a 2nd time what we are already paying for...The big companies should take better decisions, and realise that the local tv is important and that they should support it just as the other chanel!

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Bob ★ 1 month ago 4 people liked this.

For me there are two issues. The first is the sibling rivalry - local vs. cable. And the next first is consumer abuse. So, the CRTC must focus on the consumer. As the primary focus, the consumer should be the winner. This means there is a loser? No. It strictly means the lobby of both cable and local can no longer hold the position of priviledge. The ads are abusive and are playing on my lack of information. Both local and cable are victimizers and I refuse to be their victim. The CRTC is the first instance of protection for the consumer. Therefore, your ethical stance must be to protect the consumer. The siblings are crying poor. Well the analogy is our recent financial crisis. Some of these media providers are not to big to fail. Let the market place resolve the issue of bad business practices. There is always a third option - local, cable and a new choice where the consumer gets the break. The consumer should never fail. Local and cable need us. We ultimately do not need either cable or local in their present form.

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Futurist ★ 1 month ago 3 people liked this.

THE END OF BROADCASTING AS WE KNOW IT

We have seen in the last 20 years the impact that the digital revolution has on the various media. The Internet first brought easy global access to written content. Newspapers and other printed media had to be creative and adapt in order to stay competitive. Many didn't, so they didn't survive. After that, we saw a transformation of the audio industry. With easy access to mp3 on the Internet, the music industry tried to force on us the use of their traditional approaches. It did not work. Again, innovative ideas prevailed, just think itunes and ipod as one

example.

We are now starting to see the impact of the digital revolution on the video media and on its industry. Using digital/personal video recorder (DVR/PVR) millions of people have freed themselves from the traditional approach that required us to make ourselves available at a predefined time to watch a selected program on television. We have now at our command "easy automatic digital recording" and "TV on demand". This gives us the freedom to watch what we want when we want it. With this technology, one also skips the commercials, so why would advertisers continue to pour money into live TV? Again, innovative ideas have to be found. Product placement is one of them. The revolution goes far beyond than this. For example, many people have connected their HDTV to their computer. They download from the Internet a variety of TV programs and video content from all around the world and watch them on their own schedule. Many people also buy mp3 and download podcasts for their ipods, so they never listen to over-the-air radio broadcasting either.

This is the environment that traditional cable, radio and TV broadcasters have to compete with. Subsidizing them so that they can avoid the digital revolution for another 3 or 4 years is not the solution. If they do not get creative they will die. It is that simple. I never watch live TV anymore. I certainly do not need local stations. My viewing experience is now under my control. I have access to a gigantic global library of content. This is the new future, not local broadcasting. It is time our industry and regulators face the changing reality.

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I agree ★ [4 weeks ago in reply to Futurist](#) 2 people liked this.

What is on local stations that I need?

People say local news... well that means the robbery at the corner store and the local santa parade.

No, don't need that.

When I want news, I go to Google news or Yahoo news.

With 80% of the population connected, who needs broadcasting TV anymore?

Canada Internet Usage Statistics:

28,000,000 Internet users as of March, 2008;

84.3% of the population, according to ITU.

<http://www.internetworldstats.com/am/ca.htm>

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

If these charges do go threw how can I get access to that money to start my own TV station?

[Flag](#)

Like



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

I believe the CRTC should use a Canadian host for this on-line survey if not their own in-house resources. I am certain that Minister Moore would not be pleased if a host located in a foreign country was used by the CRTC to conduct a survey directed by the Government of Canada.

[Flag](#)

Like



Janine Size ★ [1 month ago in reply to StanF](#) 2 people liked this.

James Moore is a kid who spends more time trying to get UFC events for Vancouver than he does on this stuff.

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Like



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

The CRTC needs to be aware and/or reminded of some clear issues:

- Obviously, the request (threat) by certain broadcasters, such as CTV, to be able to broadcast a purchased US show 'whenever they want' while blacking out the US signal if the US broadcasts the show earlier, is unacceptable in every way, shape, and form. The CRTC must *immediately* reject and dismiss this request with no further debate or consideration. In the context of TV, this is unbelievably hostile and damaging to consumers.

- The CRTC must never forget it is to protect and advocate for the consumer. Recent questionable decisions (such as the internet throttling and net neutrality debacle) shows that the CRTC has sometimes forgotten that the consumer exists.

Flag

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

In the dispute between the broadcasters and the carriers I find myself supporting the carriers (cable and satellite companies). Here's why.

Broadcasters are in the business of creating content and purchasing content (i.e. American shows), and in turn provide that content to viewers. Viewers do not pay to view this content because they are forced to watch commercials. Note: these viewers are not "clients" of the broadcasters. Never have been.

Carriers, for the most part, do not create content. They simply deliver various content (i.e. channels) to their clients. Much of this content is in the form of specialty channels, some of which have no commercials. SOME people are willing to pay for this, but EVERYONE has the choice to do so or not. This model is not perfect – I can't pick and choose each and every channel that I want: carriers bundle together groups of channels. There is also no choice when it comes to the broadcaster's channels – I get them whether I watch them or not.

It turns out that I read the Globe & Mail and the New York Times on the Internet, for free! What if all newspaper companies went to the CRTC and complained that Internet Service Providers were hurting their businesses and wanted all internet customers to pay a \$10 tax per month as compensation? What if Chapters/Indigo did the same because Amazon was cleaning their clock?

What I fail to see is how a changing world means that companies with outdated business models deserve to be bailed out by taxpayer's money. You either believe in a capitalistic economic system or you don't. Evolve or die. It's that simple.

Gilles

Flag

Like



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

Wake up Canada. We're being shafted!! Do you really think that this dialog (invited by the CRTC) is going to change anything? I have just spent more than an hour reading the various comments regarding cable companies, broadcasters, local programming, Canadian content etc.etc.etc. It's time to revert back to the old rooftop antenna. From what I have been told, companies installing this type of equipment can't keep up with the demand.

Flag

Like



ITFD ★ [1 month ago](#) in reply to thetods

Revert back to the rooftop antenna is what I did and it sucks the big one. The cable and satellite companys are doing the local company s a favour. The local TV companys make there money on advertising right, so with 80=90 percent of the public watching TV on sat or cable they are basically getting free advertising on the cable and sat service. They can tell the local stations that they won t carry their signal then they will for sure go out of business.

I will not pay a tax for crap local television.
If the tax does happen I will definetly go with FTA satellite

[Flag](#)

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

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

99% of most statistics lie. The other 1% should be viewed with some skepticism. The CRTC is not imposing a tax. They are strongly suggesting that cable satellite broadcasters negotiate a fair fee for the signals stolen in the past without CRTC intervention. Huge advertising revenues have been lost by localTV to the internet. The local signals allow the cable/sat services to meet their Canadian content regs and keep their liscence to operate. You would be the first to complain if you lost your local channels...and do you think cabl/sat rates would drop if they were gone. Even if you pay more for cabl/sat injection of local sigs you are saving the costs of an external antenna to recieve the signals. Cbl/sat local sigs are better than home antenna because they capture at prime locations whereas your antenna is subject to poor signals, ghosting, weather etc. Local channels are Canadian content..local news, weather, events etc. and are the flavour of your community.

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[Janine Size](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) [in reply to Spook](#)

Yes the whole "TV tax" thing is essentially cable spin. If your bill does go up, it's the cable companies taxing you, not the CRTC.

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

The "whitelist" by which the CRTC decides which foreign TV channels Canadians should be allowed (or not allowed) to watch runs directly counter to two key tenets of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms - the right to freedom of expression, and the right to freedom from racial discrimination (as blocking foreign-language signals discriminates against speakers of those languages). The government needs to get out of the business of dictating to Canadians what we should be allowed to watch.

[Flag](#)

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

The CRTC needs to get into net neutrality. Television is going the way of radio and telegrams, and if the Government of Canada wants to ensure Canadians have access and opportunity in the new world, we have to have a strong regulator to level the playing field between innovators and the incumbents.

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



[John Wesley Chisholm](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) [in reply to bryanq](#)

But radio and telegrams are not going the same way. And how would having great or even terrible TV impact net neutrality, access, opportunity the playing field for new media?

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



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

Its really easy. Just ask yourself CRTC these questions when approving anything.

1. Does this change allow for customer choice?
2. Will this allow the consumer to receive the best possible price?
3. Does this ignore any and all benefits to the monopoly companies?

Basically the CRTC should do absolutely nothing that benefits companies. The CRTC should only be protecting the interest of the consumers. The companies can go to hell.

For instance toll based internet pricing and things that don't support net neutrality should be completely ignored.

[Flag](#)

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

You want my Input ok

- 1st Listen to what people want
- 2nd let people chose what they want to see.

P.

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



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

Simsbubs have to go. They simply do not work. Cable/Satellite companies can't reliably implement it. It's really annoying when you get, more often than not, a lower quality signal than the original feed. Shows also don't start at the same time and causes you to miss out on the first/last minutes of your shows. If CTV & Global can't survive without american content, then too bad. Let the free market take over.

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



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

Monoploy is bad and so is the CRTC. There should not be a regulated industry insofar as programming is concerned. Content is an individual issue. Rules governing the delivery of same are different, but as with the telco's the cable companies should be required to provide connections to the home to any service provider that pays the appropriate fees. It would be reasonable for there to be a delivery agency that provides the connection to the home from the hub or centre of information and to pay a fee for that. Content is something that should be considered by individuals

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

Let Net Neutrality Rule.

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



oilers84 ★ 1 month ago 4 people liked this.

I believe the CRTC should also consider the cable companies practice of requiring subscribers to rent a set top box for every tv in the house. If we have to pay extra for the channels the box should be free. Either that or the CRTC should require the cable companies to offer alternative solutions such as cablecard.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CableCARD>

Flag

Like



Tom Alexander ★ 1 month ago 4 people liked this.

If the small TV stations can not make it as a business that just a fact in todays economy and maybe should not be in business. CBC,CTV and Global made huge profits in years past. The consumers can not pay anymore and absorb any more costs from the broadcasters they must bite the bullet. Enough.

Flag

Like



PM ★ 1 month ago in reply to Tom Alexander

The cable companies are the ones whose prices have skyrocketed 4 times the rate of inflation

Flag

Like



jk sliter ★ 1 month ago 4 people liked this.

Both the cable and TV industries are obsolete. Frankly, so is the CRTC,

Content producers can post online. I already pay Cogeco for internet pipe to my home. I'm paying Cogeco again for a dedicated pipe to bring tv signals.

I don't really need the CRTC, TV stations that broadcast, nor the cable industry

I certainly to not want to pay more

Flag

Like



Bill ★ 1 month ago 3 people liked this.

Why should the poor consumer be held hostage yet again so the rich can get richer. Why are we being asked to pay for something that is free. The large profits these companies make are more than enough. if they want bigger bottom lines have them tighten their belts and stop the lavish spending the way the rest of us have to do.

Flag

Like



Angela Cope ★ 1 month ago in reply to Bill

I agree 100%. I'm sure that the CEO's can still live a profitable lifestyle while supporting local television.

Flag

Like



gew ★ 1 month ago 3 people liked this.

If broadcasters are going to whimp out on their responsibilities to serve local issue by throwing money at American content (which by the way can be quite good at times), then they shouldn't be allowed to double dip the advertizing money by substituting advertizing over the programs that they are importing. That makes their argument for charging for their signals even more

galling. I could watch the same program from Detroit or Seattle without the added cost.

Flag

Like



Frank M ★ 1 month ago 3 people liked this.

Clean house at the CRTC!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Fire the bureaucrats!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Flag

Like



bobb ★ 1 month ago in reply to Frank M 1 person liked this.

Unfortunately, there still is a need for some degree of regulation in my opinion. Less than in the past or now, but still some oversight to ensure that we do maintain some degree of Canadian content and perspective and not be drowned out by the US view of the world.

Flag

Like



Kevin Hastings ★ 1 month ago 3 people liked this.

Canadian television is an absolute joke. Look at the amount of American programming on our airwaves:

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 can understand picking up a few shows, but when 99 percent of Global and CTV and now CITY-TV's schedule is American, there is a serious problem, and the CRTC is in big part to blame on these Canadian networks spending so much on American programming. And don't threaten us with taking away American networks, because then we'll just go to a DirecTV subscription or another means of getting them directly.

[Flag](#)

Like



franjanes ★ [1 month ago](#) in reply to [Kevin Hastings](#) 2 people liked this.

I live in B.C. and subscribed to Direct TV through Can-Am Satellites and was told that Bell Express View got a court order and had it shut down. Please tell me how I can subscribe to Direct TV as the programming and sports sure beat anything I can order here.

[Flag](#)

Like



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

i think the continued support for cbc and radio canada is essential to the preservation of canadian identity and culture. this support allows us as a nation and people to grow, through all our cultural diversity and maintain a strong and unique identity and presence in the world that is truly canadian in both french and english. it defines us and brings us, wit all our differences together and strengthened by this sense of who we are, gives us the confidence to export our unique talents.

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Like



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

The CBC Is a bastion of liberal/eastern propaganda and does not represent half of Canada. Dissolve the CBC!!!!

[Flag](#)

Like



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

The CRTC, like the Canadian government in general, is an enabling arm to those it was supposed to regulate, so that now end-users have no spokesperson, no voice.

The Canadian sheeple have surrendered the government that was supposed to aid them.

While the tax burden has been very effectively shifted down to the middle and lower income earners, the benefits of the operation of government have been accrued by the tax-averse few.

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Like



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

I sent this out a few years ago, now here we are.....

We need help here in the north. A few years back when the new TV LORDS " Bell Globe Media" came into the picture. They bought all the TV stations in the north Timmins, Sault, North Bay, Sudbury and Huntsville closed them down and MADE Sudbury the main hub of the north for TV. The people in the north are steamed. They set our news back 20 years here and there is nothing we can do. Each CITY in the north had their own news , sports , community events , local police presence and numerous other activities played daily . These TV LORDS have taken 5 TV stations, closed them down and made Sudbury the northern Ontario channel. We are in a communication age . There is no going backwards. The people in Timmins don't care about a watermain break in Huntsville, likewise a small business in North Bay has to advertise in the

Sault and Kap, a waste of money.. Now, the city that whines the most, gets airtime, but not Sudbury, we win. For a lot of Northerners this was the only TV they watched during the day our MCTV news. Now some people don't even watch the news know because of how watered down it is. This is all BAD , not illegal, just plain BAD , to do this to the people of the north. How much has this hurt tourism? TV is their most useful tool for tourism and they took 4/5th's of their tools away, come on. Sponsors for local teams get less coverage for the big money they spend, thank heavens they do it from their heart. Again BAD Now a big one . In the NORTH , when an election took place each city had their own 3 candidates on their channel. Ads, debates, we see them , hear them and if you've got a good tv you could smell them. Now that last election , seems like 15 minutes ago, there was NO AIR TIME available to local politicians. 95% to the federal cowboys. I pay attention in elections and I did not know what our NDP candidate looked like or had to say in last year election and that's BAD. Again they have taken the main tool away. You can't fix an election any easier or control it , and nobody noticed this at all. Here's more. Police Departments for example in Kirkland have built a community presence over the years on TV 2-3 times a week on MCTV News Timmins, they go to schools see the future headaches and hopely shine a light, now they haven't been on the news 10 times in the last 4 years. BAD What happened to the 30 yrs work to build it up to what it was? Thrown in the garbage and not coming back. Now all the other cites are starting to hate Sudbury. Sudbury this Sudbury that, do you blame them? No offence to the employees, we've had the best anchors ever, we are the training ground for the big boys. Bell Globe Media Why did you do this to us? Here's my best guess. When these Expresvu dishes came out years back Bell ran into a little copywrite problem on the ground. They were selling dishes in the north and not following the rules, they are big boys that's ok Here's how it works, say figure skating in Montreal is on CTV , being aired on MCTV in Sudbury on rabbit ears or cable. When The Notre Dame boys and Yollies ads are being played and they pay big bucks for those ads, the rules are clear, if you watching MCTV , figure skating in Capreol your suppose to be watching the Notre Dame Boys ads . But on the Bell dish at that time you were watching the skating from Hamilton and that's a no no .

Bell was in a jam. They weren't going to put 5 stations on the dish, so they went and bought all the stations in the north, closed them down, set us back 20 years and made Sudbury the capital of the north and said are you happy now. NOT Did this happen across the country to other places? If it did VERY BAD.

This is going to be hard to turn this back.

P. S. Situations like this happened in the states and guess what they did? The gov made them put all the existing stations on the dish. Direct TV viewers know this, that's why there is 50 CBS 50 NBC 50 ABC channels to cover all cities This is now in the news again in the US . Bell Globe Media condensed us and that is BAD. We didn't have much say. Did you? People are mad and are fed up with garbage news

Why didn't they leave it alone the way it was and just put Sudbury on the satellite, ask us, we the people who pay all the money would have said its ok. We had good news for years. Thank you Bell for nothing..

Northern Ontario resident This is just my educated opinion...

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

....and another thing. As a Canadian (English/French), I am concerned with how the CRTC's home page www.crtc.ca lists "Francais" before "English". The English button needs to come first, as in all other federal agencies/departments. I guess that explains everything doesn't it....no wonder the push for "Canadian Content".

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

I'm a senior on fixed income. Along with Ontario Harmonised tax, I dont really know how I can afford the extra cost. Please get off my back and give me a chance to live. There are enough commercials on T.V. now. If more revenue is required, ensure that revenue is shared by all.

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Pat Lawrence ★ 1 month ago 2 people liked this.

What is this nonsense about local TV. I am disturbed with the unprofessional manner in which the broadcasters have represented the issue in their advertising and even more disturbed when a "news" segment is used to represent their side. These are for profit businesses and need to be professionally managed and not bailed out because they didn't keep up with or plan for the significant technological changes that have happened over the last while. Did they not do a SWOT analysis and identify the "threat" and plan for it. Stop paying companies to poorly manage their business.

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Peter_SA ★ 1 month ago 3 people liked this.

If rates are allowed to increase, Canadians will start to flock and seek cheap/no cost alternatives. Why is the CRTC not focused on offering a low/no cost option of truly basic services? Its available in the UK and other countries? Why is the CRTC looking after the interests of big business and not consumers? Don't we pay enough for goods and services in this country? These are the type of issues that if left unresolved, will drive people away. You will see increase in programming access on Internet, and FTA satellites as people get fed up with the cost and bureaucracy. Its time to protect the consumer, and give them more choice of options at a low cost.

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Francine Maxwell ★ 1 month ago 3 people liked this.

My issue is, the complete lack of programming, done by Canadian networks for Canadian viewing. I see The Tudors, Flashpoint, Dragon's Den, Heartland. And Hockey Night in Canada. But that's about it. I can turn on any Canadian network channel on any given day, and almost always find an American or UK program on.
Why?

Canada is very talented. And I think it's about time we have our own network programs. Why can't CTV have a Canadian version of Greys Anatomy? Why can't CBC have a Canadian version of House, and why can't Global have a Canadian version of How I met Your Mother? Why is it that Canada, has very little of it's own programming, scripted shows, dramas, comedies, must see television? I think we have the market and the talent for Canadian shows. And I betcha, we can export them too, gee, like we buy UK and American shows...

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carllaudan ★ 1 month ago 3 people liked this.

This entire 'debate' is merely a smoke-screen by broadcasters (terrestrial and cable-- sometimes one owned by the other) to obfuscate the real purpose of the CRTC, which is to make sure that the broadcasters give something to Canadians in return for the privilege of their license.

Historically, when the CRTC got tough with Radio and insisted on an absolute minimum of Canadian-made music, in less than a generation Canada's music talent went from nearly zero on the world scene to being one of the most powerful sources for music in the world (and finally, popular in our own country). When is the CRTC going to do the same for television and film?

The broadcasters in this country are given the license to make billions of dollars from our market, and in return they should be made to make primarily Canadian dramas and comedies. What is termed 'local television' is a euphemism for news. It is not only local news that they should have to make. Local stories from our communities and cities are as important. As with Radio, all we need to produce the best television series on the planet is some time and stable, increased funding. Independent producers, writers, directors, and our actors will be able to do it.

Broadcasters should not be allowed to hijack the CRTC's time (and ours) with their false bickering with themselves. They should be forced to earn the money they take from their markets by funding our television talent in original dramas and comedies in addition to news

and other local programming. The situation has become ridiculous.

Additionally, our theatrical screens for film should be regulated in a similar way. Either a dollar-per-ticket at the box-office should go to Canadian filmmaking, or a minimum percentage (like 10% to start) should be Canadian films. There are many great Canadian films being made, and they are not being released for Canadians to see. If they are bought by cable, they end up at 2am. This is a travesty when their quality is higher than it has ever been.

It's time to force some serious change just like what was done with Radio in the past. Canadian talent, given the chance, will rise to the top.

[Flag](#)

Like



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

I couldn't agree more!

Enough pandering to the fear mongering of the broadcasters.

Make them put a Canadian product on the air before we protect them as a Canadian broadcast company.

I want to watch Canadian shows but nobody is really investing in quality Canadian production.

Even the CBC that does better than most is spending far more on bloated blow-hards behind desks than quality shows.

[Flag](#)

Like



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

The system is broken and the CRTC is always siding with the monopolies in Canada citing "Canadian Heritage and Canadian Content" as excuses for their so called decisions. The networks should not be counting on these ridiculous fees for survival. If they do, then let them fail. Their business model is obviously flawed. I hate that the solution is always adding BS fees (system access fee, gov't regulatory fee, blah blah blah) instead of addressing the problems.

Charging the end users more money is a band aid solution that does nothing to fix it. The greed is very transparent. Greed from the networks by charging the fee, greed by the cable providers for passing it on to the customers. Greed is abundant everywhere. And what is the CRTC going to do about it? My bet is NOTHING.

[Flag](#)

Like



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

I think we should have access to American television as well. If no one wants to pay for Canadian broadcasting maybe they need to improve the quality of their shows (though some are good).

[Flag](#)

Like



koshka42 ★ [1 month ago](#) 3 people liked this.

I'm personally kinda disgusted with television at this point. One more thing, just one more, and I'm dropping off the cable/satellite radar for good.

I pay so much money already for Treehouse (I have no children), TeleLatino (I'm not latino), TSN (I hate football), french broadcasting (I'm not french)... truth is, there's maybe six channels I'd pay for but to get them I have to pay for 150 channels. If they try to charge me one more penny, I'm gone.

[Flag](#)

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

I am absolutely and vehemently opposed to proposed changes to the simulcast rules that would force carriers to black out US channels just because a local station is playing the same program, even though it might be a different time of day.

[Flag](#)Like*md98* ★ [1 month ago](#) 3 people liked this.

For the past few years I have noticed that HD programs on CBS have a much better picture and sound prior to CTV or Global taking over the show. I have complained to the CRTC in the past and they have acknowledged the problem but nothing has changed. Why am I paying additional money for HD programming if CTV and Global can not provide the full signal?

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

CTV threatening to "blackout" their signals is both ridiculous and un-warranted. I fail to understand that as broadcasters who need audiences to gain advertising revenues, how shutting people out from viewing them would benefit anyone.

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

Canadian content is already tax-subsidized. Do not pass extra costs to the consumer. Dump all Canadian content, sparing only local news stations and weather networks.

The timing couldn't be worse. With the threat of HST and the global economy the way it is, Canadian consumers are being punished more than ever.

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

Open the cable market to competition from cable companies in the US. This would enhance programming choices and likely lower rates.

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

It seems to me that this whole thing is a charade so one entity can place the blame on the other for the inevitable fee hike/channel blackout that is to come.

I firmly believe that the CRTC should reconsider the CANCON rules as they are antiquated and the majority of Canadians find them insulting. Cable and satellite companies are holding consumers, out of range of the free over-the-air signal, hostage with their incredulous fees. Why must I pay for an inferior feed of an HD channel from Bell, when a person living in Niagara Falls can get it for free, and in better quality with no sim-subbing (another huge irritant to Canadians).

The CRTC needs to realize that there are now options out there in this new digital age that weren't available 15 years ago. TV is a nice thing to have, but ultimately, I will decide what I want to watch. It would be nice to have this choice through a provider, but since you refuse me that privilege, I will download any content I wish to watch. I can easily download any network television show within minutes of its broadcast, and commercial free. Canadians will not be held down by rules that restrict their ability to view content by a bloated government agency (CRTC)

that no longer listens to the views of the public.

I have little to no interest in "Canadian content" as I don't believe it exists. There is no local content in NB, PEI, etc. The NL channel, NTV, has a newscast, and a show that has a guy with a video camera pointed out the window of his vehicle as he drives around the province. This is the Canadian Content you force people to watch??

Why not open our borders to competition, both in television and internet, so we can join the global users who can enjoy this content that you forbid us to? People complain when Afghanistan and Iraq only allow state run TV to control the views of the people. Is the CRTC really any different? Really?

Another Bell specific issue is the practice of not allowing me to bring my receiver to my cottage. Absolutely ridiculous! I should be able to enjoy the programming I PAY FOR in any place I wish to view it.

Finally, I invite you to allow DirecTV and Dish Network into Canada. IF a compromise is required, allow them to broadcast only non-network TV. Let CTV keep their rights to programming they purchased. Maybe DN or DTV will be interested in carrying their signal. Either way, we need to open the skies to competition and allow Canadians to finally join the internet age.

[Flag](#)

Like



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

Stop censoring the US commercials on the US networks and switching to a Canadian channel when the program is the same on both channels. If I wanted to watch on an Canadian channel I would have-that is my choice. That is why I am paying for the US networks.

[Flag](#)

Like



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

Any Increases and we will be 100% sure to cancel our services completely. It's hard to imagine that anyone could think that consumers should pay anything more than they are already paying for mostly "B Rated Programming"

[Flag](#)

Like



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

Add me to the others who really don't care about "Canadian" programming, or at least find this to be a "non-issue" in my life. The only station that should "possibly" have that requirement is the "public broadcaster", since the majority of their funding is from "us the taxpayers" (they are only permitted a very small amount from advertising). Very little "Canadian" programming is of any interest, probably since most shows are out of Toronto or thereabouts. Canadian shows are not interactive where people from across the country (such as here in the west) are able to participate (even U.S. shows like Wheel of Fortune takes their stage across the country and has people from all over the States interested because they might actually have a chance to participate "in their home town"). I'm not interested in what takes place for shows in Toronto (and thereabouts) since I never go there and would never be able to participate, and there is no "local" landmarks or places of interest to encourage me to watch.

I want to be able to choose what channels I pay for (not pre-bundled by the cable company). I would also like more OPTIONS on which cable company I get my services from. Monopolies should have ended long ago, yet I currently only have ONE cable provider in my area (Shaw). I spend very little time watching television anyway, but would like choices and options. I haven't yet started watching tv shows on the internet, but I can see that day as coming before long. BTW, can anyone explain to me why Rogers provides cable back east, yet not here in BC? It would be nice if we could create our own 'bundles' that include our phone, cable, internet and cell phone all with one company (but with more than one company available across the country), yet I currently have limited options and have to get some services from one company and others from another. Why is the east different than the west in this regard?

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

We need to consider the real value and efficacy of the CRTC.
Why do we all look south with envy at the US cable and cell plan rates ?

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

Simsubbing.

Someone else mentioned it. Absolutely disgraceful practice. I'm sure it fits into somebodies socialist plan but most of Canada thinks it is small minded and cheap.
I believe that most people are smart enough to know which station they have tuned into. If that station is based in the US and I choose to watch it over a Canadian channel showing the same content that should speak volumes. I choose to watch commercials from another country. I would rather watch a US station than a Canadian station propped up by bureaucrats in Ottawa.

Competition. We have none. Endless regulations to ensure substandard Canadian content but never a chance for small providers to bring a product to market due to sheer volume of regulation. Get out of my living room! I am old enough to decide what I want without some overpaid hack in the public service checking to see if my choice contains appropriate Canadian values. I really don't care who brings the product to market but lack of competition means high prices. If a foreign company wishes to enter Canada and offer a product that is competition and would shake things up a little. Pigs at the trough need a little incentive now and again.

CBC

Get rid of it. Most would choose not to pay for it. If we are not willing to pay for it what are the odds that we watch it. Slim to none. Therefore if the CBC needs government money to survive it means Canadians are not willing to pay for it on their own. Like any other business close it down. Let it go, PLEASE!

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*Michele R.* ★ [1 month ago](#) 2 people liked this.

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. Ours is not the only family that does not have cable or satellite television. Some people choose not to others it is just a matter of not being able to afford it. I think this should be taken into account before we are left with nothing.

[Flag](#)

Like

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

The cable companies take signal for free.

They take signal for free from local stations and anyone who broadcasts.

The cable companies don't want to share any of their taken for free profits with the local stations or the public.

Now the cable companies are saying we will have charge the public more for what they have taken for free if they have to the pay the local stations.

Why are they taking signal for free?

Why are local stations, local programming and the general public considered the bad guy here?

[Flag](#)

Like

Anonymous ★ [1 month ago in reply to rosemary](#)

Read 3 comments below yours, take it from someone who knows....now you will understand why it's NOT cable companies people are mad at!!

[Flag](#)

Like

"CSI" is not local programming ★ [1 month ago](#) 2 people liked this.

"Local TV" is really what gets me? if you pay attention Mr CRTC, the only real local TV is what is produced and aired on the providers community channels! "the Channel 10's" of Canada. I may tune to, lets say CFTO (chn 8 in TO) sure but since when is the CSI's or Law and Order's local tv? For those into the reality shows, think about that to, just because you are watching it on a Canadian broadcaster, doesn't make it local programming. why should these Cnd broadcasters want us to pay extra to support them to watch shows they are simply pulling a feed off of an American broadcaster for? Think about it, how much is really "local" on Global, CFTO, City etc? CBC does air a sizeable amount of Cnd shows sure but really, these shows could go the way of the Beachcombers and would we notice?

CRTC, let these Cnd broadcasters sink or swim, it is time to stop babying them. Tough love and you'll see how fast they get off there butts to actaully be concerned about true local programming and not their "guaranteed" jobs due to yrs of babying.

Thank you for the opportunity to "rant".

[Flag](#)

Like

Mary Anne Neville ★ [1 month ago](#) 2 people liked this.

I have never subscribed to a cable or satellite service for television signals mainly because of the cost but also the generally poor quality of programming. Rather I rely on a "rabbit ears" antenna. If local television stations and/or networks are starved out of existence, there will be no TV option at all for me. Cable companies have, since their inception, been given a license to print money. I ask the CRTC to:

1. Rectify the fiscal imbalance by requiring cable companies to pay fees to local stations and networks;

2. Consider the needs of many Canadians who, like me, do not subscribe to cable companies. We seem to be the forgotten ones in this debate.

Yours truly,

Mary Anne Neville

Toronto

[Flag](#)

Like

Lori McGibbon ★ [1 month ago in reply to Mary Anne Neville](#) 1 person liked this.

Another question that needs to be asked is why is the CRTC and the government rushing

ahead with a plan to end analog signals and force people to buy a digital antenna. In the US they are giving vouchers to help consumers. Nothing here

[Flag](#)

Like



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

The cost of watching television must be reduced.

The quality of the product that is distributed must be improved.

Cable channels for purchase should be done singly and not by theme even at a basic level.

The CRTC must be mandated to consult the average Canadian at every decision step. Do it by random mailings, guest positions on the board, internet questions such as this, or via the municipal, provincial or federal elections and have a question to vote upon.

[Flag](#)

Like



[Sue Lamping](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) in reply to [dlc](#)

I would like to see a smaller basic package that allows you to have just Canadian networks and a few American ones.

[Flag](#)

Like



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

CRTC people, are you taking in what's being said on these four forums, could you communicate with us here a little bit. After all it is a forum. Answer some questions or explain how things work in this shim-sham of a system we have set up here. Do you need some help? We need the CRTC so we Canadians can decide what's on TV , the price, packages and most importantly "OUR LOCAL TV" channel ,which I think should be expanded not reduced. I hate using the word control ,but it's the only control we have and it's a good one. I'll give a small example of no control. A cartoon channel that puts R rated programming on it's menu after 11 o'clock. This is a childrens channel in most peoples minds 24 hrs a day, this is sick . NO R on a cartoon channel. Let's go CRTC .

[Flag](#)

Like



[Sue Lamping](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) in reply to [stormintv](#)

I wouldn't count on the CRTC for anything. They're going to rule in favour of the cable companies and if they don't the government will intervene. Everyone in the industry knows this. This consultation is a sham.

[Flag](#)

Like



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

Lets stop this charade of protecting Canadian programing by forcing Canadians to be cloaked from the rest of the world through protectionism. Open up the country to outside cable and satellite providers so the consumer has access to real service that is open to fair competition. That is the real crux of the situation here. Stop protecting the chosen few who are continually ripping off Canadian consumers. Television stations make their money selling advertising period. The cable and satellite providers sell a service of providing programing. If there are no stations to provide that service then they are out of luck. The Canadian consumer should not be burdened by that problem. Let the CBC do Canadian programing and open up the rest of the country to outside providers. By the way, has anyone noticed that no Canadian cable or satellite service provider has a Canadian programs or content packages available. I am glad that the internet does not have CRTC protection.

[Flag](#)

Like



Gary ★ 1 month ago 2 people liked this.

Local TV has forgotten, or neglected to state, that their signal is mandated by the CRTC to be given a preferred spot on the cable/satellite "dial". Therefore this debate is about choice; right now the consumer has no choice but to receive these signals as mandated by the CRTC, therefore the cable/satellite company has no choice but to supply these signals to us, and in doing so charges us a fee, basic cable/satellite. However now, since the inception of "digital" signals or "specialty" channels, the owners of the local TV stations are calling foul as they have noted that their specialty channels are making more than their local product. Has anyone questioned the product being delivered by local TV? In most areas local only means the local newscast, gone are the days of true local programming for the communities that they serve. In fact CTV and Canwest [Global] are merely conduits for American TV. Their Prime time lineups consist mainly of American TV [simulcasting], which according to the CRTC the cable/satellite distributors must substitute the Canadian signal on the American channel [simulcast]. CTV and Canwest will argue that they are meeting "local" TV requirements, however they include "News" and repeats of their "News" as original programming, when in fact by definition news is news, albeit it may be local, however the fact remains it is news [take a look at what is happening in Montreal right now by Canwest/Global they air 7.5 hours a week of a local newscast, repeat it for another 7 hours and meets the CRTC guidelines- appalling]. There is no fresh local programming anymore and there hasn't been for a number of years. As I mentioned it is about choice, if local TV stations want a fee, the consumer has the right to yes or no. Should the consumer say no, then the local station has no right to block any programming that the consumer has paid for [read American TV shows], even if CTV or Canwest has the Canadian rights to said program. The American signal that the cable/satellite company is providing to the consumer was paid for by the consumer. Further Canadian TV is basically owned by two major players CTV and Canwest, they own most of the so called "local" stations and virtually all of the "specialty" channels. Yes there are other players in the "specialty" niche, however CTV and Canwest own the majority. CTV and Canwest should not be given a "local" fee, unless they are willing to give up a few things; 1) Simulcast- let CTV and Canwest compete for the viewer and let the viewer decide which they would rather watch. 2) Provide more local programming. Stop counting and double counting news as "local" programming- CRTC should clearly define what a local program is and what news is. 3) Start using profits from the specialty channels to offset local TV [has anyone noticed that most of the Canwest family of specialty channels virtually air the same programs on their various specialty channels?] 4) Give up their "special" place on the dial.

Flag

Like



StanF ★ 1 month ago in reply to Gary

Gary

The CRTC could tabulate the good ideas you and others have advanced and mandate the majority opinion which seems to be freedom of choice. However, have you ever seen the CRTC support the end customer? Instead, they mandate what they believe will be politically correct.

This idea of soliciting ideas over the internet gives Canadians a place to vent but is likely a waste of bandwidth and participants time until an objective is established. The CRTC has not described what they propose to do with the gathered comments.

Flag

Like



Dick ★ 1 month ago 2 people liked this.

I would like to raise another issue as an example of monopolies not working in anybody's interest. Bell have a monopoly of the telephone and internet infrastructure not necessarily in the major centres but definitely in the more rural settings and smaller centres. This infrastructure was largely put in place with taxpayers investment but we have no protection by proof of performance. I feel that Bell should be required to provide a guarantee of service quality and performance if they fail to meet these a penalty should be levied against outstanding charges. Similar to a penalty clause in most commercial contracts. In addition no increases in costs should be allowed without the written consent of the customers. In addition the existing situation of Bell charging for touch tone service when the costs of implementing have long ago been covered and II introductions of new technology should have a sunset clause written into

them. I would also like to see the role of the CRTC changed to being that of an Ombudsman for the consumers with minimum representation from the providers.

Some of my comments are directly applicable to the current topic but many people have given excellent proposals to try and get us out of the current mess. I hope they are taken into account

[Flag](#)

Like



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

Signal substitution should be eliminated. Home grown shows need to be encouraged. Freedom of choice for viewers is important in a democratic society. TV is a business and must be allowed to win or loose on the choices it makes. The CRTC must develop a system that allows free enterprise with a responsibility to build Canadian content to competitive quality. You know it can be done; all that is needed is the will to do it.

[Flag](#)

Like



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

When I think of this issue a song comes to mind.

AND ON THIS FARM WE HAD SOME " pigs"

E (enough) I (is) E (enough) I (I) O (object)

If the CRTC were to do its job, they would eliminate that most despicable of practices, signal substitution, that has become so predominant.

[Flag](#)

Like



jessie doyle ★ [3 weeks ago](#) 1 person liked this.

we are charged for this same service and now you are asking to pay extra under a differant name. i dont know how you people can sleep at night, the moneys you are takeing from us is already charged and payed to our local provider witch they pay out your share ,now you want us to pay more.you should be a shamed of yourselfs, that you can decide with out public opinion this is and should be voted on by people not you billion dollar bullie's i think it's a shamelus act specially when we are underpaid as is is and rent as high as it is gas water utility's and hydro thats through the roof now you people have to put the final blow get us while were down here you go people merry christmas were haveing you pay for your service twice becuae we can and there is nothing we can do about it .what would yous do if people just bought a dvd player and totaly said no more tv service and the phone we just go satalight if we did that for six months i think that would be a nice pickle in your but i have a lot of un kind words to say just think for a minute what they might be if this is the case that you can decide this with out our oppinion then we should be aloud to claim this on income tax return being that a phone is a necessity and now more then before that employers expect resume online if your going to double and tripple charge then the people should be able to get income tax refund thats my oppinion and should be voted on by the public not decided by you pocket monkeys who thinks it alright and fair to asume we have no rights,shame on you's you's remind me of our government who thinks toilete paper is not a necessity so we pay tax on it so think of this instead of paying my bill on the phone like i normaly do i will pay my bill dertext to you by special money order " oh but just keep in mind it will be leagle tender even when i'm done going to the washroom on iti'll even have it sent to you by special delivery i'll pay the one day delivery by mail so you get it fresh because thats how i feel about your B.S tax

THANK-YOU YOUR'S TRUELY : Jessie Doyle

P.s maybe i'll have all my friends do the same think you'll get the point then ...lol probably not you need to have a brain and a heart to understand how one would feel or i should say the billions of people that make your liveing so grand that you have to be a thug and take more shame on yous .

[Flag](#)

Like



naugusine ★ 3 weeks ago 1 person liked this.

Not enough time to review all the hearing and supporting documents. Nearly finished the hearing documents - english only - translation of the hearings haven't even been released! And weren't there final submissions somewhere? Haven't had time to search for those. Tons of media coverage for the broadcasters and BDUS, nothing that has actually helped inform Canadians about what the problems actually are, what solutions may be proposed, etc. Why isn't there an non-governmental non-corporate website dedicated to presenting the facts in a user friendly manner?

Huge policy changes will be happening with Digital transition. The Canadian public needs to be involved. This means better consumer advertising, education, and time for engagement. This online discussion is excellent, but I think the word is properly out there to get people truly involved in it yet.

[Flag](#)

Like



DanforthWoodbine ★ 3 weeks ago 1 person liked this.

I consider the distribution companies (cable, satellite) in Canada to be a mixture of monopoly and oligopoly and as such need to be well regulated, both protect the system and the consumers. The regulator needs to oversee these issues:

1. Truth in advertising
2. Reasonable contracts with no unilateral changes by the distributor
3. Ensure that royalties are paid correctly and in a timely way
4. Fair treatment of advertisers. e.g. I regularly see the exact same ad run twice in the ad five minutes of ads- this seems unfair to the advertiser
5. Maximum of 8 minutes of ads in 30 minutes.
6. Create standard public easement contract across Canada, and provide an enforcement mechanism. The cable company in Toronto has easements along the streets. However they regularly string the lines along the streets through the trees on private land without permission, and the landowners have no effective mechanism to get the lines moved back in to easement on public lands. And where the lines are buried, the regulations on location and depth and reporting are ignored.
7. The poor behaviour of the cable and satellite companies reflects badly on them, and on the CRTC.
8. If the CRTC needs more resources, then taxpayers or the industry or consumers will have to pay.

[Flag](#)

Like



bds ★ 1 month ago 2 people liked this.

NO NO NO! If the CRTC goes ahead and approves this additional service fee that local PROFITABLE TV stations want to be imposed on large service providers which will then be passed on to us the general over-paying for crappy TV public, I will cancel my TV service and go with an American satellite company.... it's easy to do! It's cheaper too..... Take a hike TV land.....

[Flag](#)

Like



lrtubman ★ 1 month ago 2 people liked this.

I agree with the basic idea that the consumer has been thumped on quite enough over the years. Both the local stations and the cable companies need to "live within their means" as we do. The difference is that their "means" is a lot richer than the average consumer's.

[Flag](#)

Like



Chas ★ 1 month ago 2 people liked this.

I first appeared before a CRTC hearing in the early '70s in an intervention regarding their commitment to local programming. The cable companies were complaining about the requirement. Now they are bragging about it. Their advertising over the last few years and most recently has been, to say the least, both obfuscating and deceptive. A tax? It would be their decision to pass on compensation to broadcasters as a 'tax' to the public. The term 'tax' is both misleading and deceptive. An outright lie, in fact. The cable industry is an industry based upon theft. Theft of signals out of the air without any compensation to the broadcasters. They then 'package' the stolen channels in a way to maximize profits with no consideration to clients needs or requests. Still based upon theft of broadcast signals. Now they are offering telephone services without the caution that a power outage could curtail their services. Theft of broadcasting signals and misleading advertising should have raised some flags with the CRTC. The abrogation of 'honesty in advertising' to an outside entity is another indication of the CRTC's lack of vigilance or wilful ignorance of its responsibilities and obligations to the Canadian public.

William Charles Keast Jr.
Vancouver BC

[Flag](#)

Like



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

While there are many areas to comment about regarding broadcasting in Canada, I came to this site specifically to address the question of local channels charging the cable companies for the content.

What seems to be lost in the argument is that, in general, the cable companies are providing a service to the TV stations, by providing extended distribution at no cost. TV stations are funded by advertising revenue and that revenue is indirectly proportional to the size of the audience it reaches.

In the early days of cable the TV stations still "broadcasted" (do they any more?). When the cable companies came on the scene they were clearly providing a service to the stations, by making their signal available to more heads, thereby affecting ad revenue. We paid a fee to the cable company, but that was to cover their costs of supplying a distribution network. Somebody has to pay for the wire.

What has changed now? As I see it, the cable companies are still providing a service to the channels; free distribution. I don't think any TV channel wants to go back to the good old days of 100,000 watt transmitters et. al. They still benefit from the expanded viewership and somebody still has to pay for the wire.

Without the free cable distribution of their signal TV stations would have dramatically higher broadcasting costs or dramatically lower ad revenues. They should be thanking the cable companies, not trying to charge them!

Any fee levied on the cable company would almost immediately be passed to you and I, so we would end up paying for content that they are prepared to give away for free over the air waves (presumably) in exchange for the opportunity to place ads.

I am therefore totally against local TV being able to charge the cable companies for their content.

[Flag](#)

Like



[WiMax](#) ★ [3 weeks ago](#) 1 person liked this.

CRTC BREAKS FEDERAL PRIVACY RULES when submitting comments on this website!

When I came to this CRTC site to comment on television, I did not know I would have to sign

up an account with a 3rd party. When I first came here, it asked for my postal code and SPECIFICALLY SAID THAT my information would be kept confidential and not shared with third parties. I agreed. And yet, after I made my first comment, it forced me into creating a username, etc,... After I made my comments, I received an email from a 3rd party - private company, called Disqus to ask if I wanted to change my profile information. So, in other words, my email address and other information HAS been shared with a 3rd party!

IS THERE ANY MORE PROOF NEEDED THAT THE CRTC IS IRRELEVANT TODAY? And now they are operating contrary to PIPEDA, the Federal Privacy Legislation, NOT to share my personal information outside of the CRTC. SHAME! ABOLISH THE CRTC!

If you agree with me, file a formal complaint with Mr. Tony Clement, Minister of Industry (responsible for CRTC) -> minister.industry@ic.gc.ca - AND - The Office of The Privacy Commissioner of Canada -> http://www.priv.gc.ca/contactUs/index_e.cfm

Complaints with The Privacy Commissioner of Canada must be in writing and mailed, this web page will direct you to the address to file a complaint under PIPEDA, the Federal Privacy Act that the CRTC is obligated to abide by.

[Flag](#)

Like



theunhappyfarmer ★ 1 month ago 2 people liked this.

I am a subscriber to Bell Express Vu, and have been ever since it was available.

Under Television Services on my bill there is now a new charge call a Contribution Fee to CRTC's LPIF.

Then there is an additional charge of PST and GST added to this fee.

I have been in touch with Bell Canada, who seems to tell me that the CRTC has asked them to collect this money for Local Television and at such a minimal amount they (Bell Canada) could absorb such a little amount. No Bell Canada has passed this onto to us the consumer.

I also was in touch with my Member of Parliment who explained to me that this contribution was not being transfered to the CRTC or the Local Television Networks, as there has not been a ruling and probably won't be till next spring.

I can only receive this service as to my location in this province of Ontario.
I sure as heck don't like being nicked and dined to death.

From a legal and accounting point of veiw this is a nightmare and should be carefully dealt with soon.

This will be just like Hydro One and their Debt Retirement Charge, again where GST is being charged on that charge as well.

This is a tax on a tax on a tax, keeping in mind that Canadian content is a must when ordering channels and service from Bell Express Vu.

And if it is a contruibution fee, would that not be a donation and I should be receiving my tax receipt in the mail.

This is a monopoly and I am not exactly sure when Canadians became such a passive bunch that they cannot fight for their rights. When will Canadians learn that we are being taken by theives right in front of our noses.

[Flag](#)

Like



slimsilver ★ 1 month ago in reply to theunhappyfarmer 1 person liked this.

They have no right to charge you this fee till the CRTC orders them too.
And from what i was told by the CRTC is that we the consumer will not be asked to pay a fee

that the Satellite and cable broadcasters will be the ones that are rebroadcasting free of charge our local channels and they are the ones that will be told to pay a fee to the local broadcasters for there programing.

If i am charged this fee on my next bill then Bell will get there receiver box back in pieces. And i will watch over the air channels till i can get a satellite from the USA or Europe.

We need to stand up people and let Bell Express Vu and other satellite and cable companies know we wont stand by and be ripped off and lied to.

I dont have a problem speaking my mind to cable and satellite broadcasters or even the CRTC when i feel like i am being robbed.

If they want to stop giving me tv service then they will be doing me a favor and i will keep my hard earned money and go else where to get service.

Flag

Like

 theunhappyfarmer ★ 1 month ago in reply to slimsilver

If a government body like the CRTC decided that we all had to eat a certain amount of Canadian Food grown here, most Canadian would have to do without because we don't have enough to go around does this not seem like over governing.

I only read the books I like, I should not have to pay for books I don't read.

If Canadian Television broadcasting companies cannot produce good watchable programming then they should go out of business and it should not be forced upon us.

Flag

Like

 slimsilver ★ 1 month ago in reply to theunhappyfarmer

I agree 100% with you on that.

We need to take control over our Government and say enough is enough and get back to what is important in life not Canadian content.

Flag

Like

 stormintv ★ 1 month ago in reply to theunhappyfarmer

How do we clean these cowboys up? Well let's see. Our old MCTV changed name to CTV, owned by BELL Globe Media and I assume is CTV Globe Media on the 48th floor somewhere and all I see here is money being shuffled from one pocket to the other and trying to manipulate us like the ones that hold their reins.

Flag

Like

 theunhappyfarmer ★ 1 month ago in reply to stormintv 1 person liked this.

Isn't it nice that all us up here in the north have to be manipulated and forgotten.

I tell ya this is just the beginning and the more everyone opens their eyes maybe then something can be done.

If everyone were told they could only eat a percentage of Canadian Food by a government body, most would go without and would not survive.

They just want us to be forgotten and this consultation with each other is great if it goes somewhere.

When do we just say no. When did we become a country filled with Government and Corporations that are Loan Sharks.

Flag

Like



BLH ★ 3 weeks ago 1 person liked this.

As my other comments have already identified, I strongly believe the CRTC should consider reversing its 2002 decision that de-regulated basic cable television service in Canada. I believe the CRTC should allow national broadcasters and local television stations to charge cable companies negotiated fees to carry their programming but only on the condition that the CRTC introduces regulations to govern this new revenue source in order to ensure that it does benefit Canadian programming, and that the new costs to the cable companies are not simply passed along to customers who have already suffered rate increases of more than 76 percent since de-regulation.

Flag

Like



Paul Pendrith ★ 1 month ago 2 people liked this.

This public forum on fees to prop up local television content is a sham. It's a certainty that the CRTC is going to allow these fees. The CRTC doesn't care about the Canadian television viewing public, they just want to maximize the amount of money that gets pumped into the television/arts industry. In my opinion, if local TV can't produce a show that attracts enough viewers to make it commercially viable, it deserves to fail, just like any other business. A large percentage of opinions on this public forum oppose local TV fees, but the CRTC will pay no attention..... we're all wasting our time.....

Flag

Like



S Horsley ★ 1 month ago 2 people liked this.

DISSOLVE THE CRTC

As you know, the CRTC is the organization that regulates Canadian broadcasting and telecommunication systems. The CRTC's mandate is to ensure that both the broadcasting and telecommunications systems serve the Canadian public. I am writing to you today because I feel that the CRTC is in fact not meeting the expectations of their mandate. The CRTC doesn't work for you and me. They're a bureaucratic organization that's basically bought and paid for by the industries they regulate.

First, there was that wonderful case in the last broadcaster hearings where they went behind closed doors and then erased the redacted transcripts of what was said. Then there was the screw up of the Do Not Call list, and the fact that now the CRTC is going behind closed doors AGAIN, in order to PROTECT the companies that have violated that list.

That's what they do. They protect companies. Not you. And not me.

So we have the situation we have today. Cell phone service in this country is some of the most expensive and least robust of anywhere in the industrialized world. On Text messages, the industry markup is 4900 percent. Cable and satellite services for most people have gone up something like 30% since the sector was largely deregulated a few years ago. The big three or four companies control most of the pipe money -- delivering tv and internet to the majority of the country. They've made record profits over the last few years, \$2 billion last year -- off you and me, while enjoying robust regulatory protection.

In the case of regulating competition, I am appalled at the poor decisions the CRTC has made recently. The CRTC is allowing Bell Canada to interfere with the traffic of independent internet service providers and allowing them to use what is called Deep Packet Inspection (DPI). DPI is a device that can analyze, inspect, filter or modify data on a network. Bell Canada has been using

DPI to slow down and prioritize certain types of traffic that they consider to be competitive to their serving market. While on paper this would be considered fair, the internet is an open pipe and ISPs should treat it as such. This is causing a huge uproar because Bell Canada is also imposing DPI on wholesale traffic of independent service providers where they do not own or are allowed to touch this traffic and in effect Bell is forcing their policies on independent providers.

Most recently, the CRTC is also not allowing Globalive to launch their wireless network because they are claiming an issue with ownership rules, even though Industry Canada has also approved Globalive's ownership structure and allowed them to buy spectrum. This is also a huge blow to competition in the wireless market.

As you can see, the CRTC is not making choices in favour of Canadian citizens. I am asking for a reform of the CRTC commission since they do not seem capable of regulating the broadcasting and telecommunications systems to serve the Canadian public. Please do not let the CRTC continue these practices. They are becoming very harmful to the Canadian public.

[Flag](#)

Like



Mac@Toronto ★ [1 month ago](#) 2 people liked this.

The carriers should be forced not to extra bill for HD channels. This is a feature that the stations are required (in the US and later for Canada) to broadcast.

[Flag](#)

Like



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

The CRTC continues to fail in every respect with representing the interests of Canadians. The most recent example being the issue of net neutrality and I expect no better on this issue.

It seems these online consultations are a means to placate the public and are not taken seriously anyways.

Where is our representation?

[Flag](#)

Like



steve449 ★ [1 month ago](#) 2 people liked this.

I will be switching to FTA satellite TV....WOW no monthly bill!!!!!!

Check out" FREE TO AIR".

[Flag](#)

Like



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

The TV company's contention that it needs to save local stations is a red-herring. I have been watching TV since the 60's...which shows how old I am. This is, in some cases, before even cable was around. Even then as stations became able to increase their broadcasting range, local stations started to be closed down. I can remember when my parents house antenna could pick up 5-6 local stations from around the area, by the early 70s there was only a couple of stations left and to get more variety they chose at the time to get cable installed. It allowed for more channels but still maxed out at about 13 with several being blocked due to limited Canadian content. So much for local stations in the end only one local station survived and most other broadcasts came from Toronto. Then came Satelite which took a good portion of the cable market. Also, unfortunately what both the cable and tv networks have failed to realize that with the advent of video machines and the internet there is less and less need for TV the way it use to be. The other day I watched as my younger son, played on his x-box with other individuals connected through the internet, the same time his computer was on with a tv show download from the net on, along with a movie, and chatting with some other friends on line. My wife was

on our own tv...and since there was nothing on....too many repeats occurring on all the cable channels...she put on one of the numerous DVDs we could buy or rent of a TV show series (or movie)...without commercials. A friend of ours has even discontinued his cable for TV but maintained internet. Why? When I asked, he said TV offers nothing, "if I want anything I can rent any show or movie or go on-line now". Times change and either you go with the flow or get left behind. Net works believe they have a right to charge the public or cable in this case...if they win will it save local stations...no...they will close stations down that don't earn enough revenue to survive which has always been the way....will they survive...not based on "canadian content"....mind you there are alot of "american shows" which are produced and filmed in canada....so in the end what is "canadian content"????? I think I've babbled enough but with technology moving in leaps and bounds the networks and cable are losing because they have failed to move with the times. Now they need help and a bit of a bail out from the public..thanks but no thanks...if they are going to raise my rates...maybe I'll just join those who are already turning more and more to the "net" and "home video machines". Then I can watch what I want - when I want - and in a number of cases name my own price.

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

No need for Canadian content. It's awful. The U.S. makes better programs.

[Flag](#)

Like



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

I knew and know very little about delivery of television services. I always thought that television stations and networks were paid by advertisers and that television stations in turn paid cable companies to deliver their product.

[Flag](#)

Like



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

Canadians need more options. Cable companies take advantage of things like the fact that basic service looks awful and distorted on any new TV. I pay a fortune not because I want HD, but because I want a picture that fits my TV and is not distorted. Cable providers have their service structured so that if you want to see the most common content the way it is intended, you have to pay \$150 or more a month; higher than anywhere else on the planet. The cable companies must be broken up so that real competition will insure that consumers are not abused. Canadians have a choice between rip-off A or rip-off B - there are almost no differences between the available 'plans' that are designed solely to maximize monthly fees; that is no coincidence.

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

The key reason for the financial difficulties of Canada's major television networks is that the networks spend too much money on the purchase of American TV shows. The networks should NOT be allowed to charge a fee to cable companies, a fee which would be passed on to Canadian television viewers, many of whom are facing difficult financial challenges in these tough economic times. Instead, the Canadian networks should stop bidding in such large, wasteful amounts for American TV shows.

[Flag](#)

Like



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

I feel there is a great lack of competition between cable companies and Rogers/Bell use that to their advantage and we end up paying more for the services. Why cant there be say 10 different carriers to choose from, that would be a healthy competition!

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

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

The CRTC has outlived it's usefulness. We live in a global economy with world wide access to content. Let the Canadian companies compete for Canadian business with the rest of the world and offer the consumer the choice to pay for what they want.

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

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

From what I see, most TV - including local stations is commercial and relies on advertising commercials to finance the shows produced. I understood that the fees they could command for commercials from their "sponsors" would be based on the number of viewers watching the channel at that time. So my point is, if cable or satellite companies broadcast these stations, they are in effect increasing the viewing numbers for that channel. Therefore the TV stations, local included should be any additional revenue by the advertisers and not the viewers. If it was without commercials then I would feel differently.

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

I am of the opinion that cable fees should be regulated. There is too much of a monopoly and they've taken advantage of it. Basic cable costs have risen at a multiple of the rate of inflation and unjustifiably so. The capital costs of laying the cable were paid for years ago and service upkeep is a) a nominal amount comparatively and b) for the benefit mostly of higher and higher speed internet. Basic cable is simply a more elegant way of getting antenna signals and should not be priced nearly as high as it is. \$5 - \$10 per month is more than enough.

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j_hare ★ [1 month ago](#) in reply to [brian](#)

Guess what Brian, watching tv is a choice, not a necessity. I'm all for cable companies pricing their service for what the market can bare. Can't afford it / don't think its worth the price they are asking? Go do something else. Complaining that your entertainment is to expensive gets old really fast. There are lots of other things to do with your time and money. Either pay or not, no body is making you do so.

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

The only Canadian services I really want are CBC & TVO which I already pay for via taxes. If I want to watch shows broadcast in the US I would like the opportunity opt in or out and not have to pay for CTV or Global. I could then be able to purchase any service my provider offers without having to have the approval of a government agency(Doesn't this sound democratic?) I may and I stress may can see some protection offered for start up industries but 50 to 60 years is ridiculous. If this insanity continues I will switch to Dish or Direct TV while the Pigs keep coming to the trough. It may all be moot in the next few years as more and more comes over the internet.

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

John Wesley Chisholm ★ [1 month ago](#) 2 people liked this.

Please stop the simulcasting! Let us watch US shows on US channels, UK shows on UK channels and get us to a place where we have the choice of watching Canadian Shows on Canadian channels.

Things are so bad now we'll almost have to start a industry from scratch but that's what we need to do - start again and get it right.

Flag

Like



Don ★ 1 month ago 2 people liked this.

Dear C.R.T.C.

Thank you for this opportunity to express my views on this current controversy between the Canadian Networks and the Cable & Satellite suppliers.

First off, I believe in free enterprise. There is no way I intend to pay any more money for "Local" TV. As a consumer I can simply put up an antenna on my roof and have them all at no cost. But wait a minute, the CRTC has decided that to get any of the other channels I must subscribe and pay for the "basic" set of channels first. Already we are off on the wrong path. Where is my choice as to what I, as a consumer can watch without a set of rules telling me what I must have in a package. We also have to contend with another annoyance called simulcasting. I have to pay for the basic channels then for a number of them I cannot watch the originating channel because the local stations have requested that their signal be put over it. What on earth am I paying for here?

The networks have been spending all kinds of money on expensive American programs and also millions, and in some cases billions of dollars on buying up broadcast facilities across the country. Of course the biggest joke in all of this is that the CBC has come with their hand stretch out looking for even more money from our pockets besides the one billion dollars, which the tax payer, pays now.

I would like to briefly address some of the points you asked for views on.

As far as local news etc. goes, I now find myself getting most of my local and national news off of the web. News sites are constantly updating them. News papers have noticed a definite reduction in subscribers for this reason.

The availability to choose channels and packages is a definite sore spot.

I as a subscriber should be able to select only the channels I want to watch and not be paying for numerous others in a package that I don't need. This again also applies to the basic channels.

As for cost, well I think that I could definitely cut my costs by being allowed to only select the channels I want. The number of channels I watch compared to the amount I pay a month for cable makes each of the viewed channels very costly.

There has been a suggestion from one network that they might pull their signal from the cable and satellite system. Let them do just that. Also maybe the other side should be able to drop the networks and or charge them to have their signal transmitted. I hope we still live in a free Country here.

I am aware of a number of people that have put up a dish and receive what is known as "free to air" signals. This allows a person to aim the dish at any satellite, including Canadian ones, and receive what ever signal is unscrambled from it. The one time cost for the equipment is about \$200. and I will seriously look at this if additional costs are put on me.

The next area that will be the death of TV as we know it here, will be the internet.

We are already able to download and watch programs at our convenience. Also remember that more and more people are using DVR's, and believe me we don't watch the commercials when watching it.

In closing I ask the Commission to look at these issues very carefully. I am very happy with my Cable supplier. The consumer doesn't need to fork out more money for the convenience of the TV networks. They need to control their costs without coming to the cable and satellite companies and ultimately the consumer to bale them out. Along with some of the other issues I have mentioned, I ask you to make some major changes to our broadcasting system in this country, so that we all have the freedom of choice.

I thank you for your time in this matter.

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

Another issue that needs to be addressed is general funding to Canadian TV producers. I LOVED Due South, a Canadian show that even made it in the US. The problem that Due South faced was a broadcaster that started fiddling with it's air day/time. That killed the show after just a few seasons. Other great Canadian shows have been created like Degrassi (also popular south of the border), Street Legal, and Corner Gas. We need to fund Canadian producers more in order to improve the content of local TV so that it can compete. We should require more Canadian content on TV (and not just news).

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

I just don't want my taxes going to television companies. It is 2009, any show or sporting event, I can watch over the internet. In my life, there is no need for cable television, rather a internet connection.

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



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

I think the CRTC should let US cable and satellite companies offer their services in Canada. This would create necessary competition and keep the current companies from gouging their customers.

I should decide and if I want local TV or not if I do I will pay for if not then I shouldn't pay for it. The cable companies are quilty as well when you are new you get the service cheap when it renews the cost goes up unless you complain. When you complain then they continue with the cheap rate so it appears they are over charging. I am in favour of what ever get me the best price open it up for US and Foreign compitition.

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MaxPower77 ★ [1 month ago](#) 2 people liked this.

Cable/Satalite prices and programing are ridiculous in Canada. Way too expensive, ESPECIALLY SINCE WE DONT REALLY GET A CHOICE IN WHAT WE PAY FOR!!

The cable company says "here is what we are charging, here is what you get. If you dont like it, take a hike". A complete joke. Then, if you have an issue, it falls on deaf ears...glad to see this is FINALLY catching up with them. Good luck.

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

There seems to be a lot of chat about Canadian content on this page. I'm not sure if it's totally related to the local TV debate but since we're chatting about it...As a Canadian Performer I have more than likely benefited from some of the rules that block foreign programming and try to create a "Canadian voice." However, I wonder if in the long run this has maybe done everyone a disservice? There seems to be a lot of Canadian writers, and performers who go elsewhere to work and thrive without anyone forcing their talent on viewers. And there seems to be some really great stuff made right here at home that we sell to other countries. We seem to be capable of competing. So I wonder if broadcasters are forced to compete like any other business, by providing the best product, would a real a "Canadian voice" emerge that's entertaining as well as Canadian? Maybe I'm totally wrong but there seems to be a lot of people out there who could care less about Canadian content. They just want to be entertained. And the same can be said for Local TV. If a local channel can provide a product that people

actually want then people will pay for it. I'm not sure what forcing it on people does for anyone. And that's scary for me as I make my living in this industry but I, like any person in any other industry, will just simply have to adapt. That need to be competitive and adapt may make my product and the product of local TV stronger and better, or not, and we'll both have to find something else to do.

I hope this make sense and isn't just a bunch of yaking. LOL!

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

Having lived in Ireland and the UK, I'm no stranger to TV taxes. In the UK, the TV tax (sorry, licensing fee) is £155 per year. That's close to \$300. Once a tax comes in, there is only one way it's going: up. Further, we were required to pay this tax even if we didn't own a TV, but owned an iPhone or computer capable of receiving a TV signal - which is nearly every computer available on the market today. The fact that I only used my computer to watch DVDs and couldn't access TV content outside of BBC iPlayer was besides the point.

My primary concern is that there is no guarantee that this tax will be used to fund local stations, and the major broadcasters and cable companies have not come up with a viable plan for dealing with the digital age. Most companies would prefer to force Canadians to watch what they want them to watch on their terms - technology advances (P2P etc) notwithstanding.

Geo-blocking content, local black-outs, and other such methods to control a revenue stream instead of accepting the digital age and coming up with a revenue model that works while still offering Canadians real choice in providing what they want when they want it, is not acceptable to me. I resent paying cable companies and broadcasters more money until they accept this fact and work with technological advances, not against them.

As for me: I will be out of the country when the Olympics are on. I will be watching it(for free) with my IP anonymizer software that will allow me to bypass geo-blocking. I would have been happy to pay for this content, but I haven't been given that choice.

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

Why is the CRTC even involved, with private companies coming before them with hands out. Enough is enough. We as taxpayers support the CBC, and that is all we should be asked to do. Thumbs down on CTV and Global.

[Flag](#)

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

You have allowed Rogers to grow into a monster - they control what cable TV we can see. They bombard us with commercials for all their own telecom & broadcast interests - radio station, TV channels, cable packages and telephone services. I feel like I'm living in some 3rd world dictatorship where I have 1 choice - Rogers or nothing. Your failure to regulate their monopolistic behaviour is disgustingly sad.

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

Both the Cable Companies and TV Stations do not have the Public's Interest as their objective. Both (Cable & TV) are mandated to increase financial growth/shares -- in other words, MAKE MONEY, MAKE AS MUCH MONEY AS "LEGALLY" POSSIBLE.

How has the public interest benefited?

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E-Willy ★ 1 month ago 2 people liked this.

The internet is the future and TV is the past. I want to see what I want to see right now. I do not have time to waste looking for something to watch on the TV.

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Karen ★ 3 weeks ago 1 person liked this.

Regarding the CBC, I think that CBC/Radio-Canada should be allowed to collect fair value for the signals it provides, given that both Via Rail and Canada Post sell their services, why should CBC be expected to give their services for free and have private sector companies sell the same services for a profit. My husband and I use the CBC over any private station.

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Jenn Canning ★ 3 weeks ago 1 person liked this.

In todays world it seems as though it's always the larger corporations who profit and "win", and the smaller, local companies who get snuffed out. I have seen this time and time again in Moncton alone; I don't want to see my local TV stations go this way too. We are not a corporatist society, I don't want Canadians to continuously lean to the "American" manners of business. Our local stations are equally if not more so important than cable/satellite companies are suggesting, I already pay for local broadcasting TO THE CABLE COMPANY FOR LOCAL PROGRAMMING...and yet, the LOCAL STATIONS DO NOT SEE THESE PROFITS. Tha's ridiculous. I work in Market Research for TV/radio and many respondants have strong opinions that are similar to mine - big cable companies should have to pay, they make enough money off the consumer and the consumers want local TV.

How can the cable companies justify the constant increases in price when we aren't getting anything in return - some of this should go to the local stations that allowed them the opportunity to be created in the first place.

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sixty2ndidiot ★ 3 weeks ago in reply to Jenn Canning

Apparently, cable companies *must* by CRTC mandate carry any local tv stations. I suppose this is a good thing, however, I think if a local tv station elects to be sell their programming to cable, then perhaps the cable co, should have the option not to purchase and distribute the signal. Either that, or the CRTC would have to regulate the price paid to the local tv station.

The real problem here, is how to we get real competition? Satellite is not local. Urban viewers can get local content (including digital) with an antenna. Rural viewers often cannot. In any case you are stuck with whoever owns the cable to your dwelling, so there is no competitive pricing or options. You will be forced to purchase that ugly Rogers or Shaw set top box in the future as we go digital.

CRTC, please force the cable co's to separate the two aspects of their business in to (1) a company that maintains and sells cable to your dwelling

(2) a company which delivers content on that cable which is unrelated to (1)

Now I will have a choice for (2) at least.

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mariegeraldineblanc ★ 3 weeks ago 1 person liked this.

No matter how I look at this situation, the most important thing we have to keep is JOBS. I love local everything. I always think of those who have no say in these matters, like seniors and elderly people etc... Local people know that ATV, CBC, RDI and ASN, SRC because they are a part of our community, we see their vehicles, they are proud to give good service to people. Remember JOBS are important here! Lord only knows if I find anything inside my Christmas stocking that says Made in China, That person is getting black coal next Christmas. Peace and prosperity be yours this season. Make it a homemade Christmas and keep Local TV as it is:)

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

The problem with placing your priority on jobs is that you can end up producing a lot of things that people don't want just for the sake of keeping others in enough busy work. A jobs based strategy needs to be economically viable.

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[Dale](#) ★ [3 weeks ago](#) 1 person liked this.

Volume control. Can you please regulate the volume of commercials. Especially given the ODAA requirements. It's so annoying to dive for the remote at every commercial break because the volume jumps to such high levels.

Just have one volume setting for shows and commercials - stop advertisers from blasting our ears off!

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

[B Comstock](#) ★ [3 weeks ago](#) 1 person liked this.

As I understand it a tax can only be established by the government. In my reading of the subject I have found no mention of the arm of the gov't who would be receiving this 'tax'. I think it is merely another fee set by the cable carriers so that their shareholders do not lose any dividends. If you hold shares in a company you take the risk of losses. If this isn't the case then I would like to know who will be collecting this tax, what gov't agency will receive it and what will that agency do with this money.

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[Laura](#) ★ [3 weeks ago](#) 1 person liked this.

I think cable should be able to opt out of paying for local programming. Local TV is only alive because of cable and satellite carriers. The CBC only exists because the government pays its bills. The CBC is useless and only caters to eastern liberal points of view. Why should I pay for that?

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[Jane](#) ★ [3 weeks ago](#) 1 person liked this.

A TV Tax is a complete waste of taxpayers' money. The CRTC should back off!!! Cable already gives local TV all the exposure they need. Why should we pay for it?

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

[mikehatfield](#) ★ [3 weeks ago](#) 1 person liked this.

I think we need to keep the CBC out of the local television debate as taxpayers have paid dearly to build the network. CBC is ours!

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

[Peter](#) ★ [4 weeks ago](#) 1 person liked this.

I believe that cable companies must pay for the signals they receive from the local TV stations. The signal might be free but the programming that the signal contains is copyrighted. If I as a person were to retransmit the signal then I would be charged under the copyright act. Cable companies should not be allowed to circumvent the copyright act and must pay the local stations.

for the programming since the local stations paid to be allowed to show the program. Since they, local tv., hold the transmission rights to the programs for which they paid then any retransmission by any other carrier must compensate the local stations for that right. Either our copyright laws apply to all or they apply to none with no exceptions.

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Like



slimsilver ★ [4 weeks ago](#) 1 person liked this.

And lets not forget that Cable and Satellite broadcasters are receiving a million dollars + per year in pure profit from the stations they don't pay for.

What has your Government given you lately for nothing for you to make a million a year from."Nothing"

These are total different deals.

We the tax payer's are flipping the bill already for local broadcaster's and Cable and Satellite broadcaster's are taking the local station's signal's and making a big profit from you again for something you already payed for.

And for these people to say that the local television is handed a 100 million for local programing and 600 million from cable and Satellite yea right.

Show us the sources you are getting that from.

I have done plenty of research on this and the only ones that are getting a free ride and making any profit in this act the Government put into place in 1997 is the cable and satellite providers who has full control of the Canadian market and will for a long time to come if we don't stop the free ride they are getting and stop the rise in prices they are charging us on a yearly basis for programing we pay for and give to them free of charge.

[Flag](#)

Like



L. N. Lemley ★ [4 weeks ago](#) 1 person liked this.

I wanted to read what others had said.

It appeared on my screen but was whisked away in favour of this questionnaire.

I like local tv too. I want to be able to have it.. over any other question.

I do believe in the power of the BIG TV PICTURE/power structure, etc. BTV has given us a view of the world we can no longer do without.

At the same time I am terrified of loosing the local view and local control and local ...persons in media who may wind up on bigger channels. We need these ...proving/training grounds in order to hold up our heads in the world of ...media.

a

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Like



zee c ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

MONOPOLIES is really what this is all about. Give me several choices and I will choose what I want and/or need. Simplicity for me is all that I need but I am not able to make my own choices.

May local stations continue to operate.

For the people who want hundreds of channels, let them decide and pay for what they want.
There is no choice right now.

Flag

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harold ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

i think the whole system should be studied we canadians have to purchase from canadian providers an it seems that they abuse this privilage prime example is diva,action,drive in, an dusk in the 14 years i've had satellite it's the same programing over an over !! you ask canadians to support one or the other cable or local yet the cable companies outsource there help lines out of country it's time to open up the market an allow american companies to compete making our own cable companies get off their lazy butts an provide us with better an newer programing to stay competitive

Flag

Like



Brian ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

Regardless of the outcome of this debate, someone deserves some sort of official censure for the insulting attack ads we see on TV, sometimes expressing such different ideas that they almost seem to be addressing different issues.

Flag

Like



vicshaw ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

I just wanted to say that the broadcasters are right, the current system is broken, but it appears to be broken on their end, not on the bdu's end. Perhaps if they learned how to spend their damn money they wouldn't be crying for more! They need to stop whining and trying to get the broadcasters/consumers to foot the bill.

Flag

Like



stormintv ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

The more I read here the more I see that our problem is not with the local tv issue but our problem is this CRTC not pulling it's weight. Can't control the content, gimmmeee a break, I think that should be your rule one "Control the content" . If you cannot we can .

Flag

Like



Nicole_in_NB ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

We already pay too much for television stations we don't want but are forced to accept just so that we can get a few that we do want to watch.

Cable companies and even the local stations are making plenty of money, they are just not sharing the wealth, but instead lining the pockets of the top executives while everyone else struggles.

We can't keep paying more for less. In the last few months my cable bill has already gone up and the number of stations that I receive has gone down. Now they want to charge us even more, and it's actually being considered? Doesn't the CRTC see how wrong this it?

Flag

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robert metcalfe ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

the problem is that the few stations in questions stopped being local stations years ago, most of the programming they offer is not local or even locally made, you force us to have these stations on cable in the first place, a service which only the stations benefit from, by being able to reach a larger audience so they can earn higher revenues from advertising and sponsorship. which the stations turn around and spend on foreign content. and they still draw money from the film and television funds and other grants from the government.

so now you're going to force us to pay for channels you force us to watch? thanks.

I'd rather watch Rogers TV in my area channel 10 and 63 at least the shows on that channel are actually local, since most of them are in large part produced by people volunteering their time to make sure local TV stays local.

[Flag](#)

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 *Anonymous* ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

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, and receive close to \$600 million in benefits from cable and satellite providers annually. 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.

I work for a telecommunications company, and it will make it hard for any company to keep customers if this goes into effect. It's ridiculous that it's even being discussed in my opinion. I pay my bills every month, and I can understand that local stations want to remain on air, but with the amount of money they made the last few years.....I don't think it's necessary to take that money from us, the consumers. Without customers, you don't have a business, therefore, you need to cater to their needs, and extra fees is not the way to do it!!

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)

 *slimsilver* ★ [1 month ago](#) [in reply to Anonymous](#)

Local tv made 400 million in operating cost ((last year)) yes they did and Cable and satellite providers made 375 million + in every third quarter report and paid nothing to local broadcasters (True known fact).

You have a vested interest in this matter.

And you have all rights to be concerned you may lose your annual pay increase if this cost is charged to your employer and you know as well as I do that it will work its way down the line and that there employees will take the hit for their operating cost increase. (Cuts will be made to offset operating cost)

But there are a lot of families out there that can not afford to lose their local tv or pay even a dime more for cable and satellite programming.

I have done my research and have seen the memo's that satellite and cable broadcasters have sent to the CRTC that states that there are signal pirates out there taking their signals and they wanted it stopped cause they were losing millions in revenue.

Know that it is known that they are the pirates and they are the ones that are stealing the signals they want the public and their own employees to help them keep their coffers full with money they took from us the public that pays for local tv to operate.

I don't think so anonymous telecom guy.

We have paid the price for too long to stop their imaginary pirate fairies and have given millions to satellite companies in tax money for them to secure their signal with card switches after card switches and for what so they could get money from the Government to upgrade their HD and Digital signals.

I have seen the projected cost reports to the Government for them to switch network security cards and we the tax payers have paid 80% of the cost to Nagravision the Kudelski Group from Sweden for their network security cards.

That is where our tax dollars are going to these big telecom giants not local broadcasting.

We need to take a stand and not let them take from us the people again.

Let them dip into their big bank accounts and pay for something themselves for once and not give them a license to steal.

[Flag](#)

Like

carolineb ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

I was curious as to just what the CRTC does, so I had a look at the About Us page on your web site. According to your mandate, you are there to ensure that "all Canadians have access to a wide variety of high-quality Canadian programming"; yet scroll a few paragraphs up and you will read that the CRTC "does not regulate the quality and content of tv programs." I'm confused! If the CRTC is there to ensure that Canadian content is of high-quality, and if you are doing your jobs, then Canadian content should be something that consumers would be willing to pay for, and this whole issue of bailing out local stations would be moot.

You then go on to say that the Canadian programming should reflect "our bilingual nature, multicultural diversity and the special place of aboriginal peoples in our society." As I reflect on the Canadian programs that I'm aware of, I wonder exactly how the CRTC goes about fulfilling this mandate?

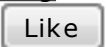
So perhaps then the CRTC is there to ensure that there are Canadian owned and operated carriers of largely American content with some local news thrown in - is this something that is worth preserving?

I like the idea of having a 'Canadian' culture - however you wish to define it. And I do believe in support for cultural activities, both local and national (festivals, sporting events, access to bilingual services, print media, etc.) The thing that keeps culture alive is not just support by the public, but also its appeal to the people of that culture. Our local folk festival receives government grants to cover some of the costs, but it's the quality and appeal of the event that sells tickets and keeps it alive.

I do believe that Canadians can produce quality television and films, and I've watched a number of these smaller productions on CBC Doc Zone. But the quality of Canadian produced shows needs to improve to become competitive. Canadian shows should not be produced just because they're Canadian - their merit should be decided on the quality of their writing / production / talent. I'd like to see public (i.e. government) support for Canadian production companies to produce shows, but they should be going through a far more rigorous editing process. Consumers can't do this by paying for the finished product that's bundled with other finished products produced in the US.

I would like to see the CRTC require cable and satellite companies to give consumers choice and control over what they watch and get out of the quality-control issue entirely. No disrespect, but you're doing a lousy job of something that you're not set up to do in the first place. Support local producers and writers to create quality shows that could be pitched to networks. Let Canadians compete on an equal level. I believe Canadian producers and writers will deliver - and the shows that are of poor quality will not be getting the dollars that could go to better production ventures.

[Flag](#)

Like

fraserliscumb ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

We now have one simple reality. when the recession started 55% of all working Canadians were surviving from pay cheque to pay Cheque. That number is now 59% and climbing. Which means the CRTC is going to have to be very creative in what it does or it could limited the future of both the Supplier and those delivering the service. Both have submitted their arguments. Both come across as looking after their own interest. The argument seems to be is the TV provider looking to maintain their profit at the expense of the cable/sat. Yet, the cable and Sat come across has money grabbing people Who have a unique position that is as close to a monopoly as you can get and have taken as much advantage of it has possible. Leaving the customer with limited choices . Has they are all more profit driven . Than customer driven. For anyone that has had to pay the hidden charges and creative means to maintain the customers base. In the end it will be up to the CRTC to see what is fair . based on the reality that if 59% of the working population is broke and the key to on going prosperity is having good community communications than. Then the CRTC will have to become very innovative and create a team effort where non c has or will ever exist if money is the driving factor.

So have a 21st century solution for you. An Ottawa organization uses a 21st century sustainability investment software to support Grass Roots R&D ad all business start ups. It allows partnerships to be formed where non can exist. By the Inventors Resource Co-operative Inc becoming the Hub. It has over 50 partners than remain independent to compete, but come together to address the problems facing Grass Roots R&D support.

The concept is simple. The issue is all about supporting local TV in financial trouble. As local V station are important to the community ability to hear what is going on and in a lot of cases find means to help.

The software is unique. it can redistribute wealth based on effort and profit.

You would need to programs. Each community station in financial trouble submits their financial statement. If it is a negative. The about is registered. Once all stations are in. Each cable/sat company and TV company. Also submit their financial statements.

You enter the total amount of negative returns. Into the software.

Then each cables/sat and TV profit is entered. As a separate entry. The software tells you how much. Needs To reinvest back into the local TV stations.

In the second program. the amount received from the TV and cable/sat companies. is combined and entered into the software and the software redistributed the money based on the negative return required by each station to help it break-even. That means the TV station do not gain profit and the cable companies are not on a fixed rate. The community wins. The Cable/Sat wins and so does the TV. As nothing is fixed it is based on a simple distribution in the best interest of the community. If you would liker a demonstration. we can use last years figures. I can be expanded to support new programing efforts.

[Flag](#)

Like



Bill B ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

Please do not add to the 1.5% "levy" (And please set a boundry or end date), or allow a carriage fee.

I believe the "Save local TV" plug is a very clever disguise for "Help big broadcasters pay for the digital conversion".

Let more players into the Canadian market and let the competition begin.

[Flag](#)

Like



shoeism ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

So this is about the TV tax the TV Networks want to impose on Canadians, which aI am given to understand basically translates to an increase of \$5 to \$10 per month on Canadians' cable bill. For what?

The CRTC has already done the tax for local tv improvement fund. Any new TV tax will actually be charged on top of the CRTC's 1.5% LPIF fee that already went into effect earlier this year. They're basically asking for a giant wad of cash. And? Throughout this whole debate, the big networks have never committed to keeping local television stations on the air or otherwise supporting local programming anyway. So what are they asking money for, from Canadians? People are using the word bailout, and I think it applies.

Thank you for the opportunity to express this opinion.

[Flag](#)

Like



slimsilver ★ [1 month ago](#) [in reply to shoeism](#)

It says that the CRTC give's 1.5 % to Conventional television stations in non-metropolitan markets so that counts alot of local stations out.

I don't think it would hurt the Satellite and cable providers to part with a few buck's that they robbed from local broadcasters in the last 10+ years and pay the local networks themselves and not pass the buck on to the customer base but that wont happen the crap always flows down hill.

I know cable and satellite providers cried hard when they thought they were loosing money from people stealing there signals and wanted the Government to impose a stiff penalty for signal theft on others as they kept on doing the same with local broadcasters signals.

Now they lie to the general public in there advertisements and want us to help them keep there cash cow going.

And we all know they will just raise our bill's and go back to being D**ks to us soon after this is all over.

Flag

Like



joco ★ 1 month ago 1 person liked this.

A TV Tax could 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 Rogers.

Flag

Like



guest ★ 1 month ago 1 person liked this.

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, and receive close to \$600 million in benefits from cable and satellite providers annually. 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.

Flag

Like



irene c ★ 1 month ago 1 person liked this.

A TV Tax could 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 Rogers.

Flag

Like



Gigi ★ 1 month ago 1 person liked this.

A TV Tax could 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 Rogers.

Flag

Like



Kurt Chegwidden ★ 1 month ago 1 person liked this.

THIS IS THE WORST KIND OF BIG TAX HIKE FOR NOTHING THAT I EVER WITNESSED! I guess we know who our government works for now... Giving a nice fat handout to those already wealthy networks, while the taxpayer gets doble billed every month. I'm seriously thinking about shutting down my cable.

Flag

Like



StanF ★ 1 month ago 1 person liked this.

I was curious where "askingcanadian.com" where this survey is hosted was and who managed it.

Well, it seems to be an American company that may be in California. At least, that is where my tools suggest it is. Should I be surprised that the CRTC chose not to use a Canadian enterprise to fulfill a demand of the Canadian Government?

[Flag](#)

Like



[stormintv](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

I'm sitting at home here 12 noon going through the channels on my regular cable here in Sudbury. I got the Sopranos on the Italian channel showing a pair of tits every 5 minits, two guys kissing on Bravo, oops more tits here on Moviepix. Pornos on the Italian channel at night, and french channel. Mix them in with all the fairies and designers and this tv is nothing more than freak show for all the people that put this crap on. If it wern't for TSN, DISC, and local TV this TV is not worth the hydro to run it. Hey CRTC we found out today someboby can jerk your chain and rattle you in your Taj Mahal.

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Like



[jayrb](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

Seems to me the vast majority of comments in favour of bailing out local TV are coming from people with a vested interest.

The consensus appears to be overwhelmingly weighted toward the opinion that the industry is out of touch and seems to have no expectation that the quality of their product is the sole deciding factor in their survival.

If a decision is made to support this flawed concept by propping up local TV, it will be painfully obvious that the decision makers have been inappropriately influenced.

[Flag](#)

Like



[ken harris](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

I would like to know why the CRTC still allows a full monopoly by the cable companies. If i live in Burlington Ontario, i MUST use Cogeco Cable or Satellite. Why does the CRTC not allow all cable providers to exist in all markets. Then, and only then, will we have true competition in the marketplace. This will provide the consumer with more choice and will force these money hungry conglomerates to increase their service quality, and most likely, reduce the cost of our television service.

As long as there is no competition in the industry then everything will remain the same. Providers telling the consumer whyat they can and cannot have as part of their tv viewing package. This same package that WE are paying for, but have no choice

[Flag](#)

Like



[Kevin R. Bourne](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

Just as a matter of principle, it's not fair that the cable and satellite companies are making millions of dollars off the signals and programming of broadcasters. The cable and satellite companies should have to pay to use the programming of television stations. I've been doing some reading about the history of cable and the television industry and it seems as though the basic system of cable and broadcasting hasn't changed for a few decades. When cable pioneers like Ted Rogers started out cable was a costly, capital intensive and unprofitable business. Back then it would've been ridiculous to have cable companies pay to broadcast the signals of television companies, but now that cable and satellite are multi-million dollar businesses these cable and satellite companies should be paying a fee to television stations.

On a side note, I would support a decrease in cable and satellite fees. I love television but haven't had cable in 3 years because of how expensive it is. As a result I have been increasingly watching TV online. Two thumbs up for [globalty.com](#).

[Flag](#)

Like

Janine Size ★ [1 month ago](#) in reply to [Kevin R. Bourne](#)

Agree. The cable companies are basically being allowed to get away with stealing by taking those local TV signals for free

[Flag](#)

Like

Kimberly Smith ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

REGULATE ADVERTISING DOLLARS - NOT NETWORKS

Our nation will prosper more if people have free access to our intellectual and cultural commons. Since everyone who delivers video content is fighting over advertising dollars to pay for the construction of infrastructure and the production of content, the prudent solution is to regulate the advertising dollars. This will level the playing field and make things fair. Any business who wants access to our intellectual and cultural commons must submit an advertising proposal to the CRTC to be vetted and regulated based on reach and penetration for free to air television, cable, satellite, internet, and cinemas. All video media distributors will be forbidden to sell advertising space. Instead they will submit to the CRTC detailed infrastructure and delivery expenses which will be the criteria for wisely distributing advertising dollars. All advertising revenue can be strictly regulated and equitably distributed to ensure proper maintenance and development of delivery infrastructure as well as to sustain professional content creators in local, regional and national tiers. Video media distributors of any sort may not be content creators. All content creation must be done by independent producers at all tiers ranging from amateur to professional.

Business needs access to consumers, but we are people first. So if business wants access to our attention, CRTC will have to clear that access first on our behalf. Thus the video media environment can be consciously regulated in a way that allows everyone to prosper.

[Flag](#)

Like

Sean Wayne Doyle ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

My great frustration with this debate is that the argument seems to be about who gets to profit most from foreign television, rather than the fact that Canadians are paying more and more for less and less Canadian TV.

Most people I know don't watch Canadian television other than the news and sports. Many would choose not to watch something if they knew it was Canadian or if they thought it "looked Canadian". Yet, on almost every huge hit from America there are Canadians. Actors, writers, producers etc. So clearly it's not that Canadians can't make popular television. Then we proudly claim that Jim Carey, Mike Myers et al are Canadians forgetting about the shame that our artists for the most part have to leave this country to succeed

Our country of 30 million living next to the most prolific broadcast factory in the world requires a similar attention and dedication of resources that we are globally putting towards greenhouse gasses. Our cultural polar ice caps are eroding at an alarming rate and, some would say, it's too late to bother.

Whenever I say "our culture" to another Canadian I get rolled eyes or a glassy stare, but every Canadian fiercely and proudly differentiates themselves from Americans.

The rules say we should be getting a good selection of Canadian programming from our cable companies and broadcasters. But for years we haven't been getting what we're paying for, instead broadcasters have flooded our prime time schedules with U.S. programming.

Cable companies also refuse to give back to the system that is serving them so profitably. Instead of doing their fair share, cable companies are hiking up our bills even higher to pad their bottom line.

The CRTC has been giving both private broadcasters and big cable a free ride. The result is less Canada on our TV and sky-high cable rates.

Help us get more Canada on our Canadian TV and make broadcasters and cable do their part in exchange for getting their licenses to operate by:

- * making over-the-air broadcasters spend a percentage of their revenues on Canadian programming;
- * telling corporate broadcast groups that they must spend a set percentage of their gross revenues on Canadian drama – with conventional broadcasters putting in 6 per cent of their revenues;
- * requiring over-the-air broadcasters to air a minimum of two hours per week of original Canadian drama in prime time, 8-11 pm Sunday to Friday; and
- * ending the free-ride for cable companies by making them pay conventional broadcasters fairly for their signal and making sure they don't pass the bill along to consumers by re-regulating cable rates.

This prescription to rejuvenate our broadcasting system will put more Canada on Canadian TV without making us foot the bill. The cable companies can well afford to cover any regulatory fees from their \$2.1 billion in profits.

We urge you to act now to help us end the free ride before we lose our Canadian TV for good.

Sincerely,

Sean Wayne Doyle

[Flag](#)

Like



[Lori McGibbon](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) [in reply to Sean Wayne Doyle](#)

Some good ideas. But the easiest solution is to have the cable and broadcast sides sit down and negotiate a deal to compensate for the use of broadcast signals that is not passed on to consumers.

[Flag](#)

Like



[slimsilver](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

Rogers cable is a joke!

They bundle all the crap channels together and charge you a big price and what are you going to do you pay it. Why?

Cause who else are you going to get for your tv. Bell LOL another joke.

They have 45 channels of the same crap with the same programming and call them 45 separate channels and charge you a big price for them.

Then they fill your bundle up with 40 channels that you don't want and can't watch cause you don't speak that language and say it is a package so if you want those sports channels you have to buy this package.

This is just wrong and we need to change the way things are done.

Can we change the way the CRTC does things? NO

They are whipped by the large corporations that have the big bucks and give the bigwigs at the CRTC special handouts.

So is there any other way to change things here is the so called free world?

We can go to the foreign markets for our entertainment and buy from them.

I have had it with my local tv and the garbage they beam to me and call it entertainment like (Biggest Loser) yes Bell Star Choice and Rogers and all you other cable companies you all are (losers).

Have some entertaining tv some times and not all this reality crap and have some nature and other entertaining programming that the whole family can watch not just what is in the ET tabloids to be a big hit in the US that day.

I have gone to the US for my tv and love there channels line up.

They have more Canadian content in their programming than we do here in Canada and I can watch shows like Ice Road Truckers and other shows like Survivor Man shows filmed here in

Canada a year ahead of what is shown by Bell or any of the broadcasters here at home.

Flag

Like



Janine Size ★ [1 month ago](#) [in reply to slimsilver](#)

Yes, the basic package is too big. I'd like to see a smaller one.

Flag

Like



Ted M ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

We need to have more canadian local independent programming, more public control of content and more local news coverage. We can do this by by having a less commercial and more diverse media.

Flag

Like



Linda ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

I agree with the position set forth by the Friends of Canadian Broadcasting.

Local TV is important to local viewers. Canadian content is important to us all.

Large profits should not be generated at the expense of losing local TV and Canadian content. The user/viewer should not be charged exrta to increase profits to the wealthy.

Flag

Like



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

help save local TV it is our only connection to local happenings and events in our community and the national networks won't cover theese local issues.

Flag

Like



dpottier ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

There is Canadian developed aerial survey system that can detect all illegal satellite dishes in Canada. Those illegal dishes result in an annual loss of over \$100 million in GST.

Why is this system not being used?

There are 2.5 million legal, paying satellite customers in Canada. Why does the broadcast industry ignore the more than 1 million illegal dishes in Canada?

Flag

Like



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

This is a very god question dpottier, buthe the grey market satillite signals that are being viewed are 88% from the US (Dish Network and Direct tv. And those signals beig viewed don't affect the candian companies, except to got their attention whe they saw the difference between a Canadian service and a American service. and why they pay so little and we so much. Plus the aerial system can only see the signals being broadcast not who picking them up.

Flag

Like



dpottier ★ [1 month ago](#) [in reply to Captain Canuck](#)

Those DishNet and DirecTV dishes are illegal in Canada and governed by the Radio

Communications Act. There is no grey, the law is black and white on that issue. If those dishes were not being used possibly those viewers would be putting their money into a Canadian company and hence supporting our broadcast industry.

The aerial system detects the dishes on the ground, day or night, rain or shine, to within 15 cm accuracy. It does a lot more but that's classified. Just the location is enough to warrant an address check and other actions.

[Flag](#)

Like

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

Isn't telling Canadians what they are and are not allowed to watch a rather blatant violation of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms? I would expect these sort of antics from the Persian ayatollahs, or perhaps the Taliban, but not from a democratic nation.

[Flag](#)

Like

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

nothing to do with the charter of rights - under the Criminal Code it is "Invasion of Privacy" or in U.S terms it is called "Wire Tap" when you intercept a signal not meant for you. Think about the \$400 million dollar cost of putting up that satellite. I see no place in the "Canadian Charter of Rights" that gives anyone permission to steal a private signal from a company.

[Flag](#)

Like

 *stormintv* ★ [1 month ago in reply to dpottier](#)

Sir, that \$100 million equals 00000 they will not pay for product that is not what they want. Remember breaking into a Bell dish is like breaking into the dump. Unless your a porno king or a hockey nut that dish ain't worth 10 cents.

[Flag](#)

Like

 *dpottier* ★ [1 month ago in reply to stormintv](#)

There are only two legal DTH broadcasters in Canada - Bell TV and Shaw Direct. The more that 1 million other dishes are stealing and the GST they should be paying if there were legitimate subscribers is stealing from us all.

If you are not using one of the two legal DTH services then you are breaking the law. Your options would be to use one of the two legal services or go to cable. Either way the GST is paid.

If you don't like the programming offered make a request. You might be surprised at how responsive the providers can be.

[Flag](#)

Like

 *barry wheeler* ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

Recently the broadcasters were allowed to increase their advertising to over 15 minutes per hour. What does it say about the business model that can not make ends meet with over 25% of its content as advertising? Also, seeing that volume of advertising on programming encourages me to quickly change channels to avoid it.

The local broadcasters' business model must be re-examined.

Since the cable operators are re-broadcasting the local broadcasters signals, I believe it also includes, in most cases, the local broadcasters' advertising. Their revenue stream is not being disrupted and may even be reaching a larger audience.

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

slimsilver ★ [1 month ago](#) [in reply to barry wheeler](#)

They are not always rebroadcasting the Local broadcasters advertising Barry.

I have both and they are sometimes replacing the local advertising with the STOP THE TV TAX advertisements and there own for satellite and cable sales.

All we need to do is look south of the border to Public broadcasting channels in the US and see that through advertising is does not always fill the void of operating and they need to public's help to cover there cost over run's.

The cable and satellite broadcasters in the US market rebroadcast PBS programing and pay for it that is the law that the FCC put into place to protect there local broadcasters interest.

In our country the CRTC say's it is and open signal so they dont have to pay.Is that right?

IMO No it is not we help fund our local channels through our taxes so cable and satellite are not only profiting millions from local broadcasters signal but they are also stealing from us the public and recharging us to watch it with no cost to them.

Cable uses the satellites to give you the channels and pays to use them(That is a given)

But also through advertising they make money to pay for there cost to operate the same as local tv.

So for them to make the argument that local tv made 400 million last year through advertising and government hand out's(Tax money we paid to have them operate) we can also argue that cable made 374 million in the first quarter of last year so you do the math and figure who came out on top of that deal.

We need to bring cable and satellite operations under control and have them pay there fair share for the programing to help cover the operating cost for local tv and save us the public from flipping the bill so they can make a million dollar profits from our tax dollars.

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J Lavoie ★ [1 month ago](#) [in reply to slimsilver](#)

Yes it is ridiculous that the U.S. forces cable companies to pay for local TV signals, but up here it's a free for all. What's with that CRTC? This issue isn't as controversial as they make it out to be and is in fact a no-brainer.

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

fanky ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

It seems that local television has been decreasing in quality lately, yet we are expected to pay MORE for this service? Instead of charging every household extra for these channels, maybe you should take it out of the HUGE paycheques from the wonderful executives that work for the CRTC. They get paid millions of dollars in bonuses yet they have the audacity to charge the average person extra money? If it's only \$5-10, I'm sure a handful of guys at the top can pay for everyone and still be able to afford all the luxuries they are accustomed to.

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

oyf ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

The CRTC should be helping make TV more affordable for Canadians, not making it more expensive! These new taxes during a recession are only going to hurt us not help us. I'd like to support local programming but to be honest I can't afford more charges and it's not like I really watch any local programs. I don't want to see local programming go so they need to figure it out without having the consumers pay more.

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oyf ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

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Like



John Turner ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

It seems cable costs just keep going up and up. Choice is too restricted, and certain package bundles are forcing persons to take options they really don't want' just to try & save a few bucks. I feel profit margins are high enough and this tax is fueled solely by greed. No to the tax. John Turner

[Flag](#)

Like



Glen McEwen ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

i have never had local TV. it was never available to me. My location is app 75-80 kilometers from all major NB cities but I am lock between several mountains. Some 30 years ago in order to receive TV programming for my family iI had to purchase satellite. these local channels never cared or put repeaters so i could watch there programming> I do not like the idea subsidizing local TV when i have had to spend thousands of dollars and money annually to received something they do not deliver. Also I am of the understanding that there is no NB TV or local TV that networks repeater it to the cities. SO the idea of local TV is irrevelant or non existent. i would appreciate the CTRC declining local TV bid to have surcharges applied to my Satelite bill as they do not or never have delivered a viewable picture to my household

[Flag](#)

Like



donaldconnolly ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

If they get away with this then they are going to want more and we will not be able to stop the money grabing executives from TAKING MORE MONEY OUT OF OUR POCKETS, and there will be no end to it!!!!

[Flag](#)

Like



J Lavoie ★ [1 month ago](#) [in reply to donaldconnolly](#)

Get used to it. The Conservatives are going to make sure the cable companies either not have to pay or you will have to pay. Rogers has lots of ties to this government.

[Flag](#)

Like



donaldconnolly ★ [1 month ago](#) [in reply to J Lavoie](#)

Why should we have to pay for this ridiculous scheme?, aren't they already being paid by the commercials that they run (TOO MANY TIMES)?.

The \$10.00 a month that they want us to pay is just another unfair TAX on us, aren't we being taxed enough now?.

[Flag](#)

Like



StanF ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

It seems that taxpayers are not too pleased with how the CRTC has addressed their concerns over the years. Remember we got into the current TV mess because you think you know what is best for us.

You don't.

Tabulate the opinions of Canadians expressed under each of your discussion topics and act on what the majority wants. After all, we pay the bills and your salary.

[Flag](#)

Like



J Lavoie ★ [1 month ago](#) in reply to StanF

The CRTC is doing for window dressing, this whole process is meaningless and they will not read your comments. They will have some low level bureaucrat or student working at a communications company write a one page memo about the comments for the commissioners to read.

[Flag](#)

Like



Joe Fraser ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

I think signal substitution should be eliminated. so that canadian shows don't get bumped.

[Flag](#)

Like



DALLAS CANTRELL ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

for 5 years i have been trying to get the tennis network on cable or satellite to no avail the comments are the crtc will not allow i find this hard to believe or understand. I do believe that tsn has a monopoly on sports and have your ear so they have no competition. we receive some of the 4 majors even though it may be delayed to suit Tsn and a sprinkling of a very few other tournaments. Today you allow the golf channel the fight channel The cricket channel the boxing channel

The fishing channel the soccer channel any no. of porno channels why not allow a

[Flag](#)

Like



larrys1 ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

Enforce volume level control between channels and advertising. Restrict advertising time to no more than 10%. Cable companies offer channels and then have pay advertising for a full half hour or up to an hour, WRONG. I pay for this channel and resent having to watch paid for ads as well.

Our phone system needs to be reviewed as well. CRTC rules do not seem to promote competition. Our rates in Canada are almost double other countries especially true in the cell phone arena. Again Bell, Rogers, Shaw, Telus appear to monopolize. Somehow this has to be fixed.

[Flag](#)

Like



DALLAS CANTRELL ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

you allow too many commercials this assures poor quality shows are not watched and good or better are not enjoyed with all the repetitive commercials you should tell the stations to charge more and have less

[Flag](#)

Like



Lisa S ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

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!

[Flag](#)

Like



Dave ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

no new taxes. if the TV stations didn't get greedy and buy up so many other stations, they would not be in a financial mess. High debtload means POOR management , too bad if they go under especially Global and CTV

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



StanF ★ [1 month ago](#) in reply to [Dave](#)

The "local stations" sold their souls and identity to CTV and Global some time ago. Now they claim to need money to survive? Local stations have already pocketed their profit.

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shirleycharlton ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

Aren't they making enough money with their commercials that are aired? I don't see why we have to pay for something that the local cable and Satellite stations are getting for free to broadcast their channels. This whole system is made up of greed. I feel it is already too expensive to receive TV and because I am an Old Age Pensioner on Basic Government pension I can only afford the Basic Programs. So if there is another cost we will be unable to subscribe. Besides the price of cable and satellite goes up twice every year making it almost impossible to afford it!!!!

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[Like](#)



Just Another Beat-Up Consumer ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

There is no way on Earth that the TV networks need to suck more money out of consumers by way of yet another tax. They're making millions now, they aren't going to spend new money on "local programming", which is the premise that the new tax is being sold on, in fact it will probably simply pad someone's pocket. For goodness' sake, isn't it time for a little reason to prevail? If I used an antenna, these signals would be "free", supported by advertising as they have been for decades. Now, because I choose to use cable or satellite instead of an antenna, I should have to endure advertising AND pay a tax for the signal too? COME ON GUYS, WAKE UP!

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

I already pay enough in taxes to the three levels of government, for gas and the regional transit levy here in Vancouver. I am tired of being overtaxed. We're gonna get an increase in tax rate thanks to the impending implementation of the HST here in British Columbia. Seriously, business's that lose money should not be in operation. Perhaps they should learn to operate their business's in a more cost effective manner. I don't spend more than I earn and there is no reason why we should have to bail out others that aren't responsible enough to manage their money better. It seems everyone is holding out their hand for a government handout. Enough already! Cable is expensive enough, why are we being asked to pay more in this current economic climate?

[Flag](#)

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cindyls ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

Our monthly cost for our ShawDirect (formerly Star Choice Satellite) has increased steadily every year we have subscribed. What am I paying for with those increases? Certainly not more local programming. I want to watch my local news and what local programs I can as well as my provincial news out of Vancouver. Satellite providers should be welcoming an opportunity to encompass our whole country and promote our own arts, culture and programming; instead they are threatening to increase our bills and provide even less options. I am tired of it being an "all or nothing" dialogue with them. Just let me choose what programs I want and not at some

ridiculous price.

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[J Lavoie](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) [in reply to cindyls](#)

I'm also fed up with the cable companies' threats too. I'm also sick of the CRTC and the James Moore or even Harper not calling them out for making these threats to raise rates.

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



[briancowan](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

For some time, Canada's three major broadcasting networks: the CBC, Global and CTV have complained they have been victims of unfair practices by the cable industry. With TV advertisements and full-page newspaper ads they have convinced themselves of the fairness of their position, but I do not believe they have convinced the Canadian public, nor should their hollow arguments convince the CRTC.

The cable TV industry started when people living in valley areas in Pennsylvania could not receive television broadcast signals. An enterprising fellow put up an antenna on high ground, captured broadcast signals and began to sell cable hook-ups to the people in the valleys. In this way, the broadcasters extended the potential reach of their advertisers' markets without spending a penny and the cable company made its profit from monthly charges for cable hook-up. This situation duplicated itself in London, Ontario in Canada, where government intervention took the precaution that cablecasters would only make their money from service subscriptions and not be allowed to sell advertising in the program and channel offerings they carried. This way, people could access broadcast signals where they had previously been unable to and the broadcasters would not have to worry about cablecasters earning advertising revenues off their signals. As a matter of fact, for the benefit of the Canadian public, cablecasters were required to carry local broadcast signals and to provide a cable channel devoted completely to local production feature local concerns. They also had to provide the production equipment.

This solution allowed both parties to do what they did best to earn money. Cable thrived by providing a quality TV signals to increasingly segmented audiences and the TV broadcasters did what they did best –not spend a penny!

As a sour economy hurt advertising revenues, broadcasters played the victim, claiming their programming was pirated by cablecasters who paid them nothing for it, conveniently forgetting the many new, local audiences who could access their programs because of cable. They label this "cable's dirty, little secret" and I find it offensive and misleading to the Canadian public. Cable companies do not compete with broadcasters for advertising dollars, still broadcasters maintain they are somehow being shorted and predict dire consequences for local, community programming if cable's "dirty, little secret" continues to perpetuate itself. Like the buggy whip manufacturers of old, they have remained unresponsive to a changing world, convinced of the correctness of what they do. Now they want to double-dip, charging the Canadian advertiser to air programming and charging the cable consumer for the privilege of viewing it. Cable companies today offer hundreds of channels –far more than the limited bandwidth of broadcasting will allow and a quick review of CanWest (Global) and CTV websites reveals that many of these specialty cable channels are owned by the complaining broadcasters. They are making good money from the cable industry.

Still the broadcasters have the gall to champion themselves as the crusaders of local programming claiming cable's "dirty, little secret" will result in its demise.

The Canadian reality is that local programming has been dying a slow, suffocating death at the hands of the broadcasters for years and few have even noticed. Back in the day, when communities had local TV stations, there was local programming. Network affiliation and purchase of local stations by conglomerates, all in the name of improving profits and providing operating cost efficiencies were a gift to the broadcasters which began local programming's suffocation. Even the last bastion of local programming, the local news, seems full of more events and happenings fed from Toronto than produced in the local area. I have experienced that first hand.

For twelve years I worked at CBET-TV (CKLW-TV) in Windsor and we were incredibly productive! Local programming was not just news to us. We produced several magazine shows, talk shows,

local documentaries, special reports, restaurant reviews and a variety of kid's shows. This carried on after the CBC was forced to assume ownership of our station - for a while. Slowly funding for local production dried up as money was sucked away to Toronto and we began our journey into repeater stationhood. CKCO-TV (CTV) closed its Windsor news bureau. The CBC left town, came back and is slowly trying to slide out the back door again as they continually gut CBET of any production capability. The A Channel was slated to close but changed their minds at the last minute. Who knows for how long? It all begs the question, what are these champions of local programming really doing for the Canadian public?

What do the cablecasters, who offer hundreds of channels from around the world, who began by providing local broadcaster signals to people who would otherwise have enjoyed no access to television, what do they mean for local programming? Here, they produce and broadcast local sports shows, live political debate, live City and County Council meetings, community focus programs, Spitfire hockey broadcasts, University of Windsor sports events, local business awards, international youth baseball broadcasts, live opening coverage of our casino, local musical talent, St. Clair College and University of Windsor convocation ceremonies and let us not forget CPAC.

Yes, they can also offer some of the oddest, quirkiest programs you'll ever see, but they are produced in the local community, by local people and give local people the opportunity to gain some TV production experience.

The choice the CRTC makes on this issue will have repercussions for many years. Like the other great purveyors of buggywhips in our economy, the auto industry, if you give in once, every time there is a hiccup in profits, they will expect you to give in to new demands. It's easier, and less risky, to come whining to the CRTC than develop new, modern business models. If I may paraphrase, and butcher, Shakespeare, these spoilt children must be forced to come to the realization that "Our fates lie not in the cable industry, but in ourselves".

I suggest to the CRTC that the best interests of the broadcasters, in this instance, are not the best interests of the Canadian people and I respectfully request that you let stand the status quo on this particular issue.

Yours truly,
 Brian Cowan
 370 Rankin Ave.,
 Windsor, ON N9B 2R7
 Ph. (519) 258-2413
 Email: bcowan@uwindsor.ca

Flag

Like



[briancowan](#) ★ 1 month ago 1 person liked this.

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Yours truly,
Brian Cowan

Windsor, ON N9B 2R7
Email: bcowan@uwindsor.ca

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*Susanna Quail* ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

I want to register my disapproval of this as a forum for public input. This type of consultation attracts people with lots of spare time and hardened opinions, not reasoned, informed, thoughtful discussion among engaged citizens. For example, is "Fire the bureaucrats!!!!!!!!!!!!!!" useful input on national policy? Or quoting from "Old Macdonald"? I appreciate that the CRTC is putting in some attempt at using new technologies to solicit public input, but this particular format is not adequate or appropriate. MASS LBP does excellent work on this if you are looking for better alternatives.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*StanF* ★ [1 month ago in reply to Susanna Quail](#)

It is highly likely that this forum is what the government was seeking when they requested the CRTC to consult with Canadians. It would be interesting to see the main opinions tabulated. But undoubtedly the CRTC would seek additional funding to actually read the comments let alone tabulate taxpayer input.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*Catherine* ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

I am tired of having to watch the misleading "stop the TV tax" television commercials. A tax implies that a government organization will require everyone to give money for a service. We don't have cable; we know that we won't have to pay anything if the CRTC rules that the cable service providers have to compensate local television for charging customers for local programming. If the practices and attitudes of service providers haven't made it clear over the years, their television commercials make it obvious they are willing to exploit people- especially those who are less informed.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*Poor Service* ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

Both the broadcasters and the cable companies are disingenuous in crying poor. The public has been innundated with commercials trying to make us believe that they are fighting for our interests by either defending local programming or preventing a new tax. The truth is that both sides are only interested in making even more money from consumers, without giving us any real benefit, just limited, crappy programming without the ability to choose which channels we pay for.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*Community TV* ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

Community TV

If you want to talk about local programming. Look at what the cable companies are doing with the community channel. If anything that is where more funding should go. They at least cover local events and happenings directly in your area.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*Ann Ramsey* ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

I believe that the CRTC and the government should stay out of this and let the two sides work things out for themselves. I am sick and tired of the support given by the government and its affiliates bailing out big business.

[Flag](#)

Like

Eileen Ross ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

I think that we Canadians have learned by now that these forums are made available just to appease us. Whatever the government decides to do they will...we have become the governments "purse" even though so many of us live far below the poverty level. This entire issues is disgusting...you can all overfill your' pockets while Canadian children go hungry. Frankly I don't care about your television woes. Eileen Ross

[Flag](#)Like

Marilyn Quinte area ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

In my world nobody gets anything for nothing and the general public is taxed to death already, its time the giants (cable/satelite) paid their share, it appears they have had a free ride long enough. We all need local TV, news, events etc.

[Flag](#)Like

Greg Weisman ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

We can't allow an American style corporate bail out... that's what this is. If business can't survive it must be allowed to fail, or adapt... TV stations can cut costs and find new sources of revenue... if I understand the facts, they already have with cable channels where they make great \$\$... SPEAK UP EVERYBODY so the CRTC drops this stupid idea of taxing us for something we dont want and something that cant compete

[Flag](#)Like

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

I think the CRTC needs to stick for for Canadians for a change, make the networks deal with their own losses. If that means closing a few stations down, so be it.

Keeping them operational so a couple hundred people can get their 'local weather and news' hardly seems worth it. All the programming is the same for the entire network anyway, so what's the point of keeping every single local channel running?

For instance, I watch all my shows on the CTVToronto HD channel. So what if my weather is not local, I got the internet and weather network for that.

[Flag](#)Like

Mr.Michael ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

Television used to be simple;in the 50's,60's you would buy the set plug it in VOILA! 5 decades later you get TOO many channels; more complicated technology! Cable as well as satellite companies should be ASHAMED of their stupid taxes,prices PERIOD!!!!!!! I wouldn't even be surprised if these CRTC people put a tax on the internet! Anything to make a dollar!!!!!!

[Flag](#)Like

tomlemieux ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

We need our local TV channel. other wise it will be a choice of the 4 US servers.

[Flag](#)Like

tomlemieux ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

We need more local news.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*juliafoster* ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

I think the issue of licences to broadcast in CANADA to CANADIANS should be re-visited. These companies only love money, not Canada. Give the licences to proud Canadians who support our culture and don't threaten local TV for their own bottom line.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*Carlisle* ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

You know this is all very similar to another topic that we brought up several years ago, when the issue of grey market satellite came up the screaming for all these groups were..." They're stealing television!!!" But they never said who was stealing what and from whom. From all reports people were obtaining signals from the US and US companies. So the television signals did not affect the service of Canadian companies, and they enjoyed for years the monopoly of the television industry in Canada. For years they gave the Canadian public a sub standard product. Our tax dollars go to the CBC and still we are getting a sub standard product..not even a Wayne and Shuster special, And now we have these television and cable companies screaming about \$5 to \$10 dollars and wanting the public to pay the difference. This year \$5 to \$10 next year 15 the year after 25... As soon as the companies get the changes to invoke these taxes they will take advantage of this and make it mandatory ever several months. The consumer will still get the sub standard product, with these cable and television companies still not acquiring good television and their lame packages. How many times have Canadians had to pay for channels that they never watched or wanted because it came with a channel or two they did want. These companies have the technology to give the consumer what they want, "if you will cherry pick our channels". In that way they could up their price for that option. But no in typical Canadian practice they want to fleece the public with this tax. This is where the grey market dishes make a comeback and the television and cable companies get a kick in the ass, more and more people will go to this option and forego these companies saving hundreds a year on television. Then they really will need a bail out, or close their doors. In short what I'm saying is this, these companies could give Canadians what we really want but don't, and Canadians have a way of fighting back by cancelling their television, in that way no business gets their monies and we all go back to rabbit ears and watch TV from the border towns (US side) remember it was that way not too long ago even to the late 40's. Guess I'm off to the flea market to get my rabbit ears, because I'm not giving my money away for a bad product.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*Scott* ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

Please do not allow any more taxes to the people. I feel I am overcharged as it is for programs that I pay for but are not wanted. I watch only a few channels but am forced to purchase different bundles. These corporations need to properly manage with changes that allow my costs to drop. Overpaid executives that are out of touch with the general public should be replaced with fresh minds that would be happy to work for less. I am fed up with being overtaxed!

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*krazykritik* ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

More channels? Yes. But LESS programming! Do you know how regurgitative it sounds to have us pay a tax so we can get more channels of TV SHOPPING? That in itself is an issue that needs addressing! The absolutely sickening and ever increasing amount of TV shopping we see on all channels. I should NOT have to pay one thin dime to get hours and hours of advertisers shoving their products down my throat when advertising already takes up 30% + of our daily programming! NO NO NO NO NO!!! If this tax comes to fruition, I am already planning on paying \$10 less on the bill and if they cut me off for that, then I won't even pay the balance. The truth is that programming is getting more and more pathetic, more and more repetitive, more and more saturated with advertising and commercials, and you dare to try and milk us for more \$\$\$? I really feel there's more underhandedness to this whole process than meets the eye. I

think it's some type of t.v. census to see how many people care more about t.v. than mankind's basic needs so you can report to the nwo elitists that we are as distracted as they need us to be while they carry out their sick plans to establish a one world government. That's what cable and satellite's tru purpose is anyway so take the tax, stop the tax, whatever, it's not going to matter much longer anyway.

[Flag](#)

Like



yafaliaw ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

Do I want to pay for local programming? The answer is no.

Do I want to have this programming for free? The answer is also no.

I also do not want to pay for pre-packaged TV channel that change at the whim of the distribution companies whether cable, satellite or whatever.

I want to pay for the package of channels I choose. I do not want to pay for channels that I never watch or want. If I choose to add channels I pay and if I choose to reduce channels I remove.

The local channels have the right to charge for their product ONLY if i have the right to choose what I include and or exclude in my delivery package.

If the local programing does not survive after they are allowed to charge for their product then so be it and they should be let to die.

Enough with bailout lunacy. It is my money that you are toiling with.

[Flag](#)

Like



williamcharleskeast ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

I first appeared before a CRTC hearing in the early '70s in an intervention regarding their committment to local programming.

The cable companies were complaining about the requirement. Now they are bragging about it. Their advertising over the last few years and most recently has been, to say the least, both obfuscating and deceptive.

A tax? It would be their decision to pass on compensation to broadcasters as a 'tax' to the public. The term 'tax' is both misleading and deceptive. An outright lie, in fact.

The cable industry is an industry based upon theft. Theft of signals out of the air without any compensation to the broadcasters.

They then 'package' the stolen channels in a way to maximize profits with no consideration to clients needs or requests. Still based upon theft of broadcast signals.

Now they are offering telephone services without the caution that a power outage could curtail their services.

Theft of broadcasting signals and misleading advertising should have raise some flags with the CRTC.

The abrogation of 'honesty in advertising' to an outside entity is another indication of the CRTC's lack of vigilance or wilfull ignorance of it's responsibilities and obligations to the Canadian public.

William Charles Keast Jr.

Vancouver BC

[Flag](#)

Like



stormintv ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

Are you CRTC guys taking this all in? People are pissed. Every age bracket is here. Do we the people have to take over these stations? It's our money. This TV tool is very powerful and should like the early years be held to a level of morals, decency and quality control and free. Now it drowns us in infomercials , supplies a poor product and dictates what we have to watch as a minimum package. Then charges us .for some people our 6 o'clock news is the only TV they watch all day. The last time I checked we own the TV license in our areas. Can someone verify this for me.

[Flag](#)

Like



honesto navarro ★ 1 month ago 1 person liked this.

Local TV really matters. I/we need local TV.

Flag

Like



walterdnes ★ 1 month ago 1 person liked this.

I'm one of the lucky few Canadians who can reliably get 14 HDTV signals plus 4 unique SDTV signal with an indoor antenna. This includes the major Canadian and US networks. So why am I worried about this debate, you ask?

1) The tax would contribute to worsening of Canada's balance of payments deficit. Global and CTV are currently sending over 3/4 of a billion dollars per year to American TV studios. The broadcasters claims about saving local TV are an insult to my intelligence, bordering on lies. CTV and Global would have a lot of money for "saving local television" if they stopped shovelling their cash to the USA. And Canwest's "financial problems" have more to do with their disastrous \$3.2 billion dollar purchase of Hollinger newspapers, than with the state of the TV industry. I say let them fail. John Bitove wanted to set up an all-HD TV network in Canada. The CRTC rejected his proposal after after much whining wfrom CTV and Global. I am sure that Bitove and others would like to set up a new network, should Global go under.

2) A TV tax would effectively be an incentive to broadcasters to *NOT* broadcast OTA (Over The Air). If they get paid per cable subscriber, then they will have a financial incentive to *NOT* build OTA transmitters, forcing more people to subscribe to cable.

3) Once the TV Tax raises BDU subscription rates even higher than they are now, the resultant exodus of subscribers will be massive. The result will be a lobbying campaign by both BDU's and pay channels to outlaw free OTA reception altogether. Those of you who don't think this could ever come to pass, obviously have short memories...

1) in 1983, when pay-TV first came out, the CRTC swore up and down on a stack of bibles that they would never, ever make pay-TV stations mandatory for basic cable/satellite subscribers. That promise was broken when the CRTC invented "dual-status" and "modified-dual-status".

2) In a 1995 interview, Kieth Spicer (then chair of the CRTC) said that reception of US satellite signals in Canada would never be outlawed. So much for that.

Flag

Like



Walter Dnes ★ 1 month ago 1 person liked this.

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2) Then there is the famous 1995 interview featuring then-CRTC-chair Keith Spicer, assuring us that receiving US satellite TV signals directly would never become illegal. So much for that one.

Flag

Like



Ron ★ 1 month ago 1 person liked this.

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

Flag

Like



Frank ★ 1 month ago 1 person liked this.

so long as i do not have to pay more taxes just to watch some t.v. then i do not care what these clowns do.

Flag

Like



stormintv ★ 1 month ago 1 person liked this.

At the top here it says other issues. I'll start with five.

1. For our heritage Minister that is trying to keep my Canadian Heritage is pounding me with 3 Detroit channels, the murder capital of the world for the last 20 yrs. Good work.

2. you have a cartoon channel that turns R rated after 11 o'clock , swearing, sex it's unreal. Are you guys sick in the head, that's morals right out the window.

3. Let's break our local news our down. 20 minits commercials, 20 minits weather, 10 minits national news we just seen 15 minits ago. 15 minits with news and sports for Sault ,Timmins, North Bay, Sudbury and Huntsville and you want support.

4. To our cable company, I had a dish and when it rained I lost my signal, no fun. How come on my cable I seem to be loosing some channels when it rains. Is it because your using a 24" dish like I did or should you be using a 48" high end dish so your 65000 customers don't have to loose their signal . Price \$149.95 retail.

5. Last one.today. You sports channels, how much can you jerk your loyal fans around. 24 hr poker and UFC. Do you know how many people are steamed at the 2 teer system you set up now. Like not televising the Tigers ball game at the end of the season. If I could have reached into that TV and grabbed someone..... There I feel better.

Flag

Like



Carl B ★ 1 month ago 1 person liked this.

The deregulation of the charges which cable TV providers demand for basic service needs to be recognised as a failed experiment and abandoned. Giving these monopolists free reign has caused the cost to consumers to all but double and delivered nothing of value in return.

Flag

Like



Concerned Citizen ★ 1 month ago 1 person liked this.

I want to pay for content I want, I want to stream (eventually) any programming to watch it when it's convenient for me, I demand accountability at the CRTC, I want my tax dollars spent wisely....yes it is about ME and not the CRTC....get it !

Flag

Like

TLM ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

Why is it that commercials are much louder than the show? Whenever a commercial break comes on I hit the mute button to keep them from yelling at me. Maybe if the commercials were a comparable volume to the shows I watch then I'd watch the commercials too.

[Flag](#)

Like

Matt K ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

The broadcasting act needs to be torn up and rewritten completely. Open the market so that Canadians can subscribe to Direct TV and Dish Network or at the very least give us access to the real versions of popular American services such as HBO, Showtime, the multiplex of ESPN channels and so on.

On the subject of the "Save Local TV" campaign by CTV, Global etc. they DO NOT deserve a bailout when the money in all likelihood will not go towards quality local programming and go instead towards more American programming. If anyone looks at the CTV & Global programming schedules, you would know that there is very little Canadian content aside from news and local information shows, is that really true local television? If these television conglomerates cannot survive, the best thing to do would be to shut down and get out of the business and allow other companies such as Channel Zero the chance to come up with new models and do a much better job with local television.

Another thing as well, there should be no more simsubbing of the American signals in which we pay a lot of money and at times we are not able to watch these signals due to Canadian stations hijacking the original signals and doing a great job of mangling the audio and video to unwatchable picture quality, disgusting audio levels, and pixelated zero (low) definition.

In conclusion, we are coming up on Twenty Ten and we as Canadians can either sit on our hands and do absolutely nothing to change the status quo or we can all band together and stand up to the big broadcasters and the entire Canadian broadcasting industry as a whole in order to have the freedom of choice in choosing our television, radio, Internet providers from whichever countries we choose and come up with new innovative ideas for technological advances which we as Canadians could be extremely proud of and shape up the future of broadcasting for many future generations to come.

[Flag](#)

Like

Michel ★ [1 month ago](#) [in reply to Matt K](#)

ditto! Well said

[Flag](#)

Like

RobertStewart ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

Broadband in Canada: Two sources, zero value.

Cable or Phone-line can be compared to modern day railroad barons. I laughed we I read some comments here, to have TV channels via internet. I would guess the person believes broadband is supplied free by network of \$20 bus/cars wifi antennas to home receivers.

just some related link to the sad case of Canadian broadband robbery.

Of 28 countries that offered very high speed internet service, Canada ranked second last on pricing.

<http://www.digitalhome.ca/2009/10/study-conclud...>

Canada is relatively expensive by OECD standards, ranking 14th for monthly subscription costs at US\$45.65 per month. By comparison, Japanese consumers pay an average of US\$30.46 per

month and consumers in Britain spend an average of US\$30.63. The relatively high prices may help to explain why there are still many Canadians with access to broadband networks that choose not to subscribe.

That a \$15.00 per month overcharge people!

<http://www.michaelgeist.ca/content/view/4019/135/>

<http://www.cbc.ca/technology/story/2008/05/20/t...>

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

<http://www.intomobile.com/2009/10/14/finland-be...>

[Flag](#)

Like



beckee ★ 1 month ago 1 person liked this.

Canadian content regulations are idealistic & contribute to forced payment for a saturation of poor quality,vile,offensive, immoral, mediocre & unwatched television programming. This cry for money is being made by Toronto executives who converted local television outlets into mere transmitters of made in Toronto so called "National" programming while mounting massive debts.The CRTC needs to consider the burden and the reality of placing increased costs for ideals on lower income people. With today's advancing technology television in Canada must adapt to the changing world by reducing costs,eliminating waste and duplication, instead of hiding behind the out of date expensive idealistic regulations

[Flag](#)

Like



Rob ★ 1 month ago 1 person liked this.

Manadate that cable companies offer "a la carte" menus as opposed to bundles. I should have the ability to choose what I'm paying for.

[Flag](#)

Like



Erika Green ★ 1 month ago 1 person liked this.

I seriously think it's time either to completely revamp or disband the CRTC. Why? Because all of the decisions favour the media oligopolies, who are well-represented on the CRTC's committees, to the detriment of the Canadian taxpayer.

It's long past time for the Canadian taxpaying consumer, who directly funds all of these activities, to get a fair deal for their dollars. As a federal, publicly funded organization, the CRTC should be acting on behalf of the consumer first and foremost, and not promoting the bloating of telecom corporations. Corporate executives and shareholders should not be raking off huge profits for declining quality of services. This is an abuse of privilege, since most of them have a voice at the CRTC where the average citizen does not (this sop to us doesn't really count).

We hear a lot of puffery from the politicians about being "open and transparent", something the current regime in Parliament seems to have a difficult time grasping other than as a buzz phrase. Let's get ALL the books opened so that the taxpayer can see what's really going on. If an industry is regulated, time for their books to be opened up too. It's pure nonsense for them to claim proprietary or competitive interest here -- there is no true competition in the telecommunications industry in Canada -- the whole system is a mire of price-fixing and grossly inflated charges to the consumer.

Personally, I will walk away from cable TV and not miss it one little bit. Same with the cell phone. Internet is harder, but there are ways.

[Flag](#)

Like

billybobzz ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

Don't allow service providers the right to control the content that we have access too.

[Flag](#)

Like

russell rose ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

eliminate the substitution agreement. if we want to watch Canadian programming, then we should pay for it. If we want to watch U.S. programming, then we should be able to do so in a free, democratic country.

allow DirecTv and Dish Network into Canada and force the locals cable/satellite providers to properly compete for the business.

[Flag](#)

Like

Brian Lowry ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

Broadcasters should be required to produce and sell/rent/provide all of their content in secure digital formats, to ensure that they remain competitive in the post-broadcast era. Simply holding viewers hostage to television sets and rented cable boxes is not a viable business model going forward.

[Flag](#)

Like

Darren W. Wood ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

I think other issues need to be addressed. We have been pushing Canadian Content way to far and cable/satellite companies have taken advantage of this offering little variance in programming, yet extorting the end user to the point of having pay tv service/internet service/phone service is like making a mortgage payment each month.

We need to allow American companies to come in and compete (provided they carry Canadian Content along with their current line up) so that prices will come down thru natural competition.

The only other way to keep everything affordable and still allow cable/satellite to make a profit is thru regulation of the industry.

[Flag](#)

Like

eastwester ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

I think that the people at CRTC, at CBC, in fact, the entire federal government.....are doing a FANTASTIC job. I'm so proud to be a Canadian taxpayer, and even in my small way, to be a part of this tremendous contribution to Canadian culture. I'm looking forward to the day, in the future, when we can join with our American brethern in reaching out to those less fortunate than ourselves in other parts of the world, and show them how to live properly as well.

In my opinion, all of these wonderful public servants deserve our deepest gratitude, and we, as loyal, patriotic Canadians, should reward them by personally giving each and every one of them twenty dollars.... or some other appropriate gift.

Could you good people all please publish your names, home addresses, and when you'll be at home, so that we, the grateful taxpayers who support you can drop by and give you what you deserve.

[Flag](#)

Like

bvnelson ★ [1 month ago](#) [in reply to eastwester](#)

I would like to join you so I too could drop by and give them what they deserve! LOL

[Flag](#)

Like

[John Wesley Chisholm](#) ★ 1 month ago 1 person liked this.

I recently got the iphone. Within days I lost track of whether I was on the phone, instant message, internet or data connections. Everything blended in together and I realized... I DON'T CARE.

I don't care if the content and connection is analogue, digital, cable, satellite, radio or beamed directly into my head. I just want the content and connection I want, when I want, where I want it.

It will be a short time before all these cable/ satellite/ broadcaster arguments seem silly and old fashioned and we will be left with the same wants we had 10, 100, 10,000 years ago.

We want good stories, good entertainment and good information... good - like: diverse, relevant, timely and tailored exactly to us as an audience.

Flag

Like

[dave](#) ★ 1 month ago 1 person liked this.

CBC. Force the cbc back to producing its own shows, dropping all American and with much less sports. They did some wonderful series years ago. why. That's my opinion.

Flag

Like

[marke](#) ★ 1 month ago 1 person liked this.

Allow any foriegn content, deregulate the market and channels, but regulate the prices, cut them all by 50% and keep them their.

Flag

Like

[Big Time](#) ★ 1 month ago 1 person liked this.

It isn't really FOX showing us the picture? What the... FOX has their cameras and production staff their. All CTV is doing is hijacking the feed and putting their endless Tim Horton's commercials in, and we're forced to watch the Canadian feed because the CRTC makes the cable company override the original FOX feed.

It's time to end simsubbing - it isn't working. It was put in place to create more Canadian content, but the Canadian networks are spending more on American programming than ever before. Simsubbing causes major headaches to us viewers, including the video being subpar, the audio not being 5.1 surround sound, the beginning and endings of telecasts chopped off, promos cut out, and when sporting (live) events go over the allotted time, another Canadian channel is automatically put overtop too soo causing even more headaches.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mhYbU97Y4p0>

Flag

Like

[John Wesley Chisholm](#) ★ 1 month ago 1 person liked this.

Get some regional points of view on TV. I don't mean Toronto ideas of what it's like to be a MAritimer, Quebecer or Westerner I mean real quality, properly financed and developed content that is regional not filtered through the gauze of what a central system thinks the regions are about.

Flag

Like



PissedCanuck ★ 1 month ago 1 person liked this.

This idea of cable monopolies must come to an end. In one area, only Rogers Cable is available; in another area it's Cogeco; and still in another area, it's Shaw or the highway. There needs to be true competition, where competitors either inside the country or even outside the country can truly compete and truly be able to compete by letting them setting up their own broadcasting infrastructure (ie. satellites, towers, wiring, signals, etc.) instead of having this charade of a competition by letting companies set out territorial boundaries where one cannot operate if another is operating there or where one competitor must pay another competitor carriage fees for the use of the competitors' current broadcasting infrastructure.

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



LoriH ★ 1 month ago 1 person liked this.

Please...put a leash on satellite & cable providers. They seemingly are accountable to nobody at the CRTC or \Ottawa when it comes to fees constantly rising. It appears that our government thinks that Canadians SHOULD be paying the most for cell phones & TV. Make them pay and tell them they can't bury the cost of doing business with local stations into hidden or visible fees on our bills

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Janet42 ★ 1 month ago 1 person liked this.

The main thing the CRTC should be interested in doing is protecting CONSUMERS, not industry stakeholders, who should be making their living giving consumers what they want. Adding fees and protecting existing companies from competition from other (and foreign) stations usually hurts the average consumer for the sake of industry executives. Respecting this simple rule would earn favour from Canadians who are increasingly less enamoured with the Commission.

Additionally, most content that might not be viable on live TV would be viable online, where people are increasingly turning to get their news anyway. If some local programming is no longer viable on television, postponing its transition to online format by charging Canadians who might not even watch the programming is not fair.

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carol ★ 1 month ago 1 person liked this.

It is clear from a quick scan of reponses that Canadians do not understand the basics of the TV broadcast industry at all. Some glaring disconnects:

1. They seem to think "local programming" means the cable community channels, and have failed to understand that it means their core CTV, Global and City-tv network channels. Also CBC, I suppose, though of course they do have a different business and programming model, and I don't understand where they fit in this debate.
2. Substitution of commercials is not about copying a US channel, it reflects the fact that CTV or Global etc... own the broadcast rights to the audience in Canada for those programs. The Buffalo station has not paid for the right to broadcast that program to Canadians; CTV, Global , CBC etc.. own those rights. Substitution is just about paying Peter for what Peter owns, NOT paying Paul for what Peter owns. And the US networks understand that, and don't have a problem with it.
3. Canadians seem to feel they are paying enough for their basic cable packages, and they want more granular choice on the additional (specialty) channels. Both of these do seem reasonable. So they resist any extra charges, and say they will take a pass on "local" programming, and it should pay for itself. We do know that most viewership is the major networks. I do not believe people understand they are saying they will cheerfully continue to pay the cable companies the existing rates, while giving up CTV, Global, City-tv, and maybe CBC from their cable package. If the major networks do not have cable and satellite carriage, do people understand they will likely be gone due to lack of audience, and at that point, OTA reception will NOT be an option!
4. It might be more fruitful to ask them things like this:

- Of the stations included in your existing cable or satellite package, what value would you ascribe to the various stations and groups of stations that you watch, based on your personal viewership and preferences?
- of the fee you pay for cable and satellite services, how much do you think goes to the suppliers of programming, and how much is kept by the distributor?
- of the amount that goes to the distributor, how much do you think goes to the major networks, and how much to specialty channels? Who or what determines who gets how much?
- How do you think the amount paid to the various suppliers of content (channels) should be determined? What principles should be applied?
- Would you be satisfied with cable or satellite service that did not include any of the major Canadian networks? If such a service was the only one available, what would you be prepared to pay for it?
- If the basic cable or satellite service did not include the major Canadian networks, and these were available as optional channels, would you consider paying extra to get them? How much would you regard as a fair monthly charge that you would be willing to pay for each of the following: [Give a 5 point answer scale ranging from "nothing" to "over \$10 per month]
- * CBC?
- * CTV?
- * Global?
- * City-tv?
- *etc... as appropriate to the geography of the sample.

Flag

Like

 *minnetonka* ★ 1 month ago 1 person liked this.

So CTV threatens to black out their shows eh! Who cares? I don't watch their crap anyway. From what i see in the tv guide, they just simulcast American shows anyway. I will watch them on the American channel.

Flag

Like

 *kenstvital* ★ 1 month ago 1 person liked this.

End simultaneous substitution. I don't care about the millions CTV pays for the rights to the SuperBowl. I pay a lot of money for cable and I expect to see the US commercials. If CTV doesn't like this, don't buy the rights in 2011.

People are going as far as boycotting companies and products that hijack the commercials we paid to see. Maybe this is a clue why you aren't making money from advertising anymore.

Flag

Like

 *jmhm2003* ★ 1 month ago 1 person liked this.

A general comment. For the cable companies to imply that they are better than the local/national TV stations just because they provide "American Cable programs" is laughable. Charging for garbage is the business of BFI, not Shaw and Videotron. All they do is pass on someone else's trash to our houses. They create nothing, contribute nothing to society, and cry when this is pointed out to them. For this they deserve nothing but a few pennies a month, at most, to service their copper lines. Cable companies should not make immense profits for what they do. Local content providers actually create something, and for this they should be rewarded for their work.

Flag

Like

 *patersjb* ★ 1 month ago 1 person liked this.

I believe it is the responsibility of the CRTC & any television supplier who is granted a license by the CRTC to ensure all Canadians have access to local television, whether they lose money or not. Television suppliers do not mind spending millions if not billions on risky programming they buy from non Canadian programmers. They especially don't mind going to the CRTC or government asking for a break every time they start losing money. It's about time they started to learn to compete in a global market instead of waiting around asking the government for a

handout. I can remember a time when they took pride in ensuring all Canadians had access to television instead of basing everything on profit. They sound like the business that's always going broke but when you turn around there they are spending millions on executive bonuses or new equipment that benefits them directly instead of Canadians. You almost have to put a gun to their head or legislate them to make changes that benefit their customers!

[Flag](#)

Like



[scott1515](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

I believe the entire industry has been so gutted by management trying to replicate American style network profits and returns that its become irrelevant. The country has too few people and too much geography for CTV to pretend it's ABC. The Canadian networks are just resellers. I think television programming should be left purely to market forces and come what may. But I believe, above all, the airwaves should finally be managed in the public interest, not the broadcasters. For too long the CRTC has structured regulation to favour the financial interests of the broadcasters and all TV viewers have gotten in return are big costs and little choice.

[Flag](#)

Like



[luke m](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

canadian culture is under attack here.we seen what u.s has done to our music and sport teams.beware we need culture and we need history and this needs to be known.canada is the ture north strong and free....

[Flag](#)

Like



[brentt](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

I have great concerns about signal substitution. It is not going smoothly. Canadian stations should only be permitted to benefit from signal substitution when their programming matches the US feeds exactly. This is rarely the case. With start and end times now quite frequent at :02 and :01 as well as :59, the Canadian programmers often do not track properly, leaving programs having suspenseful endings cut off with a loud pop 60 seconds before they were supposed to end. It is by far my most pressing annoyance.

I would do any legal thing to avoid having to watch a substituted program. Presently I often use the "time shift" western feeds for live sporting events on my East coast cable because the local stations have forgotten to claim substitution rights for the Seattle channels (and only filed to have their signals plopped over Boston). If this is not fixed to my satisfaction I would be receptive to any method to recover my right to see US programming direct. Canadians living along the US border can watch these channels directly with no government hand pushing them down. I claim the same right. If I am physically able to get the signal over the air on the Ku band, it should not be any different or less legal for me than it is for someone in Fort Erie, Ontario who watches Buffalo over the air on VHF with impunity.

A Canadian channel buying a program from a US network and "re-selling" it to me just creates an extra middle man, and does nothing productive for anyone. If Canadian channels offered more unique fare, and not just recycled and rebroadcast US programs, then it would be worthwhile. It CAN be done, with W5, Mosque, Comer Gas, Ron James, 5th Estate, Nature of Things, etc. It's just not being done enough.

[Flag](#)

Like



[Dick](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

No corporation should be allowed to operate across media. Such as Telephones,Cable,Cell Phones,Internet,Newspapers, Radio and Television. They should also not be allowed to have a monopoly across the country with the possible exception of the CBC which should be non profit and without advertising but as a public service. In addition any distribution of media that has been funded with taxpayers money should be retained as public infrastructure and any service should be allowed to distribute their programming with fees paid to the public corporation.

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

Agnes ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

I have yet to see an important point made on the local channels' argument that the cable companies are getting rich by providing their product for free. The local channel's product is not the shows they produce but the access to millions of viewers that they sell to their advertisers! By demanding to get paid they are in essence asking their shipping company to pay them for the privilege of delivering their product!

Their real problem seems to be that viewership is down and therefore they can't bring in the advertising dollars. However, making us (the viewers) pay more is a band-aid solution, as the real root cause is the changing way people consume entertainment: online, on demand, PVR's are all making old-fashioned TV watching obsolete. The networks need to either improve their product to make it a commodity that we want to consume so the advertiser's will again have access to the viewers, or consider new revenue streams!

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

Rob P ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

I am fed up when wanting to watch a US network program that is instead being hijacked by a local network, with their own ads. Sometimes, you miss out on part of the program because they cut into the broadcast with their own ads.

What we truly need is a full marketplace -- allow global communication companies the opportunity to compete to give Canadians real choice. There is no way that 2 or 3 companies should have a stranglehold on us. We are all tired of being gouged by high prices and poor programming choices.

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

john121212 ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

It's about time the CRTC is dissolved and Canadians find a group that will actually work for the people and not the big business monopolies!!

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

ErnieRichards ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

I agree with others that there should be NO blackouts allowed. If you are a broadcaster, you must broadcast.

I do not like the cable and satellite companies. I am also not a fan of local stations. I watch a lot of news and find the internet allows me to truly get news from around the world. What passes as news from the TV stations I can receive is very limited in actual content and global scope.

Give me real choice but I do not expect anything meaningful to come out of this CRTC exercise. Until Canadian Content regulations are removed and the cable/satellite companies are forced to offer what I want, I will watch zero tv and use the internet for my news and tv watching.

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

carriem ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

Both sides of the argument forget that almost everything is available for free on the internet, so making us pay for something that we don't want, or increasing an already ridiculous bill is driving away an already skeptical market. These guys need to grow up, get connected, and change their business models - because arguing about TV is like arguing about the best way to read

cuniform writing. Obsolescence is around the corner.

What they need to do is remember why people pay for cable, and figure out why cable is better than free internet and model their business accordingly. Cable used to be cheaper / more accessible / better quality. None of those items are true anymore.

Flag

Like



Justin ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

The very existence of the CRTC should be reconsidered!! We want more competition and better value for content, the CRTC is stopping this from happening by regulating Canadian content on us when we DO NOT WANT to watch what the old elites of Canadian broadcasters pump out and call "Canadian", it's crap. I want access to American signals and satellite providers. Stop trying to control our culture, let Canadians decide what we want to watch!!

The CRTC only reinforces sub-par content and high prices, so many other industries are forced to survive globally, so should television and cable. If you don't Canadians will simply bypass your narrow mindedness and get our content from the internet. Technology and a modernization of society has made you both ineffective and unwanted. It's time for you to go!!

Flag

Like



Drogen ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

As I Cannot add my voice to the other topics, Http server error?? I will add my thoughts for all here.

I want to be able to have local TV.

I want to have access to as many channels and providers as possible. \

I want to pay a fair and not gouged price like i'm paying now. 73.00 without movies for TV??? I can except that if I did not have all the commercials ..like XM/Sirus.

I am dissatisfied with Shaw after taking over from StarChoice as they have dumped kids channels and not added them like they said they Discovery Kids for one. I have and will cut my tv down to nothing but the basics as the 5000000 channels I get are 4999999 the same. We watch 5 channels that's it ..why do I have to pay for a package that I don't need?? TV sucks and when my kids have moved on their own..I will cancel and watch the Computer for info.

Flag

Like



normmagee ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

I am annoyed with the apparent permission that Canadian Cable companys have to raise residential cable fees whenever they like. It appears to me that Shaw Cable increases the rate to us at least twice per year. While the dollar amount of each raise might not be too significant, it becomes accumulatively significant over time, and is always significant as a percentage increase. It appears that cablevision is not subject to any true competition therefore may charge what it likes without any justification to the consumer whatsoever. It seems to me that residential clients should be able to enter a contract for a fixed period at a fixed price with cable providers, ie one year, three year, etc. I have heard that increases in cable fees in recent years were necessitated by the cost of the converison to a digital format. If that is true it is inappropriate without some input from consumers. It is ok to charge consumers more for a digital format they choose to switch to but not fair to charge those who remain on the old technology.

Flag

Like



PM ★ [1 month ago](#) [in reply to normmagee](#)

Yes, if the CRTC were a real regulator they would prevent these types of increases. Instead they've deregulated the industry and cable bills have increased 80 per cent in 8 years.

Flag

Like



Accessibility ★ 1 month ago 1 person liked this.

Your consultation YouTube welcome / introduction video, like the advertising for both pro- and anti- fee groups, HAS NO CAPTIONS.

This is outrageous, and completely contradicts the expressed wringing of hands over connecting with Canadians, the importance of local TV, and fairness.

Ten percent of people in Canada are deaf or hard of hearing. What is fair about excluding us? Broadcasters are not making themselves part of MY community.

You should be ashamed of yourselves, all of you.

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



consultationtelevision ★ 1 month ago in reply to Accessibility

Thanks for your concern, but I believe you will find it does have captions. All you need to do is turn them on. When you are playing the video. A small option on the lower right is available to turn them on. It is available on both the french and the english videos, and has been all along.

[Flag](#)

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J. & B. Todhunter ★ 1 month ago 1 person liked this.

We are incensed that Rogers Cable has already charged us the 1.5%LIPF fee on our latest bill which I grudgingly paid today Nov. 30th!! Why has this been allowed to happen? I understand that this issue has not been settled yet. When I contacted Rogers, I was told that this fee was already approved by the CRTC. What gives??? We are going to cancel our cable and revert to other means to receive our television entertainment. To hell with Rogers Cable!!!

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



PM ★ 1 month ago in reply to J. & B. Todhunter

It happened because the CRTC naively belived the cable companies would absorb the costs themselves and not pass them on to you. That's why if they approve fee for carriage they will have to make it illegal for cable companies to raise their rates --- again!!!

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



Paul ★ 1 month ago 1 person liked this.

Ditch the Canadian content restrictions on stations. They don't do anything but restrict the ability of Canadian stations to compete in the market.

If the market were open then this whole issue would not have arisen. The local stations would be competing with the US stations directly for air time within Canada. If they had some good programming they they would survive, if not then nobody will miss them.

Open up the broadcasting market. There is no real competition in the Canadian market and as a result we pay more for service. While your at it start treating all communications broadcasters equally; it no longer matters what medium they use to broadcast (TV, phone line, satellite), if they broadcast they should come under the same rules. Force broadcasters to open up their networks to encourage competition. The Canadian taxpayers paid for the majority of those networks anyway.

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



jk sliter ★ 1 month ago 1 person liked this.

Both the cable and TV industries are obsolete. Frankly, so is the CRTC,

Content producers can post online. I already pay Cogeco for internet pipe to my home. I'm paying Cogeco again for a dedicated pipe to bring tv signals.

I don't really need the CRTC, TV stations that broadcast, nor the cable industry

I certainly do not want to pay more

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



[ernestprice](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) 1 person liked this.

With respect, the CRTC is an outdated entity; it fails to serve the best interests of the consumer and or, the Telecommunications industry in Canada.

Decisions taken by the CRTC to delineate Policy, Regulation, and shift accountability and transparency in the Telecommunications industry sectors; Cable, Wireless, Satellite, and Telcos serves neither the interests of the consumer and or the industry. The CRTC has been sitting on the sidelines while the Telecommunications industry technology has grown significantly in North America and around the world; and have allowed the Cable Co's to sit on old technology, and gouge the consumers. Take a trip to Europe, you will see what Telecommunications technology is all about, and they are not operating with technology 20 -25 years old.

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



[Lori McGibbon](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) in reply to [ernestprice](#)

Right now the CRTC is afraid of the government which is afraid of the cable companies who are threatening to hike cable rates. There has never been a government reversal of a CRTC decision on broadcasting, but if the CRTC allows a fee for carriage then this government will set a precedent and reverse it.

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



[Alex Levine](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

We need more Canadian created content, specifically drama and comedy. Why are we protecting broadcasters and cable providers, effectively giving them the right to make billions of dollars off of Canadian consumers, when they only want to air and broadcast American programs. Why are we allowing these corporations to mortgage Canada's cultural identity?

It is imperative that the Canadian Government properly govern both cable providers and television networks in a way that does not gouge the consumer and protects Canadian creative voices.

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



[PM](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) in reply to [Alex Levine](#)

This government is buddies with the cable companies. That's why they will overturn any CRTC ruling not favourable to cable companies.

[Flag](#)

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[Neil Rowe](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

When I first purchased Bell Satellite tv I was impressed with a total news channel with no commercials. That soon changed, the "news" channels are mostly garbage. Very little "news" a lot of hollywood glamor, entertainment crap. this is interspersed with news oddities, or "human" interest stories. Please, please make the news channels, broadcast news. There is a lot going on in the world and our national, "Canadian" news channels hardly touch on any of these issues. Another point is the CRTC gave licences to certain channels to broadcast a narrow range of

programming. This has gone by the wayside, as many of these specialty channels are now broadcasting movies, which were not in their mandate. I subscribed to these channels for what they originally offered not them skirting their broadcasting rights.

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[Doft F](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

This is such a complex issue.. with factors that just can't be distilled into a sentence or two (imposed regulations etc). To get the full picture, the average person would have to digest thousands of pages of information.. and of course they just won't. This is exactly why we have the CRTC. To have engaged, informed people acting on our behalf. This may sound undemocratic, but this whole process of "public consultation" seems ridiculous. There's so much rhetoric, misinformation, and fear mongering out in the public (thanks to the ad campaigns) that there's no way to get a true picture of where people stand. The commision needs to take the policits out of it, make the tough decisions that will serve THE PEOPLE best.

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

Sadly, the Commission is under the firm control of the industry lobbyists, not the public.

If you are looking for someone to act "on your behalf", look elsewhere.

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[PM](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) [in reply to Doft F](#)

I'll make clear for you. In the U.S cable companies pay for local TV signals. In Canada they don't. In Canada the cable companies bill you for the local signals in the basic package. The TV broadcasters want some of that money. The cable companies say no and if the CRTC forces them to pay up they will raise your cable bill to offset the costs on top of already billing you already.

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[Jim](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

Broadcast flags to stop recording via a DVR. I view personnel recording of any TV program on a Digital Video Record (DVR) as fair usage and that right should be enshrined.

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[Like](#)



[pierre6607](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

I do not watch local television. I get the newspaper for my news, I also surf the internet. The television news shows are boring and the broadcasters are terrible and boarder unprofessional at times. As for the other programing, I either watch it on other television stations, if the show interests me. In fact I cannot remember the last time I've watched a local stations. As a consumer I am NOT willing to pay for the type of local broadcasting that I get. I recognize that some people really rely on the local stations for their news and viewing pleasure. Would the cable/satalite/local stations agree to make local T.V an option and add it to a bundle?

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[Rick Lam](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

Rogers cable for home phone is the only choice I have in my new house. I've tried asking Bell to provide service for land line but they say I need to take the issue up with the builder and the current provider (Rogers). And they obviously won't do anything for me. It does not seem fair that I don't have a choice on whether my internet is DSL or cable or if my phone is land line or

cable voip. I wish I had a choice. Thanks.

Flag

Like



Bill MacGregor ★ 1 month ago

No

Flag

Like



Dan_H333 ★ 1 month ago

There needs to be either a reduction of the Canadian Content rules on digital specialty channels and/or an increase in feeds. If the two sides cannot agree then the market needs to be forced open to allow for satellite and other alternative providers. If these companies still want their near monopolies and their signal overrides they had better sort this out without burdening the consumer with additional costs. Otherwise we as consumers should have the right to alternatives.

Flag

Like



R H ★ 1 month ago

TV seems to form a part of our culture. Any initiative that can spread the highest quality, most consistent programming to ALL people in Canada can increase our feeling of a national culture.

Flag

Like



danny taylor ★ 1 month ago

I would like to say that we the public pay more then we should have to pay for cable and we should pay for what channels we want and have a choice not for what the cable provider decides as packages. The cable company should not be allowed to charge 100 % of every extra cost to it's customers and the channel providers should work out something fair and equitable with cable without any extra cost burdened by the public. Enough is enough!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Flag

Like



marc in calgary ★ 1 month ago

I think the Tv producing companies, should pay the cable companies for transmitting their garbage into homes. I disagree in all ways possible, that this cost should be passed onto Tv viewers. I think Fox Programming should be allowed in Canada without delay. I think I should be paid directly for watching any CBC programming. This includes Hockey Night in Canada. I don't need my Tv watching governed by what your organization thinks is good for me. I like freedom.

Flag

Like



Darryl Maxwell ★ 1 month ago

Market should be able to decide what content should be. If the CRTC ; cable companies and local TV are going to continue to hold us at ransom we will continue to pay more and get less than what other Western nations have available. We have not been vocal enough over the profits of both cable and local TV but then thanks to the CRTC are choice is limited

Flag

Like



Colin Bisset ★ 1 month ago

It might help if we were clearer on who does what and how it's paid for.

Cable/satellite TV and broadband internet are "pipe" services. They should be regulated as utilities. I'd be happy to pay a fee to access the pipe (for maintenance and expansion of the pipe and a reasonable return on investment), and I'd be happier still if I had a wider choice of which pipe provider to pay (monopolies are always bad for the consumer).

Networks are essentially distributors/retailers. If they just woke up and realized that, everyone would be much happier. Anyway, I'd like to be able to choose to buy from a distributor or not, depending on the quality of the offering. The CRTC should get out of the way of this transaction. I do not believe that I have a duty as a Canadian to support crap, and I don't believe the CRTC is helping development of Canadian content by forcing me to pay for it. If the competition is open and fair, quality Canadian content (like the unfathomably cancelled 'Intelligence') will flourish.

Production of programming is a different service altogether -- it's the creative part of the business. Producers should think about waking up too. They don't have to sell their creations to a distributor, although there will probably continue to be benefits in doing so. They can sell it directly to me, or they should be able to if they want to. Again, if they want to sell and I want to buy, I see no role for the CRTC in the middle.

It may work out that a package of productions (a "channel") offered by a distributor is the best buy for me, in which case I want to be able to pay for that, and only that. It may be that buying a single show or series from a producer is best. In the ideal world, I can buy whatever programming I want from whoever owns the rights. Why the CRTC would get in the way of that ideal world becoming the real world isn't clear to me. The argument that Canadian producers would be harmed is spurious at best. I can assure the CRTC that there is and always will be a market for quality Canadian programming. If it speaks to us, we'll buy it.

Flag

Like



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2moore ★ 1 month ago

cable/satellite carriers should be more restricted on paying for foreign content

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[Like](#)



Pete Kellond ★ 1 month ago

I did not ask for the CRTC, I did not vote for the CRTC, so why is the CRTC involved. The whole purpose of CableVision was to get a clear signal from the TV Station and they were just delighted that their "Cable" signal now reached several times the area that the antenna reached. I paid the Cable Company the money I agreed was worth this nice clear signal. Now, many years down the road, the "I want to be a TV Station" clients came along and talked the Cable company into adding their TV signal to the list of products, and, they jacked up the price for many items I did not want. BUT, the stuck into the list a station or a couple of stations that I did so I had to purchase them.

Now, the TV Companies want more money because the Cable Company is making a profit and the TV Company isn't.

I have paid enough; I will not pay an additional dime to the TV stations nor to the Cable Company.

I will cancel unless I can choose the channels I wish to pay for individually, I will not need the French network, I will not need much of the speciality channels, perhaps just 20 so I can see what I want, not what you want.

I can always go back to the TV Arial.

[Flag](#)

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russellsawatsky ★ 1 month ago

The broadcast networks (Global, CTV, CBC, etc.) may have some management issues, but for cable and satellite companies to have free access to their signals and make a profit on that free access is fundamentally unfair. Something needs to be done to rectify this inequity. If Rogers, or whoever, charges more as a result, it may mean customers will be less willing to upgrade their packages, which would ultimately lead to a change in the economic equation. Rogers, Shaw, Bell, etc., will adapt. They are much worse and unjustified whiners than the broadcast networks. And I own shares in one of the cable companies!

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douglasrswanson ★ 1 month ago

Dear Sir or Madame:

With regards to the ongoing feud between canadian broadcasters & cable/satellite providers, this is what I have ascertained about the disagreement:

1: The broadcasters' current situation is not the result of the cable/satellite providers not paying for the use of the broadcasters's signals. Rather it is the result of the broadcasters, specifically the parent companies of the broadcasters, debt position. The parent companies took on unsustainable debt to purchase the local stations over the past year and the consolidation of the broadcasters from several smaller companies with low debt loads to basically 2 large companies with large debts. This occurred as a result of the CRTC permitting the consolidation of the broadcasters. The debt load has made it hard for the parent companies to meet the debt obligations. Advertising revenues are down due to the global recession. In the Canadian market, the broadcasters, through the services providers block US TV signals and replace it with the Canadian version with Canadian advertisements.

2: The CRTC and by extension the Government of Canada has permitted or allowed the cable/satellite companies establish regional monopolies for their service. Canadians are left with little or no competition for cable/satellite service. Western Canada is dominated by Shaw, while Ontario is dominated by Rogers, with Quebec by Videotron and the Atlantic by Cogeco. There are two satellite providers, Star Choice & Bell. One owned by Shaw the other the parent of one of the Broadcasters, CTV. There is nothing in the way of competition therefore. These providers charge whatever they wish and raise the fees whenever they wish.

3: The only party to this whole farce that will lose will be the Canadian viewing public. Either way

the CRTC will rule in favour of one party or the other and the consumer will be the one that pays. There is no way that the service providers will permit their profits to shrink and will pass the cost on to the consumer.

It is my beleif that the Canadian Government and by extension the CRTC has a responsibility to properly regulate the broadcast industry, both from the broadcasters perspective and the service providers' perspective. The CRTC has permitted the setting up of monopolies, contrary to established Canadian laws.

Either the CRTC regulates the Cable/Satellite rates down or require the providers to permit the consumer to pick and choose and pay for those broadcasters which they choose to watch and support.

[Flag](#)

Like



Adam ★ [1 month ago](#)

Cable Companies, Broadcasting Networks?

My computer is hooked up to my TV . . . I haven't had 'traditional' TV in 3 years. Everything I watch comes through the Internet.

I get to watch what I want, when I want to. If it's blocked, I'll just find it on Torrents or some other P2P sharing platform.

[Flag](#)

Like



Wendi ★ [1 month ago](#)

One of the main problems with these "ads" that both sides are running are not only ruthless but propoganda in nature. I enjoy all that my digital cable has to offer and as far as I can tell, when I turn on CTV or Global, we ultimately see US programming anyways .. so, how is that in anyway "saving local television". Perhaps it should really say "saving local station jobs and security". There is so much misinformation on both sides of the spectrum that I think most Canadians are simply tuning out these ads and simply flipping to American channels in an attempt to be rid of the propoganda. I agree with many commentators that we should have access to all internet television stations, all Direct-TV stations, etc. and not cut us out due to our geographic location. Stop bickering and look to resolving how both sides can work together to provide the BEST of television viewing we deserve to have based on what we pay for it anyways. I don't mind paying more if I'm getting more bang for my buck!

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mikethomlinson ★ [1 month ago](#)

This issue is essentially one of fair-play. Conventional broadcasters would have us believe they are being taken advantage of, because they provide their signal for free to cable companies. This is not the case. Conventional broadcasters have FORCED cable companies to carry their signal, and now they want to FORCE them to pay for it.

This is not fair-play in my book.

TV stations are trying to have their cake and eat it too. If they want to charge cable companies for their signal then allow cable to bundle those channels into subscription packages so that consumers can chose to pay for them or not.

I refuse to be forced to pay for local TV which I do not and will not watch. My local news comes from the internet and print media. What's next - will the Calgary Herald be able to force me into a subscription??

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coling ★ [1 month ago](#)

Until the CBC and the other commercial networks limit their ratio of advertising to programme, I will continue to watch the Knowledge Network, PBS, and the BBC world news. Why would I want to pay more to the networks simply to watch more and more advertising? Also why would the CBC and the networks put commercials during a news broadcast that is usually reporting on serious issues?

Flag

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James Staples ★ [1 month ago](#)

If the major networks insist in imposing blackouts on us signals then most Canadians will simply go to over the air signals and watch the US signal. Most of the population in Canada's 3 largest markets can receive US signals over the air for free.

Flag

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gavrielsierra ★ [1 month ago](#)

End the over regulation, allow all of the local stations to amalgamate and take on the big guys. Local tv- stand up and fight for yourself.

Big brother- keep watching and stay out of it, you guys are hurting the Canadian consumer enough

Flag

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Kenneth Mulders ★ [1 month ago](#)

In this transition to all-digital services, the broadcasters, cable/satellite carriers, and the CRTC need to think bigger and further ahead. There needs to be high-quality, attractive Canadian content that Canadians would pay to select and access over the internet, but should be available free (through sponsors): e.g., The Tudors, Olympics, Hockey Night in Canada, Cirque de Soleil. Rebroadcasting won't cut it anymore because Canadians will just go around you for their HD episodes of CSI or Top Gear.

P.S.: The fact that Canadians had to have extra-cost digital specialty channels to get access to both the Vanier and Grey Cup games this past weekend was a crime.

Flag

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Earl2002 ★ [1 month ago](#)

Throttling on the internet should be forbidden. Open up competition between cable companies in each other's turf. When new areas are opened to cable, grant a 10 year exclusive license, then allow full competition. Cell phone service should be open to anyone who can buy a licence (scrap the Canadian ownership rules or greatly modify them). Globe Alive is trying to offer Canadians competition while the established players, Rogers, Bell and Telus are hiding behind outdated foreign ownership rules in order to protect their bloated charges! If the desire is to protect Canadian jobs require that all functions associated with the servicing of customers accounts be located in Canada. That would stop Canadian and foreign companies from charging bloated rates for service and then sending Canadian jobs overseas. That should stop. There's something for the CRTC to regulate. Competition is desperately needed in Canada!

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jw ★ [1 month ago](#)

We don't need big brother telling us what can or cannot watch. Shut CRTC down.

Flag

Like



alicja ★ [1 month ago](#)

Supply and demand should be the only rule...open the market. Let us watch what we want and

pay for the same. And abolish antiquated CRTC we do not need any more someone telling us what content is good for us .

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[jwallac2](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

The carrier fee issue has been spun from cable companies paying for their free content, into a debate on additional consumer fees for Canadian broadcasters. Carrier fees are a GOOD idea; but only if the cable companies are actually paying it. That they can even threaten to pass the buck on to their consumers is a sad illustration of the monopolistic behaviour these companies display in every division of their business (i.e. wireless, internet, television, telephone)

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[Pat Hollett](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

The Canadian television industry is trying to raise rates under a tax that doesn't take into account one major item. Without the added audience the cable and dish companies allow to view these network's programs, the less the networks would be able to charge for their advertising. The networks are already benefiting from the cable companies audience and now they want to increase that amount. Don't allow the networks to double dip!

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[ed magee](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

Hands in my pocket.

Why is it that everytime a service provider make changes to "serve me better" it means paying more?

Why does the cable company charge me for having having more than 2 cable outlets in my residence?. They did not install the outlets, they did not run the cable. The added signal load does not justify the added cost.

Bell & Rogers. Do you really need 4 pages to print a monthly bill? There is a lot of empty white space on those bills. Save a tree, Save a dollar.

Deregulate the industry. Competition = better service, better choice, better prices.

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[John](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

I do not envy the CRTC trying to sort this out... but you reap what you sow and much of the blame is at the CRTC's feet.

You can't blame business owners from wanting to make more money.

Networks that only rebroadcast U.S. programming are of no value any more. Here's a flash... thanks to all the nifty new technology, Canadians can see U.S. programming from U.S. stations now. At least for the last 15 to 20 years. Yes I know they do other things but they don't want to... they just do it to keep a licence. With no U.S. programming to fall back on, the Canadian Networks would either fail and go out of business like the buggy whip manufactures of the 19th century did, or they would produce Canadian programs that people will watch. Much like Australian TV does! The Canadian content rules are not effective. They are written off as a cost of doing business. How about a weekly maximum of 5 hours U.S. content? Or perhaps 10-15 hours foreign content, but no more than 5 from any one country?

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Ian Liberman ★ [1 month ago](#)

Lets stop allowing poor versions of specialty channels . Syfy is superior to Space and in HD while Comedy Central programming outshines Comedy Network etc. We allow inferior stations because they are Canadian. We allow The Return of the Mummy movie starring the Rock on the History channel. We do not give a crap about our programming. Know wonder there is a Grey Market.

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Like



kirk ★ [1 month ago](#)

You said it yourself, change is in the air. Get over the Canadian content protectionism. I have been personally angry with the CRTC for years. Move into the 21st century.

[Flag](#)

Like



W.L.Graham ★ [1 month ago](#)

The Cable/Satellite BDU's have been hamstrung by CRTC regulation and the oligopoly of our networks. BDU's cannot offer al la carte selections. Often they must accept other channels owned and operate by CTV/Global, if they only want to carry one. This is forcing a lot of consumers to download programming from the internet. The CRTC must open programming to competition, otherwise in the long run, we will have little choice at an unacceptably high cost.

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Like



Brad Borbridge ★ [1 month ago](#)

Both the Broadcasters and the Networks make millions of dollars in this regulated environment. If this regulation does nothing to maintain the Broadcast act's main principal that the airwaves belong to Canadians and are there for Canadians to tell stories to other Canadians...then what is the point of regulation?

We need more Canadian content, local and otherwise, and those that make money using the public airwaves should shoulder some of the cost. Otherwise, remove their protected and guaranteed revenue stream and open it up. De-regulate, and watch the Americans come in here and eat them up.

Unfortunately, this would also result in the loss of hundreds of millions of dollars in tax revenue generated by the hard working Canadian producers, actors, writers, directors, gaffers, grips, best boys etc and etc...that are existing now on the crumbs of an indigenous film and TV industry.

The CRTC needs to step up and start looking after the Broadcast Act and the millions of Canadians that consume Canadian Film and TV. The CRTC needs to do this so it can survive, because right now it looks like they can't decide weather to pander to the broadcasters or the networks. Right now, the CRTC looks like a bunch of foxes running the hen house.

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Like



angela adams ★ [1 month ago](#)

I am irritated by the fact that there are programs including what is on the internet that I am unable to access because I am a Canadian. The CRTC should get out of playing big brother by deciding what I can or cannot watch, and this includes the internet. IF people want programming and are willing to pay for it so be it. A fair bit of Canadian programming is quite good but some is terrible and a total waste of time. Bottom line, people should be able to choose what they want, pay for it and be done with it. All the extra garbage that they are not interested in can be paid for by those who want it....and there should be NO restrictions to accessing videos, shows etc. via internet. Just because I am a Canadian doesnt mean I shouldnt be able to watch what I want, and I AM NOT referring to anything illegal, pornographic or obscene.

[Flag](#)

Like*rickrowe* ★ 1 month ago

We pay too much and the CRTC does a poor job protecting the consumer. the crtc has lined the pockets of cable companies for too long and dictated and propped up lousy specialty channels that would fail if they had to rely on viewership/advertising.

[Flag](#)Like*Adamg* ★ 1 month ago

Im one of the individuals that has signed a petition asking that the CRTC gets dissolved as noted @ <http://www.dissolvethetrctc.com>.

Time and again Ive watched while the crtc has been manipulated by the various large media companies in canada. Right now Canadians pay more than almost every first world country for wireless, more for cable and more for internet.

This is yet another example. I would be very shocked if in the next 6 months we dont see yet another rate increase on cable because the crtc gives it to the broadcasters.

[Flag](#)Like*Michael* ★ 1 month ago

I think that the CRTC needs to understand that if Canadian content has value for Canadians, then these stations should be able to make a go of it all on their own. If through incompetence, stupidity, or a genuine lack of interest in the product they are spewing causes them to fail, then so be it! That is business! If somebody is selling something nobody wants, why would you want them to stay in business? If they ARE selling something people want, then people would be willing to pay for it and so they should be able to make it work. Either way, let the invisible hand take care of it.

[Flag](#)Like*DAN* ★ 1 month ago

have stations be independantly owned and not by the networks. CTV owns too many conventional stations. it's costly. the stations could still broadcast the network feed of CTV or 'A' and have cost efficiency. it seems to work for corus and astral as seen in the hearings last week. Why not the rest of the country?

[Flag](#)Like*josie erent* ★ 1 month ago

The issue of Bureacratic interference by the CRTC telling me and other Canadians that you cannot control cable and cellular phone rates....but have to ram Canadian Content down our throats....Stop forcing us to watch and support Canadian local Crap....You are the problem and definitely not part of the solution. Canadians pay the highest cable and cellular phone rates in the world. We have the slowest internet services in the World thanks to oligopolies...who do not believe in competition or great service but endorse price gauging...This who discussion has made people very angry because you the CRTC continue to be part of the Problem.

[Flag](#)Like*terryr305* ★ 1 month ago

I support giving access to content from around the world. We must take more of a world view rather than a Canadian view and certainly we should no longer restrict ourselves only to the local. We must learn to view things differently than we have in the past if we are to be

successful in world markets. There are examples of Canadian companies doing very well in world markets. If present CanadianTV stations and present Canadian Cable/Satellite providers cannot deliver at a reasonable price then give us access to those that can. Perhaps if they had to compete for our business with other companies especially those in the US that deliver much the same programs and do it at a better price then so be it.

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)

 [dave__k](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

Why are Cable companies allowed to encrypt Digital feeds that we should be getting as part of our basic cable feeds, since they only offer digital cable baseline now, in order to force their digital converters on us instead of letting us use the digital tuners in our TV's which are entirely capable of picking up the signals otherwise?

Put an end to this practice.

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)

 [josie erent](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

Get rid of the CRTC run by appointed government bureaucrats who get paid to nothing but make Canadian angry by ramming Canadian Content down our throats...Useless government bureaucracy that endorses price gauging by service providers - cable, television, cellular etc....and then states they cannot do anything to control consumer price gauging...

[Flag](#)

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 [Bob](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

I guess the CRTC doesn't make enough money to solve these issues... they can be bothered, so they ask us what they should do. Like we really have any saying on this!!!

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)

 [sharon0806](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

YES! Total elimination of Pay Per View this day and age, you should not have to pay extra to watch what's available.

Thank-you!

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)

 [Don](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

It is far past the time for the CRTC to listen to consumers and make effective the choices that consumers want. The consumers' voices have been overridden by business and political interests to date. If consumer interests are not fulfilled then television will itself die. Television is in the critical care unit now. Once the consumer stops their television addiction, they will not return.

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 [peter_a](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

I have a serious issue with the broadcasters demanding more money, which would ultimately come from the end user. Their revenue should be based on the sale of advertising time. The price of advertising time is based on the number of people viewing their signal in key demographic groups. They already have their signal available to be viewed by numbers greater than the market the signal originates from without extra cost. If the networks can not be viable with their revenue stream as it is, it makes no sense to continue pouring money to a losing

cause.

I already have to pay for a basic programming package that includes many channels that I rarely, if ever, watch. I do not think that it is in the interest of fairness that the consumer would be responsible for paying for some of these signals three times (tax subsidies, basic subscription and carriage fees).

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Don ★ [1 month ago](#)

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Patrick Mallette ★ [1 month ago](#)

Other issues that should be considered are the removal of requirements for Canadian content, the removal of channel bundling, the removal of Cable monopolies, and the removal of bundling cable, phone and internet without having to pay increased fees if you don't have all three.

If Canadian producers can't make products that are good enough to survive on their own merit why should I be forced to support them; make them change not us.

The cable monopolies have helped embolden the likes of companies like Rogers to jack up their prices every year with little or new added benefit. In Japan I could get 100MB internet service with no monthly byte capacities for less than I pay for 10MB service that is capped and throttled to hell. In Ontario, I get to choose between Rogers and Bell for all my TV, phone and internet services. I'm ignoring the other companies because they all get their service from Bell or Rogers. (So they have all the same network rules or worse forced upon them.) If I ditch a service from Rogers to go with a cheaper one elsewhere I end up paying more because Rogers charges an additional \$10 if you don't have cable through them directly.

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Like



MD ★ [1 month ago](#)

I don't wish to be cruel, but given the nature of what is available on the "specialty" cable channels, I sometimes wonder if anyone at the CRTC ever watches any television. Why would the CRTC allow channels to exist that repeatedly rebroadcast the same poor content twice a day? See CMT if anyone is in doubt.

[Flag](#)

Like



blackbane ★ [1 month ago](#)

I want to see just one thing. I want to be able to go to a cable provider and get 1 channel. That's it JUST ONE CHANNEL. then i will know that cable is truly free and choice is truly available. I should be able to pay to get one single TV station if i want it.

[Flag](#)

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Ppaatt ★ [1 month ago](#)

It's time to get rid of signal substitution. It's viewer-unfriendly and Canadian-content unfriendly. The networks are so concerned about synching their imported shows with the U.S. networks that Canadian shows get bumped to less favourable time slots or just bumped around from week to

week. If viewers want to watch shows on U.S. channels, they should have that choice. Canadian channels will just have to work harder to keep their viewers.

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peekabo0 ★ [1 month ago](#)

Give Canadians more options for TV services. Currently where I live I have ONE BDU that I can subscribe to. Since I am in a condo, I am prohibited for even trying to use DTH or an outdoor antenna. In the US the FCC mandates that ALL citizens no matter where they live can use DTH or antenna as long as it is less than 1m in diameter, and yes they can use them in condos! Oh well I'll use my "illegal" outdoor antenna for now, until this country wakes up and creates competition among cable providers.

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johnmilic ★ [1 month ago](#)

I agree with statements that foreign systems should be allowed.. Direct TV and choices like that, are much cheaper, content that is more enjoyed by Canadians, and better choice of channels and subscriptions. I don't see why these huge companies keep crying for money, and keep increasing the costs to the consumers for something they don't want. There is not enough competition in the market, and consumers are forced to pay huge costs for inferior service, to monopolies. The system is just not working, and the only way to properly fix the issue is to allow more competition. And if Canadians end up choosing to pay lower fees to have Television without local content, doesn't that explain the whole argument. I am not against local content, but increasing costs to an already broken system, will not alleviate the problem, but just make it worse.

Another issue I have is on the digital boxes and such. The cable / satellite companies, charge 20 dollars a month for a HDTV PVR receiver. The same can be bought for about 800 dollars the last time I checked. The same receiver can be bought for 250.00 Dollars retail, but is not available to the people. If it is the CRTC's mandate to move to digital cable, shouldn't it be done by not having providers charge 4x more for an item than it should be retail. Why are these units not sold at retail outlets not through the providers. The providers make it difficult for users to get their own receivers, thus causing the majority of people to buy or rent off them.

Another is the CBC.. That is another outdated model that Canadians shouldn't be forced to pay to support. And then the CBC just competes against the other Canadian networks to drive up prices of the content.

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geminimichael ★ [1 month ago](#)

Maybe it is time to say goodbye to the CRTC.

Actually that's a bit harsh. Perhaps it is time to change the CRTC's mandate.

The CRTC should not concern itself with issues like "local content" or even "Canadian content". Let Canadians watch what they want to watch.

My guess local television would disappear. The Canadian networks would be "superchannels" I

don't think anyone would notice.

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[garfmarf](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

I think the CRTC needs to let the broader public know about these feedback options although there is no doubt the views expressed on all your sites here are quite consistent and have common themes: channel choice- reasonable prices-open competition-limited interference by the CRTC and some appetite for more open markets. It is also clear that forcing people to watch so called "Canadian content". is not popular and has not worked to enlist support for the industry. We have proven that we can produce popular shows but just pumping money into the system to make shows that are Canadian that few people watch or care about is not sustainable.

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[Gary Stoutenburg](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

If local programming is to succeed then the industry will have to make it worthwhile to watch. No amount of taxpayer funding will help. Much like the wine and grape industry cried when NAFTA came along, but look at what they've accomplished. They are thriving better than ever because of innovation. Make the local broadcaster's innovate and not salivate at the prospect of forcing money from consumers.

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[Mitch](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

PVR/DVR Why cant i buy a PVR from someone like Sony or Toshiba or any other private company like i used to be able to buy a VCR from whomever i chose in an open market.... Now, Shaw forces us to buy only their equipment(insanely overpriced), because they are allowed by the CRTC to hold consumers hostage. Stop allowing them to encrypt their signals and open the market to true competition!! But who am i kidding, the CRTC wont do anything for the people, they are lobbied too hard by big business.....

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[Paul in Ottawa](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

I am positive that even if the networks get money from the public through the cable providers they will still be closing local TV stations. Since the sale of City TV and others to players like CTV the level of competition has disappeared and so has the local flavor for locally produced shows. For example in Ottawa CTV who owns A Channel cancelled the evening news on A. Local news broadcasts drive the advertising dollars of local businesses more than any other programing. CTV did this so that they didn't have any competition for the CTV news which in comparison to the local content and on air personalities of A channel can't even be compared. The TV networks have to look at themselves and the business models they are using because the cable networks if forced to have consumers pay more will be quicker to adapt since the public will have options (Bell, Shaw, Rogers etc) for service and different more competitive packages to choose from that will most likely not include all the CBC, CTV and Global stations we currently get as standard.

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[Dvaid Harris](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

I think an issue being almost completely ignored by the CRTC is the near-oligopoly of the media delivery and Internet access markets. With Rogers expanded into content creation as well as media delivery, I think there is a huge policy gap that our government and elected representatives are failing to address.

I truly believe that carriage issues dealing with local TV would be far less problematic if it weren't

for this content-delivery oligopoly and the behaviour of those oligarchs in doing everything they can to pinch every penny from everybody around them (as destructive to themselves and, most importantly, society and its citizenry as that is).

Thanks,

Dave

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[Larry Buss](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

I write today just to express my complete opposition to the so called "TV Tax" otherwise known as "fee for carriage". To my thinking, this whole spectacle is nothing more than "piling on" during difficult economic times, and the very idea this merits any consideration whatsoever is objectionable to say the least and suspicious to say the most.

From this perspective as an interested onlooker, there is an appearance of impropriety, during a time in which ordinary people are struggling to stay above water,

The CBC is a crown corporation and, as such, is already subsidized by taxpayers.

The defacto owners of the CTV network were recently acknowledged as being among Canada's wealthiest families.

Noted in that same survey of Canada's wealthiest families, the owners of the Global network.

Upon contacting the MP for this area, I am told by the MP that he has "no direct input or vote in the matter of fee-for-carriage", that Heritage Minister James Moore issued a directive to the CRTC (under Section 15), asking them to take into account consumers' views in their upcoming review and that the CRTC revisit the terms and conditions of the Local Programming Improvement Fund as part of a public hearing in November.

The Heritage Minister ASKED the CRTC to REVISIT and continue its review of the matter

Review of what matter.... whether or not to kick the taxpayer on behalf of the wealthy.

Asked.....clearly, this Heritage Minister is not in charge and seemingly has no control of the CRTC whatsoever ?

Revisit.... this suggests the decision has already been made, and submit to you that this Conservative Government has not put consumers first when making this decision.

As mentioned previous, this looks improper, and just as the GST years ago, we can only hope Canadian taxpayers recognize this as the sort of issue which may be reflected at the polls come next election.

As trustees of the public, this government ought not to be in the business of providing funding to wealthy friends with political connections. It appears wrong !

It's as simple as that.

Those which cannot, will not, or are otherwise unable to see this...well that's cause for concern.

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[Paul](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

As far as i'm concerned the "TV" market should be wide open. Let the consumers decide what they want to watch (and pay for). The CRTC has been imposing these archaic "Canadian Content" rules for way too long. If a free market existed there would be more competition and lower prices for consumers. If Canadian programming is not being watched then oh darn, make better programming.

Having said that, as a satellite subscriber, I am paying for "local programming". How much of that is transferred to the local broadcasters? Bell has already said "we will have to pass this on to our customers" so again the consumers get screwed. I have seen my bill increase by almost two thirds in 8 years. There has to be a point at which we say "enough" and start regulating prices. Of this regulated price, "a portion" should go the local stations based on what content is provided.

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[alanpater](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

I read in the G&M that "cable and satellite firms say the fees would lead to bigger bills for

subscribers because the new costs would be passed on to consumers. They have branded fee for carriage as a "TV tax" that could cost each subscriber up to an extra \$10 a month."

If true, this indicates a rather extreme failure of the market system. Either the firms involved are acting in collusion, or they have a monopoly in their market. In either case, it is an indication that something more extreme needs to happen.

Cable and satellite TV are not such sacred services that they need to be granted a government monopoly. Canadians are free to use or not use these services as they see fit. Let the firms compete and see which ones can find ways to absorb the fees while keeping their customers happy.

However, if they are in collusion, we are better served shutting them down and letting new, honest firms fill the gap. That is how a market economy is supposed to work.

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[Gertrude Weatherspoon](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

Why pay more for stations that air all American content???

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[John Wesley Chisholm](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

Co-ordinate... get Canadian TV talking to radio and using Canadian music, Canadian Ideas and Canadian Talent and give them the tools to tell us about the world, not just about "who we are" and "our Stories" like CBC always says, but give us a look at the whole world that fascinates us and defines us and entertains us from our point of view.

Give us access to information how we want it, when we want it, where we want it.

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[Matt](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

The real problem I have with the proposed TV tax is that the Broadcasters made some poor decisions in a time of prosperity and now they are paying for it. If they were given a TV tax we would then be putting our cash in the hands of a private company. I'm not completely opposed to that since they are the stations that have a large portion of Canadian content. But only in a recession period.

When these companies get out of trouble and the advertising dollars come back and they're the ones with huge profit again then why should we continue lining their pockets with pure profit tax dollars.

I'm worried that if we start paying them we won't be able to stop when they don't need the help.

Canadian Broadcasters need some restructuring in order to better themselves. If we help them out then they just continue to make poor decisions and waste our money.

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[Matt](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

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Ron D ★ [1 month ago](#)

The CRTC has to realize it is almost 2010 and adapt to the times. The rules established and that they have been enforcing for decades need to be rewritten to address current realities. It is not looking out for Canadians to make them pay for channels they do not want and do not watch. We are more than capable of making those decisions ourselves. The same goes for mandating a certain percentage or hours of Canadian programming. How many Canadians watch so called "Canadian shows"? Who can even tell what is a Canadian show anyway? The only exception to this in my mind is local news. But even this is being manipulated. Do we really need local news from 4:00pm to 7:00pm, just so stations can meet their Canadian content quotas? News is considered "original programming"??

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melsey ★ [1 month ago](#)

Do not feel the consumer should be forced to pay for local programming period!

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[Like](#)



Ron D ★ [1 month ago](#)

This comment is directed at both the cable companies and broadcasters - if you continue to drag Canadian consumers into your battle with each other, you will both lose. This is your issue - resolve it, because if we have to get dragged unwillingly into your fight, the end result is that you will both lose customers. We don't mind paying a fair amount for your services but we shouldn't have to pay more because of the bad business decisions you have made. The reality is that you are partners and need each other in your respective business models. Work something out that is fair to all parties, especially consumers. We already pay enough for your respective services and shouldn't have to pay more. How you divide the spoils amongst yourselves is your business. Don't make it ours.

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johnmcnamee ★ [1 month ago](#)

I have two suggestions:

1) Force the cable companies to open their networks to competition in exactly the same way that the phone companies were required to open their networks to competition (by Rogers amongst others). Allowing competition in the cable market will pressure the cable companies to give better service and choice, and give them some incentive not to charge the highest prices in the world for some of the worst service in the world. Canadians deserve better than to be allocated to cable companies based on where they live.

2) If it is ok for cable companies to take someone else's signal without paying for it, why isn't it (by the same logic) reasonable that the cable companies provide it to us free. Their advertising says that the television networks are getting public assistance already, so we are already paying to put the signals out. Why should they be able to take our signal for free and then charge us for it. They would be getting a benefit if they took our free signal and used it as part of their promotion to us without charging us for it as well.

On the other hand, if the signal that the cable companies carry from the networks does have value for which a cable company wants to charge us, it also has value to the creator of that

signal. Put pressure on both the networks and the cable companies by allowing the networks to deny cable companies the use of their signals. That way, there will be an incentive for the cable company to contribute financially if it wants to carry the signal, but there will also be pressure on the network, which will get nothing (including a decreased audience) if it doesn't come to an agreement.

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lindami ★ [1 month ago](#)

I think its time someone stepped in on our cable companies and satellite companies, reduce rates, be forced to give back to local stations. But some local channels need to change the format, like theirs a morning news program on in the morning for 2 hours, same information after 1 hour.

The companies are making a big profit not just from cable tv, and satellite tv, but for the boxes we are forced to buy or rent. I had to rent a pvr box from shaw for 20.00 a month, i then moved and wanted shaw direct satellite, forced to buy a box again. Everyone has these boxes, so you can't say they will need more money to pay for local tv and charge us. they are ripping us off.

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Al R ★ [1 month ago](#)

Since phone companies can monitor our calls, including number called and time used, why can't the cable/satellite companies monitor which channels I watch and for how long, and bill me for that amount only. Then take this fee and split it ONLY amongst the channels I watch.

This would force many providers to start offering some quality offerings, or suffer the financial cost. Losing many of thee stations would just make it easier to surf the channels in the hope of finding something to watch.

My typical viewing time per evening is now down to about 2 hours, because THERE IS NOTHING TO WATCH.

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dons ★ [1 month ago](#)

Like it or not, Canadian content did wonders for Canadian musicians and our music industry. The difference between the 60s and today is astounding. Cancon gave our talented musicians a chance to shine (and make some kind of living) without forcing them to move south (though some still choose to do so). And it gave radio stations something different to put on the air!

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ken ★ [1 month ago](#)

The Canadian TV Networks already get extra revenue by simualcasting American programs. They duplicate their signal over the American signal so they can charge Advertisers more for exclusive distribution of the program. As for the specialty channels, they are basidly owned by the cable companies & TV networks. Very little competion plus the specialty channel programming is mostly repeats. I'm against any additional fees to my cable bill.

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Jim Garner ★ [1 month ago](#)

I am opposed to the proposal of the cable companies. 80 years ago, radio muscled into the market for consumer advertising. 50 years ago TV did the same. Now the internet is doing likewise. The surviving media have to adapt, or disappear.

Local TV has very little value. The news and information programs are of disgraceful quality and

we would be better off without them, leaving the superior media on which we relied 100 years ago.

If cable fees do go to local TV stations, consumers should have the option of saying no to this payment. Instead of these "packages" designed to wheedle extra dollars out of consumers for services they don't want (in my case, French, golf, vision, pop music etc etc) we should choose the channels we want and pay a standard fee for each of them.

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Fijja ★ [1 month ago](#)

I have always had an issue with the lack of attention and respect paid to canadian television, especially the informative channels. American television has continually undercut and washed-out Canadian content to a point where many Canadian channels are in fact now copying the American content and viewing style to keep up viewer-ship.

Recently the Canadian government released a newer version of the immigrant guide book (Discover Canada: The Rights and Responsibilities of Citizenship), reading an excerpt on Canadian television, the guide stated our television scene "was" properous several years back. Not only is that a disgrace to our proud media history but also an insult to the many fledging television series that attempt every year to break into the market.

Equally frustrating is the "debate" on the so-called tv tax. The way I look at it, big buisness (Bell, Rogers, etc.) are trying to demonize the local stations (CTV, Global) and push them out of buisness. The important thing is that we need local news, because detailed news is the watchdog of democracy. I can't trust the big stations to deliver my news of my town and other regions of Northern Ontario. If we allow this perversion of democracy to go forward, big buisness will win. We will lose local content and we will lose our local voice. We have already lost so much culture to americanisation, we have to act now before we lose our local media.

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henrymcrandall ★ [1 month ago](#)

If ever any subsidy is given to television broadcasters -- either by consumers or by other segments of the media/communications sector -- then strict standards must be imposed for the quality, professionalism and impartiality of programming and to ensure a wide range of views are provided.

Moreover, the CRTC must start regulating the prices charged by cable and satellite providers.

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dscott ★ [1 month ago](#)

STOP SIMSUBBING! Canadian sources are usually an inferior feed. There is no need for simsubbing other than to line the pockets of Canadian TV stations.

Create more Canadian content

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Like



Ron Williams ★ [1 month ago](#)

My "local" news provider say continually how they need our money and cable is gouging them. The news itself is reported poorly. I want the facts, then news. I dont want their opinion, I dont want to go to an online poll on the question, I want the facts. It seems the local news is mostly out of the mother ship in Toronto. Thats fine but dont tell me its local, I dont live there. I used to watch the news at six with my father. Now to entertain and try to to keep us from switching channels they tease us with stories on the 5 pm news. you get a little more on the 530 news. Then the whole story on the 6 pm news. News weather sports please, one time. Not repeated over three broadcasts in two hours a little bit at a time. You arent teasing me, you have gotten me to tune to the BBC where they still read, without opinion, the news, weather and sports. Two hours of news tat those time slots repeating the same thing. Must be wasted advertising as I dont think many will watch two mini news then the hour long repeat. Maybe not, they show the

same really bad commercials over and over.

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dave09 ★ [1 month ago](#)

Hey while your asking for opinions on whether customers should get soaked for another 10 bucks a month for cable. How about letting Skype into Canada so we can lower our Phone bills by 95%. Thanks for continuing to allow Canadians to get hosed by our almighty corporations.

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bvnelson ★ [1 month ago](#) [in reply to dave09](#)

I agree

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



Timothy Mathews ★ [1 month ago](#)

Signal substitution is an abomination which effectively ruins many shows I wish to watch. Very nearly all the time, the change almost always occurs from a few seconds to half a minute into the show or else the same time frame at the end, thus causing me to miss either the beginning or ending of a show I enjoy. The idea that I'm forced to watch "local" stations smacks of Nazism to me. In my area, as I'm guessing most places in Canada, the competing US stations are in large cities--Boston, Seattle, Chicago and Los Angeles in my case. I cannot imagine that any station in those cities would charge less for a commercial than here in Halifax and, thus, the idea that the CRTC is "protecting" the Canadian station from being undercut by the US rival is absurd.

This current idea to have cable and satellite companies pay for the local signal is fine with me IF AND ONLY IF, you include the right for the individual to refuse the local station AND as there's no local advertising I wish to see, remove signal substitution as a part of my package.

Anything else, once again, punishes the viewer.

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bvnelson ★ [1 month ago](#)

We got rid of the TV 17 years ago. Best decision we ever made. I still feel that government funded entertainment is a waste of tax money. I use the internet and get much better coverage of news events and the whole story, not some Canadian CBC liberal slant. Get rid of the CRTC or restructure. Old, inflated bureaucracy, concerned more with bigger government and staying in bed with daddy big bucks then doing whats right in a technologically advanced time compared to when they first came into being.

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Dwayne Hall ★ [1 month ago](#)

Bell Expressvu are already charging a fee called the contribution to crtc lpif, they just like to have an excuse to raise the price of their bill.

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[Like](#)



timlocke ★ [1 month ago](#)

Get rid of simsubbing. One way would be to disallow Cdn networkks to buy exclusive rights to show programs in Canada... this should also save them some money. This should also get rid of some blackouts, not all or even most, on some sporting events.

Like "thetods" I don't think this dialog will change anything.

A) The Broadcasting Act

B) Anti Americanism amongst the " higher purpose people" (the Maude Barlows of the country)

C) The Cdn networks are a stronger lobby group than the 30+ millin Canadians who'd like a change.

Maybe removing the CRTC's power to regulate TV would be a good start. Let any provider make any deal they can with any BDU and thrive or go broke as public support allows. Including all the must carries and public networkks.

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 [Les Ducak](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

Those of us with fixed income are disgusted by the possibility of price increase of tv viewing. I think that it is outrageous that we as Canadians have so little competition that we are at the mercy or lack of it of big cable companies. I for one will not be kept hostage to this. If any increase takes place, I will switch to Internet tv viewing immediately.

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 [Graham](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

I think is unreasonable to expect anyone to enter a complete postal code here. The first 3 characters should be sufficient for statistical purposes.

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Like

 [Walt A](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

What really ticks me off is allowing Canadian broadcasters to override U.S. programming or U.S. commercials when simultaneously re-broadcasting U.S. programs.

I can be tuned into a U.S. network program that is simultaneously being broadcast by a Canadian network, then some dick flips a switch and all of a sudden I'm watching the CTV version of the ABC broadcast.

If I want to watch the CTV station, I'll tune into that. But when I'm watching the ABC station, I don't want to be forced to watch the CTV version instead.

This is another example of the CRTC choosing what's good for Canadians and not letting us choose for ourselves. Butt out Ottawa !!

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 [suelangdon](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

We have Bell satellite TV service - without any specialty channels. We could not watch the Grey Cup game on any channel - we think that this is a ridiculous situation - any comments?

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 [Les](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

If there is a public policy need, it is to extend full bi-directional and functional broadband services to every Canadian household. All Canadians should have the opportunity to become both the ORIGINATOR and destination of programming.

Today as a rural resident, I already am in the business of reporting on and producing local news coverage. ...And no, I am not "just a blogger" as some critics content. I do my own original research including effectively covering proceeding in the Legislature (something conventional news outlets appear to be unable to do) and interviewing primary sources for new stories.

Although I am limited to originating print and image communications, I still out compete the other news outlets in terms of depth of coverage, timeliness of coverage, and reach of coverage. The service would be even more compelling if I could add broadcast audio and video materials to the package and ensure my audience could receive information in that format. In terms of ratings, the news service that I contribute to had higher circulation figures than conventional print media and view stats of broadcast media within out target audience. Universal broadband infrastructure is the missing component.

The recent climate change news highlights the failure of relying on major networks and corporate media outlets to provide us with news. On this topic, the news media was led by the Internet broadcasters and bloggers. They were the source of timely information and the source of unfiltered information instead of the near silence on the topic on the major networks. Canada need more choice and voices in our media landscape and those voices should include perspectives from across the country (including rural people) instead of the insular views produced within a few blocks of Bay and Queen!

Implementing universal bi-directional broadband infrastructure for all Canadians would solve a lot of public policy problems in the television, BDU and telecom sectors of the economy. We need more choices, more diversity of voices, and more innovative content in Canada. The current telecom and broadcasting system is failing at that objective and their business models and proprietary distribution systems should be scrapped.

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Pete ★ [1 month ago](#)

Why should I pay more because the Canadian networks went out and blew all that money on American programs. This is nothing but a buy-out plan because they are not getting the American advertising money due to the down turn. What happens when the Americans start spending more on adds are we going to get money back. I

[Flag](#)

Like



mj25 ★ [1 month ago](#)

If there is an additional cost imposed by the CRTC on the Cable Co's, then they should not be mandated to carry those channels.

While we're at it, I would like to have an a la carte option when choosing my channels. That would be the proof in the pudding as to what they think of local programming.

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Dustin O'Leary ★ [1 month ago](#)

I believe that the position of network broadcasters like CTV, CBC and Global is very short sighted and if you choose to make changes, it is something we will never be able to come back from.

For many years, those stations have reaped the benefits of being the only signals transmitted to everyone with a television, whether they had a cable provider or not. They have been able to sell advertising based on that and were able to make huge profits over the years with that strategic advantage.

Now, that the global economic crisis has hit, they believe that the system is broken just because the tide leans a little more against them than it used to. If they can't make enough money with their current structure then it should be up to those stations internally to make changes to make it work.

This crisis will pass, and when it does, companies will start advertising again and those stations will be able to sell their advertising at the same rate they used to. When that happens and if you choose to allow them to bill cable companies for the signal - do you think the stations will be willing to give that money back? I don't think so.

Leave the structure alone! Everyone is going through hard times and these stations should be no different. Force them to innovate internally to improve their business models so that it is sustainable through hard times. And then, when the economic storm passes, they will be better off for it.

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Chris ★ 1 month ago

It is my belief that there are no "good guys" in the squabble between the cable/satellite providers and the major Canadian networks. Both sides provide arguments as to why the other is wrong, and neither side is convincing.

First, I would like to address the cable/satellite providers. I have been a customer of both Bell Aliant and Rogers over the past two years since moving to New Brunswick. In the specific case of Rogers, I find the prices they charge to be far too high. Rogers makes little secret of the fact that their monthly base prices are high enough to provide them with a large profit margin, as evidenced by two actions to which I have been witness:

- First, they offer deals whereby a new customer would receive a discount for the first 12 months of service, only to have to price increase after this period expires. If the customer notices and is upset, all he/she needs to do is call into the Rogers call centre. Simply by voicing displeasure over the increased price, one can obtain an additional discount. If Rogers agents have the slightest inkling that a customer might take his/her business elsewhere, discounts are immediately offered. In my personal experiences, these discounts do not need the approval of a supervisor or manager on the call centre floor.

- Second, they recently contacted me by telephone to offer me a 15% discount for 12 months if I committed to their service during for that period of time, thus subjecting me to an early termination fee should I cancel my service during those 12 months. The agent informed me that I was being granted this discount as a "loyal Rogers customer." I, however, interpreted this as an obvious attempt to trap me so that, if they subsequently raised my bill \$10 as they have been threatening, I would be powerless to take my business elsewhere.

These do not sound like the actions of a company unable to handle a fee levied by the networks. In fact, in the second point above, Rogers was willing to decrease the monthly price of my bill more than \$10. If this fee is a threat to Rogers' financial stability, why then are they willing to lower my bill by an even greater amount than they are claiming they will need to increase it?

Second, I would like to address the television networks. It is my opinion that, while they would like to blame the sluggish economy for their financial troubles, the "Big 3" networks themselves are to blame for any financial troubles they are in. CBC receives tax money already, meaning every tax-paying Canadian is already providing support to the network. Global's modus operandi is to use most of their airtime broadcasting American TV shows—even though virtually all Canadians subscribed to cable or satellite TV service can watch the very same shows on their respective American networks at the very same time. Finally, CTV also airs American TV shows mixed with more original Canadian programming than Global. However, CTV's parent company, CTVglobemedia, reportedly spent between \$2.5M and \$3M to purchase the rights to a hockey theme song in 2008. If a company is complaining about financial hardships one year after spending nearly \$3M for a song, then I question how well that company is being managed. Why should the cable and satellite companies essentially pay for Global's poor business model, CTV's poor management, and likewise add to the public funding CBC receives? In addition,

most Canadians can access these television networks' signals without subscribing to any cable or satellite service at all, instead by using a conventional television antenna. If the cable/satellite providers chose to drop these networks rather than pay the fee, Canadians would thus still be able to watch them.

I believe that the CRTC should, in this instance, act solely in the best interests of Canadian consumers. There are large corporations on both sides of this argument, and in such a fight it's all too easy for the everyday Canadian consumer to be totally forgotten. I do not believe this should impact Canadians' bills, particularly coming out of a recession. However, at the very least, the CRTC should force the cable/satellite providers to allow their customers to drop specific networks to reduce this fee should it come into existence. For example, I personally would drop all of the local networks except CBC, since they do not offer any programming I watch that cannot be found on the U.S. networks.

Thank you for providing a means by which I can allow my voice to be heard on this matter.

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Andre Wilson ★ [1 month ago](#)

New, upstart web-based broadcasters and content producers need to be included in these discussions. Television is not limited to traditional cable and satellite delivery. Why support established businesses when funds could be directed to innovative content providers, many of whom are producing 100 % Canadian content. They could greatly benefit from the hundreds of millions \$ we direct to traditional broadcasters through subsidies and access to Canadian Television Fund.

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Chris ★ [1 month ago](#)

It is my belief that there are no "good guys" in the squabble between the cable/satellite providers and the major Canadian networks. Both sides provide arguments as to why the other is wrong, and neither side is convincing.

First, I would like to address the cable/satellite providers. I have been a customer of both Bell Aliant and Rogers over the past two years since moving to New Brunswick. In the specific case of Rogers, I find the prices they charge to be far too high. Rogers makes little secret of the fact that their monthly base prices are high enough to provide them with a large profit margin, as evidenced by two actions to which I have been witness:

- First, they offer deals whereby a new customer would receive a discount for the first 12 months of service, only to have to price increase after this period expires. If the customer notices and is upset, all he/she needs to do is call into the Rogers call centre. Simply by voicing displeasure over the increased price, one can obtain an additional discount. If Rogers agents have the slightest inkling that a customer might take his/her business elsewhere, discounts are immediately offered. In my personal experiences, these discounts do not need the approval of a supervisor or manager on the call centre floor.

- Second, they recently contacted me by telephone to offer me a 15% discount for 12 months if I committed to their service during for that period of time, thus subjecting me to an early termination fee should I cancel my service during those 12 months. The agent informed me that I was being granted this discount as a "loyal Rogers customer." I, however, interpreted this

as an obvious attempt to trap me so that, if they subsequently raised my bill \$10 as they have been threatening, I would be powerless to take my business elsewhere.

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Thank you for providing a means by which I can allow my voice to be heard on this matter.

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[Art](#) ★ 1 month ago

Like all things controlled by marketing boards in Canada, the cost to the consumer is inflated, take a look at chicken, wine, and all the other things controlled by 28 marketing boards across the country. Look how long distance charges came down when deregulation came along. So to save all the costs of these hearings and the censorship issues, SCRAPE THE CRTC and let the TV and Cable guys fight it out in the open market place and watch the prices come down and see the better selection of programming that will be available to the poor little guy at the end of the feeding chain.

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[vicshaw](#) ★ 1 month ago

I agree with Timw, CTV and Canwest have no incentive to do anything because they aren't

forced to create Canadian programming and instead for some stupid reason are spending 100s millions of dollars a year on American programming than we can and want to view on the originating American networks. CRTC needs to force CTV and Canwest to create Canadian programming instead and not be allowed to carry any NBC/CBS/ABC/FOX programming. They can always get programs if they want from American networks like TNT, USA, TBS, FX, etc that we cannot view in Canada and are missing out on. Or they can get programs from the UK or Australia for a change. Or even better, they can create Canadian programs. I don't care if they are ripoffs, like CSI: Calgary, Law & Order Toronto, Canada's Got Talent, Canadian Idol (which CTV cancelled - cheapskates), etc. Canadians would watch these shows no doubt and they would give people more choice of programs to watch and would probably be cheaper for the Canadian networks.

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jeremy ★ [1 month ago](#)

Abolish the CBC and use the massive subsidies provided to it to improve the business environment for Canadian content. If we want good cancon so bad, why waste all this money on a national broadcaster?

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adora ★ [1 month ago](#)

When Canadian shows can come up with the quality of US shows perhaps more people will be willing to watch them. I have yet to see a Canadian show that I would even finish watching.

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DIR ★ [1 month ago](#)

Well, this Discussion Topic seems to be a continuation of the other discussion topics, which is surely an indication of consumers disgust over the state of the television creation and delivery industry!

But I'm interested in whether consumers have clued in to the imminent transition to full digital tv? with no alternative for the average joe. I haven't heard the Canadian Government is planning to subsidize the required digital receiver boxes, or new TVs with digi built in, that will be required to receive service. (As European Gvts finally had to do).

Still I'm sure these required purchases will help the recovering economy (of those countries who build them....which is not Canada).

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Shane Parsons ★ [1 month ago](#)

There is no greater thorn in my side than the technological monopoly that exists for PVR's in Canada today. I can buy any DVD player I want, I can drive any car I want. But if I want to record TV in HD I am stuck with the cable provider PVR, and they have no incentive to make it the 'best in class'.

There exists a superior "Personal Vide Recorder" / "Digital Video Recorder" which is considered the gold standard, _TiVO_. But there is no support for this in Canada. Imagine living in a country with plenty of roads, but you can only buy one make of car. That is where we are today with PVR's.

I ask that the CRTC mandate CableCards to allow for an equal playing field for PVR's. Not only will it provide Canadians access to 'best in class' PVR's, but it will serve to improve the quality of ALL PVR's in the market (like it did in the US).

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Disgruntled ★ [1 month ago](#)

Charging for BROADCAST (not 'local' as they try to spin it) channels is unadulterated greed by the networks. I can already watch all that content for FREE using an antenna and the cost is carried by the advertisers-- this has been the arrangement for decades. The networks are now trying to 'double dip' -- to take their advertisers money and to manipulate the government to force cable providers to pay for what is already freely available.

Moreover, given the large audience provided to the networks' advertisers by cable, the networks are already benefiting from being carried by cable. (larger viewer base translates directly into dollars/minute when charging for advertising time)

There is nothing here but an attempt to extort the cable companies by regulation and to drag the viewers into what is really an internal business squabble between the cable companies and the greedy broadcasters. The latter clearly recognize that their business case is so weak that they can only succeed by conning the public to push the government into change the rules. That much indirection indicates the broadcasters do not have a leg on which to stand.

Frankly, if the broadcasters succeed, I think that cable companies should drop the Canadian broadcast channels entirely AND that they thus be allowed to carry American content free of the requirement to play Canadian networks over American when both are 'airing' the same programming. I'll be happy if I never see another Global ad when I'm trying to watch NBC.

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[Clayton Slecza](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

Here's my beef:

1. The issue of content blackout is ludicrous/insane. The fact that I'd be forced to wait a week for what I can read about/download online is mind-numbingly retarded. So if you're really listening, CRTC, this MUST NOT be allowed.
2. The networks dug their own hole with their finances. If anyone should be "blamed" other than them, it would be the content laws supposed on them by the CRTC.
3. I like watching my local news, yes, however they don't provide an HD feed for Edmonton. So I'm already watching the Calgary or Vancouver HD feed on Bell. Would I pay more for that option? No.
4. Much like the auto-industry, bank industry, etc., if there's a market, someone will make money on it. If the local network can't do it, then maybe there shouldn't be one. Do not bail these networks out. One CBC is enough.
5. Canadian content is something I'm just not interested in. Other than a few shows, every program is usually bludgeons you over how "Canadian" it is, and the show itself is almost always set in one of the only two cities in Canada: Toronto or Vancouver. Maybe the CRTC could relax some of it's content rules and then see what the networks can do.
6. Satellite providers and their current content packaging is awful as well. They need to get rid of their "bundles".

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[Dylan](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

Why won't the CRTC mandate a Cable Card option for Canadians?

We are currently forced to use the cable boxes distributed by the service providers, which grants them a de facto monopoly on the hardware and interface, complete with the concomitant price gouging. If we want to integrate media on a different system, like a computer, we are forced to use a crippled signal (analog through a TV capture card) and a crippled interface (some kludged IR repeater).

This is a simple regulation that the CRTC could offer, providing for increased competition and

the development of more advanced media technology without intruding on the core business of the satellite and cable companies.

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Carlo ★ [1 month ago](#)

There are very few truly "Canadian" commercials. When I see a commercial for a product like Tide, instead of the usual Super Bowl commercial, that is not a "Canadian" commercial. That requirement serves little purpose in cases as these.

Interestingly, I can LEGALLY purchase HBO on a large, analog satellite dish, but I can't purchase HBO on a small, digital one? Double-standards such as these do not serve the viewing public's interests at all. Bell, in particular, has hoarded their monies and advantage in the market place to the detriment of the consumers for years, yet your rulings and policies on satellite TV was almost exclusively for their benefit. The CRTC should not be swayed by big business and their immense and growing profit-making empires. The CRTC should be putting us consumers first, even if it hurts corporations like Bell. We need fairness and variety, not oligopolies and constraints.

Remember that even U.S.-based satellite carriers present a business opportunity in Canada to retailers and installers of the equipment. Sure, programming monies head south of the border for the most part, but part of that reason is that domestic broadcasters were not offering their signals to them. I would pay, for example, to receive a domestic broadcast like CITY-TV from either of the U.S.-based satellite providers, if it was available through them. I will NOT pay for two satellite systems just to be able to receive both CITY-TV and something not available on the Canadian carriers. Instead of an outright ban on Dishnet or DirecTV, the CRTC would have better served consumers to insist that those two carriers have a minimum percentage of domestic broadcasts in order for them to be available here. The four carriers can simply exchange content with each other at no charge to satisfy requirement, as well as create a more level playing field for all to compete on. That would satisfy both the CanCon requirements, and the consumers. This change is still possible, and MUST be considered to make those services a viable option, especially since many areas will lose on-air broadcasts after the digital switch. Stop serving Bell, and start serving us.

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michael41 ★ [1 month ago](#)

I truly enjoy Canadian programming, when I can find it. The CBC, for the most part, programs excellent Canadian and Canadian-relevant foreign shows. As one other mentioned, there can be arguments made for carrying Amerinca channels. But why CTV, Global, etc continue to believe the only way they can survive is programming the same shows we can already receive from the US is beyond me.

For those who say they could care less about Canadian content, so be it. But have you watched any? I bet you have and not even known in some cases. Most likely because you were watching them on an American network! And that is how it should be.

I really believe in having one truly Canadian broadcaster that features programming that I can identify with. After that, its all about making the best television. If its good, we will watch, no matter where it comes from.

One last point...stop with the over regulation. Mandate one national service but as far as local TV goes...if they produce local content that people want to watch, we will watch (and we might even pay for it) But otherwise, get out of the way.

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Bill ★ [1 month ago](#)

I have cable TV & initially rented a HDTV box (VIP Digital Terminal) from the cable provider. Then, I purchased another HDTV cable box for a second TV. In order to save the \$4.49 monthly

equipment rental fee, I want to return the rented Digital Terminal box to the cable provider. I was told, however, that I cannot receive their VIP package (using the box I own) without also renting their Digital Terminal. This is very unfair !

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Bonnie ★ [1 month ago](#)

Why do we have no choice in what channels we watch if the same program is on two channels, one US and one Canadian ? Why does it have to flip automatically to the Canadian one..if I wanted to watch that particular channel I would, don't force it on me.

Last, why can't the cable companies just spend some of their fat bank accounts and offer to pay broadcasters for what they have gotten for free all of these years ? It's like they've been selling free samples at a hefty profit for 30 years and now they are pissed that they have to pay for the actual product..come on ! We've been paying for all these years, now take some of that money and share it with the broadcasters.

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Allan Coates ★ [1 month ago](#)

ELIMINATE PROGRAM SUBSTITUTION - both the current simultaneous and the oft-proposed non-simultaneous. Cable subscribers pay to receive a mix of Canadian and American channels yet we receive less than we pay for (i.e. the original American program, American ads, American promos and less than 100% of the program material because of differing program lengths) due to the CRTC mandated piracy of American station programming and the insertion of Canadian station programming when the program and the broadcast time is the same. This program substitution, performed by the cable companies, is often done in a clumsy manner (especially with live sporting events) too. Over the years, broadcasters have even proposed program substitution when the broadcast time is not the same (non-simultaneous).

The CRTC knows very well that program substitution has been a major irritant to Canadian consumers for decades. Nevertheless, the CRTC continues this practice because hijacked American station audiences create a larger audience and hence larger advertising revenues for Canadian stations. However, I say let the Canadian station earn its audience rather than steal it from the American station.

STEP 1: Eliminate program substitution in all its forms.

STEP 2: The broadcasters rightly claim that the exclusive program rights that they purchase for American programs are less than exclusive due to cable distribution of American stations. However, the broadcasters can easily solve this contract rights situation by paying less for program rights that are in reality less than exclusive rather than using the power of the CRTC to force their signal on Canadian cable viewers.

If the CRTC (as is its habit) still won't do the right thing and eliminate program substitution, at least order the cable companies to reduce a portion of cable subscribers monthly cable bills to cover the period of time that subscribers do not receive the American station programming that they are paying to receive.

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pilljohn ★ [1 month ago](#)

Only a fool would believe that fees from cable and satellite providers paid to the networks would not be passed on to consumers. This is a subsidy to private enterprise. Should not the networks then pay a fee to cable/sat to support their infrastructure costs? Also what of those who use roof top antennas = when are the networks going to want a fee from those who bring in their signal for free? Are we heading to a condition as in Britain where all tv viewers have to pay a license fee for their sets? This is the thin edge! No more bailouts= sink or swim!

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Bill ★ [1 month ago](#)

When was the last time viewer's were able to see the inventive & entertaining commercials during the Super Bowl? It can't happen in Canada thanks to the CRTC's direction to cable/satellite providers to carry the Super Bowl over a Canadian feed. The CRTC is incorrectly concerned that Canadian identity will disappear if we are exposed, in an uncensored fashion, to too much American media. :-(

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Carrol Laderoute ★ [1 month ago](#)

As for the cable network charging extra for local TV, they have been making money from the local TV network for years. This is the only area where a company can make a huge profit by stealing a broadcast signal. Tha argument that they are distributing the signal further a field, and therefore helping the local station with advertisement, when was the last time somene drove more than 1 hour to shop at a local outlet where the advertiser paid for a commercial? The shopper will find a location closer to home, and save on gas. The reason we use the cable TV is that local programming is available, as satelite TV gives us more channels and programming, but not local news.

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Like



bwimperis ★ [1 month ago](#)

Local stations should go out of business if they are not profitable in the digital world.

If I choose to watch the Superbowl on a US network that is not included in my basic package then I should be allowed to view the US commercials.

Canadian stations should not be allowed to repeat any commercial during a single commercial break. Frequently you will see the exact same commercial 2 or 3 times in one break.

The CBC and CTV networks should move the local news programming to their news network stations.

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Tom ★ [1 month ago](#)

Get rid of the pop-up ads and logos.

Why is necessary to display and advertise a TV station's logo constantly during programming? This practice is very distractive, especially if they change colours and transform into ads, bounce around, and may take up to a quarter of the screen. Many times there is more than one displayed, plus there are the scrolled messages.

If they are so important how come they are not shown during commercial breaks?

The CRTC should put the interest of consumers first.

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Like



Duff Conacher ★ [1 month ago](#)

Dear CRTC,

The most important change that the CRTC can make on broadcasting and cable TV issues, and actually on all telecommunications issues, is to empower consumers by requiring all the companies involved to facilitate the creation of a Telecommunications Consumer Organization (TCO).

The TCO would be formed by the CRTC requiring all telecomm companies in Canada that it regulates to include once or twice each year (in the billing envelopes they send to individual consumers each month) a one-page pamphlet that would describe the TCO and invite

consumers to join for a nominal annual fee of \$30-40.

The TCO can be formed at no cost to government or the telecomm companies, as the TCO would pay the costs of printing the pamphlet, and there would be no extra postage costs for the companies to include a one-page pamphlet in their billing envelopes.

All the CRTC has to do is issue an order that the companies include the TCO pamphlet (which it has the power to do under the laws it administers), and the TCO will be created.

Through this method, millions of telecomm customers across Canada would be given a very easy way to band together into a watchdog group that would represent them in all CRTC processes, help them with complaining about mistreatment or gouging by any company in the industry, and help them with shopping around to find the best services at the best price.

You can see all the details about the TCO on the following Democracy Watch webpage, along with a link to the Citizen Association Campaign webpage that contains links to sample pamphlets, and model law for creating the TCO, and other information about how the pamphlet method has been used in the U.S. very successfully to form utility ratepayer watchdog groups.

Here is the Democracy Watch webpage link for more details:

<http://www.dwatch.ca/camp/tco.html>

Sincerely,
Duff Conacher, Coordinator
Democracy Watch
<http://www.dwatch.ca>
Email: dwatch@web.net

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 *seejay* ★ [1 month ago](#)

It soon will be coming to a point where we will be watching more advertising than shows in a hour. Who makes all the money on advertising local tv or cable/sat. tv

Flag

Like

 *Ken* ★ [1 month ago](#)

The practise of substituting Canadian feeds through U.S. channels when they are showing the same content should be stopped. I am paying to get the U.S. channel and should receive what I pay for.

Flag

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 *Mark* ★ [1 month ago](#)

I am appalled by my monthly Rogers Cable Bill!

I will soon be dropping my cable services because I refuse to pay over \$80/month for what I consider to be "nothing". How does Rogers and Bell get away with charging extraordinary fees for their services?

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 *Disgusted* ★ [1 month ago](#)

The CRTC is a large part of the problem. It has totally failed to anticipate technological developments and has licensed specialty services willy-nilly. Just look at the Toronto 1 issue. The Toronto Star presented a plan for use of new technology. The license for the last analog channel went to the Craigs just because they were nice westerners even though it was obvious that they would have no idea how to run a Toronto TV station. And as events proved, they didn't.

This survey is a sham too. Obviously the public will oppose higher fees. But the average citizen does not have access to a lot of information about the TV and cable business to make any intelligent comment.

Turn out the lights, CRTC. Go home and close up shop.

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bert ★ [1 month ago](#)

i agree with timw bout a few getting rich off the rest of us.
i'm sick n tired of media comapnies..whether cable or phone or
cellular always trying to get their hands in my wallet n bank account.
its a consumer rape imho.
which is why i refuse to get cellular..and i'm currently thinking bout going back to
rabbit ears to escape the cable companies clutches every month.
the poor are hit the hardest as always.
lets talk bout each service.
1. instead of cable.
have the cbc sell a box for a one time charge that costs 40 buks
and delivers 80 channels to the home.
no monthly fees.
nice revenue earner for the cbc.
i support the cbc, and have no connection
with them.
2. instead of the net isp's. .
the same above box could do duty for the net...
no monthly fees.

poor old people would definitely benefit from this instead
of being socked each month for money.
thus poor old people would have more money for enjoying other aspects of
life.

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Raffie ★ [1 month ago](#)

The CRTC members, are well aware of all of these issues. I am quite sure they watch TV and have satellite and cable bills. They know what needs to be done. But to continue to stand by year after year while Canadian consumers are gouged on a daily basis with overpriced, no choice TV is shameful just shameful. And BTW,I think we need to start a discussion in regards to the shameful state of the Canadian cell phone industry while we are at it.

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mikeberi ★ [1 month ago](#)

Allowing the broadcasters to black out US broadcasts of shows so that they can pick when to broadcast them will soon spell their end. Have they heard of the INTERNET?

[Flag](#)

Like



Mercury ★ [1 month ago](#)

Technology moves at an astounding rate. We should be looking to the future (as best we can) and prepare accordingly. I'd like to see fibre in my home - this would allow the opportunity for much improved data flow whether it be for internet, TV over fibre, or whatever. Let's see about moving away from the limitations of coaxial cable and even satellites. There are doubtless other technologies out there somewhere.

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herman ★ [1 month ago](#)

Let the local stations die. All they do is re-broadcast content produced at their network headquarters anyway. I don't need to pay to see a once-daily broadcast of a local person basically reading the stories off of the front page of the local daily paper. .

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dereknorman ★ [1 month ago](#)

The public should only pay for the programming they watch. We should not subsidize for profit Broadcasting Companies if their business plan does not work they need to change the plan.

Also the quality of programming is poor the only thought provoking programs are on the US Public Broadcast stations and sometimes BBC Canada.

[Flag](#)

Like



John Wesley Chisholm ★ [1 month ago](#)

A lot of the Canadian bases would be covered if CBC could get some traction and get some of our money up on the screen. But the \$1.4 B plus the other tax credits and incentives they access... probably over \$2b a year total is just not showing up on the screen... it's paying for a hopelessly bloated anachronistic bureaucracy that can't even field a programming schedule to compete with Vision let alone BBC.

I'm not sure that we don't need to see a radical reform of this service; a revolution, not just tweaking programming and constantly promoting people into obscurity.

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Ken Parker ★ [1 month ago](#)

The TV industry should be a free market place and there survival should be based on there merits. The job of the CRTC should be to assign signals to those who apply for them, and nothing else. If a station fails then it goes off the air. As a country we probably cannot support three networks. Probably Global and CTV should merge. A practical business solution. However because of our CRTC they cannot do it without a lot of costs. It is time for the CRTC to get into the new world and be proactive. It is interesting this discussion has been going on for months and my attempts to contact the CRTC with my comments was not possible till this web site opened. Why can a consumer not contact the CRTC with comments on an ongoing basis.

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Like



Pops ★ [1 month ago](#)

I want the US superbowl commercials.

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Like



Tom ★ [1 month ago](#)

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

[Flag](#)

Like



[Ken_Layfield](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

Canadian cultural identity? Our locally produced programs use canadian talent and provide a canadian perspective. I think that our cultural identity is not being portrayed as a key issue. Its easy for us to be swallowed up by American culture, if we don't have a choice or a voice in the programming we watch.

[Flag](#)

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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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[Pops](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

I want the US superbowl commercials.

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[jsmythe](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

1. The CBC is already the beneficiary of over 1 billion in taxpayer subsidies!!!! Now they want more????? Let them die!!

2. The Networks are trying to blackmail the consumer. IF they succeed they will be back for more next year. Blackmail can never be satisfied.

3. If the CRTC should approve or force Cable /satelite to negotiate or carry for a fee then there are two conditions.

(1) All taxpayer funding of the CBC TV must cease.

(2) Networks must share advertising revenue with cable/satelite and this must be tied to the fees in a proportional scale, so that if we get blackmailed next year, cable/satelite shas some way to prevent user fee increases.

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[kenlawson](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

The other issue is the CRTC itself, it is model that is out of date of reality and there must be a restructuring, no need for offices and commissioners across Canada and Ottawa, the committee must be made up of MP's from each province and territories, appointees cannot be fired but MP's can be every 5 years or so. This will give MP's something to do, when the Prime Minister has all the power, they are basically useless in our system of government.

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ddlamont ★ 1 month ago

STOP the blacking out of hockey.

I'm in Ottawa, why can I not watch a Vancouver/Calgary game??? Or most Leaf games???
Rediculous!

Also, why can I not view some programs on my computer. I try to download and watch TV on my computer, and it says that it is not allowed in my country of origin.

Stop trying to control what everyone watches and just let us watch what we want!!!

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frozencanuck ★ 1 month ago

dissolve the crtc - it is useless and corrupt

<http://dissolvethecrtc.ca>

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



Howard MacKinnon ★ 1 month ago

Abolish the CRTC altogether. Abolish all restrictions on media so that the free market will allow the greatest freedom for innovation and choice.

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tom scharf ★ 1 month ago

if people want to watch Canadian content or Canadian programming, then let start putting out some good product that will compete globally, but don't tell me I have to have it because it's Canadian.

We can't really afford the C.R.T.C. Their decisions have always ended up costing the Canadian consumer more. ie: cell phone & internet

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dannies ★ 1 month ago

Does anyone here actually think the CRTC is on the average Canadians side?
hahahah I bet we get taxed.....

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[Like](#)



larry hryciw ★ 1 month ago

TV stations are in business because of advertising. Cable and satellite companies are business because they provide tv signals to who ever wants to purchase them. So if the TV stations want to charge for their signals because their advertising revenue just isn't enough, well they should just charge them's that broadcast their signals. There is no way that the general public should be hosed one more time by the greed of the TV stations. They should just get more advertising revenue and cut back on their internal waste. The Cable and satellite guys just have to absorb any charges from the tv stations as a cost of doing business. and never mind passing it on to the general public. The CRTC should just tell these folks to grow up and bite the bullet and not get involved with a tax to support business ventures.

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mobilehowie ★ [1 month ago](#)

Currently Saturday Night Live is available on a CTV feed as well as the original NBC. The CTV feed is terrible. The same goes for shows on Global vs. Fox. Why is this?

CRTC, leave the industry alone. It's ridiculous, the amount of interference you impose, especially when I can easily see the loss-of-quality that is a direct result of your policies.

CHCH in the Hamilton area split from Global. They got rid of all American broadcasts and are only showing local content and movies. They reduced their advertising rates and are now become successful again. It's basic business. Give people what they want, and charge them reasonably. If you give them things they don't want and/or charge them too much, you'll fail.

Let these giants fall and let CHCH-type enterprises rise. Allow the market to work freely so that it might be successful.

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spp_24 ★ [1 month ago](#)

I hate that the CRTC limits my choices - open up the playing field, allow in foreign media companies and let Canadian TV stations, cable & satellite broadcasters sink or swim based on their own merits.

Right now I regularly download TV programs off the internet so I can see what I want when I want. I'll keep doing this as long as there is no competition and my choices are federally limited

I would support a very small tariff on imported programming to support canadian programming. Note I said programming and not networks. Money should go directly to producers of canadian programming and not TV networks automatically

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legends ★ [1 month ago](#)

Stop this crap where we have to see US programs covered over by the Canadian stations showing the same show. Let us choose

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

Tracey Lodge ★ [1 month ago](#)

I beleive that we are paying way too much for both satellite TV, internet, and cell phone plans. The companies control the market and we have no choice to pay what they charge. I live 15 minutes out of a city and I have to pay \$200 per month to Xplornet to get internet service at a decent speed. We pay way too much and they all lock us into contracts that are impossible to get out of. Now, they want to charge us more for providing a free service? No way, no how. I don't believe that if a fee is charged, that it will actually go to my community tv station, which is independent. I think the big companies will just use it as another so-called surcharge for network fees, etc.

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Like*Rob* ★ [1 month ago](#)

Mandate that cable companies offer "a la carte" menus as opposed to bundles. I should have the ability to choose what I'm paying for.

[Flag](#)Like*R.J. Levesque* ★ [1 month ago](#)

Clever people those cable companies! They used the extra money they made by not having to pay for signals to support specialty channels (read TSN) that later outbid the CBC and CTV for the primo sporting events (like the Grey Cup). This forced the consumer to pay for cable channels if they wanted access to the prime sporting events, which are now carried mostly on cable. And now cable companies are whining that they might have to pass on the cost of signals from CBC and CTV to the consumer if they don't get them for nothing. They have also been making a big deal about the networks bidding too much for programming.

In fact, they have been indirectly using the money they have been making by getting signals from the networks for nothing to support specialty channels that outbid the major networks on programming.

[Flag](#)Like*D Thompson* ★ [1 month ago](#)

First I would like to explain that I live within the city of Ottawa in a rural area less than 40 km south of Parliament Hill. I do not have access to fiber optic telecommunications or cable, although satellite service is available for TV and some telecom providers can provide internet service via wireless link, but at a high cost. I have Bell telephone service, and that line provides me with internet dial-up service from a separate ISP at rates that typically are ca 28 kilobytes per second. I can talk on the telephone or be on the internet or have my alarm system self-test as it does once daily, but I cannot do more than one thing at a time.

I am aware of the burgeoning demand for wireless spectrum, and the decision to reallocate formerly analog spectrum used for television transmission to wireless uses, while moving Canadian television to digital in 2011. I agree with this step forward. I note however, that some television broadcasters are caught in a squeeze involving reduced advertising revenues and increased costs related to the conversion from analog to digital. Some TV stations have announced to cease and/or have ceased broadcasting operations. I think that the confluence of these events provides an opportunity to address the weak provision of fibre optic communications in Canada while freeing up more spectrum for wireless communications.

Let me explain. I believe that providers of TV services over "cable", whether they be cable or telephone companies, should be obliged to provide local and national TV service on a par with what Canadians have come to expect. I would not mandate a fee for service as the TV broadcasters have requested, but rather I would mandate that the cable/telephone companies provide local and national TV service of a high quality and that they be required to cover all Canadians with fibre-quality links to all homes within their business areas. I expect that this mandate would require the cable/telephone companies to negotiate with the TV broadcasters, who should be encouraged by the CRTC to cease over-the-air broadcasting in favor of providing content to cable/telephone companies in return for a negotiated sum; spectrum which broadcasters currently use might be saleable to wireless companies, or proceeds might be shared with the Government of Canada, giving the broadcasters something in return for ceasing over-the-air broadcasting. In conjunction with this, cable/telephone companies would be required to cover all customers in their areas of business with fiber optic communications of a high quality and in a timely manner. This would bring Canada into a leadership position with respect to broadband communications and, I think, it would address fairly the concerns of over-the-air and cable/telephone service providers.

D Thompson

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Like*avid viewer* ★ [1 month ago](#)

If the OTA stations receive retransmission payments, the simultaneous substitution should end and consumers be allowed to pick the channels of their choice.

The OTA stations have been coddled since the inception of cable tv.

They were given priority channel allotments on cable, simultaneous substitution and many applicants who were perceived as competitors were denied licences.

The "elephant in the room" at the recent hearing was the debt of Canwest and CTV.

They purchased everything in sight and now they must service the debt.

[Flag](#)Like*kim* ★ [1 month ago](#)

Since cable went digital it is like watching a movie on satellite and especially in bad weather goes out in the middle of the good part. I never had my cable go out as much as it has since it went digital. When it's out we still pay! Same for internet. Why do we pay when services are unavailable??

[Flag](#)Like*maydd* ★ [1 month ago](#)

All this talk of 'channels' and 'bundles' is a bit antiquated. The technology exists, with AppleTV/iTunes for example, to access content at a more atomic level, i.e., by show or series. Maybe the CRTC should explore ways to open up the market for providers who can be a bit more innovative in their thinking.

[Flag](#)Like*chris* ★ [1 month ago](#)

AGAINST TV TAX

If Canadian content is supporting another torstar or canwest where pensions and large salaries are bankrupting the company, then let them fail. Quality programing will find a way to exist. Its good for capitalism.

[Flag](#)Like*George Kamps* ★ [1 month ago](#)

Unencrypted QAM for local tv. Please.

[Flag](#)Like*lab60* ★ [1 month ago](#)

The time for regulation and over regulation is quickly evaporating in the global market. As the majority of the Canadian population can get American signals off air, it is wrong to punish those Canadians further north by regulating us to death. The less regulation, the better.

There was once a time for regulation, to ensure all Canadians received a TV signal. Those days are now gone in the new satellite era. Time to go global, let our stations compete on the international stage, and let other international stations compete in Canada. We are Canadians, and we are not scared of competition. Let the regulations end, the sooner the better

[Flag](#)Like*Jon* ★ [1 month ago](#)

I agree with Paul, open up the market. Over 50% of my satellite bill is for channels that I don't watch, but I don't have the option to not subscribe. Why can't I choose which channels I watch and which ones I pay for. If there are not enough people willing to pay, then let it fail.

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Ted Heasell ★ [1 month ago](#)

The fact that some TV providers make their services freely available by direct broadcasting has no bearing on the re-distribution of such signals by cable companies. That such re-distribution has been permitted or encouraged in the past is also irrelevant. To reverse the argument should cable operators request CRTC to ban direct reception of US signals they re-distribute. If local cable operators are unable to offer services wanted by their audience, then more competition is needed.

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F. Forth ★ [1 month ago](#)

I've been reading the various comments below, and they do have some merit. But the whole situation is really to me quite disgusting. We have two rich entities arguing over how to take more of our money. There are two key issues - and they do not have anything to do with Canadian content, or content of any kind. These arguments are "red herrings" in my opinion. First issue: The cable/satellite providers have made a lot of money providing the signals to the populace. They have provided some programming on a limited basis to claim they service the community, but lets face it, when was the last time you spent a few hours watching these and are they truly "entertaining"?

Second Issue: The networks who make a lot of money are looking to gain more cash to pad their revenues - OUR CASH. No matter how this ends, you and I will end up footing the bill. They simply are poor business managers and are seeking someone to bail them out.

I've one question, what would happen to this argument if we all switched to antenna's again? The airwaves are free access, we can get our signals, and the only benefit from the providers is that they do give a better signal to those in fringe areas. We pay for that, but as noted by one writer, TV is an option, not a necessity. If we all went back to antenna's the providers would be out of cash flow, and the networks would have to manage their business' properly and not seek handouts to cover their poor business skills since they could not ask the CRTC to make us pay for receiving their signals (which is what they want now since they feel we are a captive audience) Just a thought.

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Ted Heasell ★ [1 month ago](#)

The large Telecoms were required to offer phone network access to the cable companies phone services. Why is the reverse not true. There is no engineering barrier to requiring them to make their local networks available to others, at a regulated rate of compensation.

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mohit ★ [1 month ago](#)

agree 100% with paul london, who are the benefactors...CRTC (the position holder's), the rich Broadcaster's (with deep pockets) who are the loser's....we posting the blog...

its time to open up...more competition...better prices for consumers..

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Boring TV ★ [1 month ago](#)

We should not be forced to subsidize companies that can't earn a profit to sustain themselves. Why do we have pay for sub standard programs that appeal to a very small minority of people?

The market is not big enough for all the stations out there. The companies that can't compete should do what many companies do that can't make a profit do... Close shop and go elsewhere. I guess the majority of stations want to model GM. Cry about how hard things are demand a bailout because if they don't get it the world will end. It is only time before GM goes under. I will never again buy such a product due to the way they have conducted themselves. The same goes for the TV companies who plan on steeling my hard earned money to keep ineffective programs on the air.

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Bob ★ [1 month ago](#)

Cable companies and satellite companies really have a cozy situation. Once they get a customer and since there are few providers, they really get an annuity. They are able to bundle services so that you are forced to buy services that you don't want. By doing this we are providing a subsidy to support channels we don't want and don't watch. The only bundles that should be available are the Canadian network stations, including independent stations and provincial services offered by many provinces. Additionally the time shifting package offering the East and West US networks is a valued service. All other offerings should be elective by the customer.

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Greg Robins ★ [1 month ago](#)

The product that is being offered is absolute crap. You can't concentrate on any programme because they are inundated with commercials. If the local stations are pleading poverty, why are there so many commercials? And cable! More crap. The price we are paying for the garbage offered by cable is exorbitant. If it wasn't for someone else in my household, I would blow cable off and go back to an antenna. Any increase in my cable bill will probably put me over the edge to cancel.

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KC ★ [1 month ago](#)

If I'm correct, the cable companies pay a fee for speciality channels (mostly American?). If I were to pick up someone else's property and sell it to my relatives and friends, surely I would be prosecuted. The customer shouldn't have to pay extra to the cable companies for the fee forwarded to CBC, CTV and Global. The customer should also be able to select what channels to pay for, just as we can select the services we require from our phone companies. Someone else touched on cell phones, which is another story, I know, but why do I have to pay for someone else's long distance call (which I may not want to receive), as well as that person paying? We don't have to do this with landlines.

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jgms ★ [1 month ago](#)

Everyone I ask is unhappy with television. Most watch but a handful of channels, but must pay for many. Quality programs are scarce, while cheap nonsense abounds. Competition i.e. cable/satellite is too limited, and the pricing is not cheap. Canadians have been taken for sheep far too long. Get it fixed, or let's get a Government that will.

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Arch ★ [1 month ago](#)

All in all, we all pay far too much for telecommunication services in this country, whether it be telephone, cell or any other media, especially compared to our neighbours south of the border. I am absolutely against the TV stations charging \$10 / month to the cable/satellite companies to distribute to millions of people the ads on their programs than the TV companies benefit

from. If it were not for the wide network of people the cable and satellite companies reach, I'm sure the ad fees their clients pay would also be reduced.

What's next? ...the Newspaper companies charging the delivery boy to deliver the ads in their newspapers.

This is all about competition and sustainability. If the TV networks can't make it, then cut back on the expenses like other companies. I'm not exactly hearing a lot about their cost cutting, or hundreds of people be laid off at CTV/CBC as an example.

This in my mind is simply a CASH GRAB. not unlike the HARMONIZED TAX....where's the Harmony, ...there is no tax blending, it's a grab at the highest tax level for all products/services.

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FMMacri ★ [1 month ago](#)

Cable & satellite take free-to-air programming and sell it back to subscribers!!!

They claim they are forced to. Bull! Customers are given no choice, they must pay for Basic programming. Free channels should be free and Basic should then also contain cable channels. BUT give me choice; let me pick and choose which channels I want, AND don't FORCE me to take channels I don't want because they are part of a Theme package. Price TV packages by number of channels but leave the choice to me.

The whole issue is a false one. Local TV broadcasts free, so it can't ask to be paid for free programming, which also means cable & satellite companies cannot and should not charge for them AND should be prohibited from doing so.

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Lien Thoo ★ [1 month ago](#)

I want to put on public record that I am not opposed to the tv tax. I find it offensive that the cable companies are using their considerable wealth and influence to try and influence Canadians on this matter. I doubt there is a company with more complaints against it than Rogers Communication. I believe public stations and programming need to be protected from this oligopoly that is the cable/satellite industry.

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Stephanie ★ [1 month ago](#)

What I couldn't understand this weekend is that I could watch NFL games on regular cable carried by Canadian stations - but the Grey Cup was only on TSN! How is that supporting Cdn content?

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Like



EricSM ★ [1 month ago](#)

Effective 2009-09-01 my monthly rate, covering subscription for tier 1&2 is \$54.95, (Shaw Cable).How is this charge distributed?If a portion of charges are used to buy programming I feel that the TV stations should be paid from my suscription the same as other programme suppliers.The price charged should be enough to cover additional fees.As a matter of interest for 3BR house,monthly year around,Electricity \$36.00,Natural gas \$80.00. Go figure.
Eric,Abbotsford

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Like



crobitaille ★ [1 month ago](#)

I don't understand what Globe Media was thinking when they decided not to put the Grey Cup on my local CTV station last sunday night, I was all for saving local tv because I can't afford satellite or cable. But now I am wondering what they were thinking, and as I am wondering I watched the NFL game on my local NBC affiliate in HD instead of not watching the game that should have been on CTV.

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A. J. Gordon ★ [1 month ago](#)

I dont see a problem. If someone takes a product, repackages it, and then sells it at a profit they are obligated to pay the producer for its use. This is precisely what the cable and satellite distributors are doing. They should pay for the use of the TV Station's signal.

I do not subscribe to either a cable or satellite provider.

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A. J. Gordon ★ [1 month ago](#)

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I do not subscribe to either a cable or satellite provider.

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Jawed ★ [1 month ago](#)

CRTC has failed us (Canadians) big time. We have become the only country with sky rocketing prices of TV & Cell Phones. Was this the purpose to create CRTC ??????

Enough is Enough !!

[Flag](#)

Like



nukdoc ★ [1 month ago](#)

I agree with all the comments. The CRTC should encourage broadcasters, not programming. Canadians will want to watch Canadian programmers if they offer quality - and the market should be the entire English language world, not just Canada. Canadians should be free to watch programming over the Internet, local over-the-air, via satellite, via internet, and via wifi or wimax or whatever future technologies. The CRTC should only regulate that some of the programming should be Canadian - "where feasible" - and Canadian artists and producers should be encouraged to produce for the Canadian and "world" markets. Is a Canadian produced movie using a Canadian author and American actors Canadian or American? Arbitrary regulations produces mediocrity. Open the markets up to competition - if you dare - since like most, I see the CRTC as the biggest promoter of mediocrity in Canada - not a protector of Canadian content - but rather a protector of Canada's monopoly distributors - ie Bell, Shaw, Rogers, and Telus.

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michaelgale ★ [1 month ago](#)

Dear CRTC,

I have the following comments to make on the ongoing TV stations vs Carriers.

1. The Carriers such as SHAW, Rogers and the Satellite companies are only the carriers of the signals.
2. Without the cable and satellite networks the local TV stations would not have a medium with which to carry their signal to the public.
3. Without the cable and satellite companies the TV stations would be limited in the number of households they would have their programs available to.
4. At present all "local" stations can have their programing received over the air for free and it is

assumed when the switch to digital is made their programming will still be available for free over the air.

5. Without cable and/or satellite networks the number of viewers for the TV stations would be severely limited as who would provide the programs to rural areas?

6. The infrastructure for implementing the cable system, and to some degree the satellite systems, requires an ongoing commitment in research and development, thus the TV stations should be the ones who should provide some of the funding to the cable and satellite networks, not the other way round.

7. As a pensioner I find the cost of cable fees already nearly out of reach and any further cost would make subscribing for the service intolerable.

8. Another reason I am considering reducing my cable service is the intolerable amount of advertising time, 20 minutes in an hour, thus effectively we are paying for advertising and not enjoyable programming.

Thank you for reading this and I hope it is of some help in your decision making.

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Alex ★ 1 month ago

What is local television? The best I can come up can be summarized as a couple of hours a day of local news with network programming fill-in the rest of the time. The news is extremely limited and shallow. The network filler is American programming with a few network programs. These stations have had their reach extended since they have been carried on cable and therefore have had their ability to service advertisers has been enhanced. They quietly accepted those benefits of this carriage over the years.

Now we have grown from a world of scarcity to a world of abundance, and the 'we will give you garbage because we are all there is' business model is collapsing around them. Through laziness or ineptness these stations and networks are not growing to meet the new world. Instead, they are grasping at anything they can to avoid change.

Change is inevitable, so why should we waste money (9.1 million subscribers in 2003 (industry Canada) * 12 months x 10\$ is over a billion dollars a year) chasing a dead business model. Why not use that money to get quality broadband service to all Canadians and move delivery of everything over the internet. WE are now seeing internet capable televisions, home theatre, radio, computers, phones, etc. Let's get efficient and use a common highway for everything (all media) and let the providers provide services over the technology. Provide the content at the user's convenience.

Of course, this will provide new demands that can generate revenues. Want to debate the interpretation of news with the people trying to manipulate your view? Join the station and debate with the researchers behind the story. Demand more information and present alternate view points.

If the CRTC drops mandatory carriage as part of this action I will drop all Canadian channels to avoid the fee. If not I will consider alternatives to Canadian cable and Satellite.

To the television networks and stations: The scarcity business model is dead - evolve or die with it.

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John M ★ 1 month ago

Open up the market, and make the PVR's etc compatible with all types of service not just the one that particular cable or satellite provider offers.

CBC should operate as a public broadcaster just like PBS. Canadian content should compete like all other programming.

If the CRTC is going to continue to operate then its mandate should be scaled right back to the basics.

Shaw, Rogers, Bell whoever should be competing with whoever wants or can provide television and internet service in this country and it should be done yesterday.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*E. McClelland* ★ [1 month ago](#)

These hearings are focusing on the wrong issue – how to cover extra costs – instead of on *eliminating* the costs.

The core of this whole problem of affordability and choice for consumers and extra cost for broadcasters and carriers lies in the CRTC's "requirement" that carriers force viewers to pay for a package of Canadian services. That requirement should be the focus of these hearings. That's what's creating the extra costs and what's eroding consumer choice and value.

So how about a brand new model? Drop the CRTC's requirement for forced Canadian services. Let the Canadian broadcast channels compete for viewers (and advertisers). Let the networks build on their market successes (specialty channels) and let their failed products die. And let those that aren't meeting Canadian consumers' needs fail or be bought by someone who can. And please, please give us more competition in carriers! Now there's a business model with some logic and fairness and the seed of true innovation.

Another issue: Why did the CRTC have to be "directed" by Canadian Heritage Minister James Moore to consider consumer interests? Good grief, aren't consumers (and taxpayers) the ones who ultimately keep all of the villains in this carrier/broadcaster dispute afloat? Isn't your mandate to ensure that the broadcasting system serves the Canadian public? No wonder there's an online "Dissolve the CRTC" petition when the CRTC has to be "directed" to fulfill its mandate.

I'm deeply disappointed in the broadcasters, the carriers and the CRTC – all three parties are trying to salvage an inefficient, outdated model instead of displaying some leadership and good old Canadian innovation by exploring brand new models. All three are ignoring Canadian viewers' needs for choice at a fair price.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*shawnallen* ★ [1 month ago](#)

CRTC stopped regulating monopoly cable bills and yet prohibits American competition.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*shawnallen* ★ [1 month ago](#)

CRTC for years censored Canadians to the point that MTV the music channel was never available here.

Absolutley amazing. Chinese governement would be proud of that!!

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*starchoice* ★ [1 month ago](#)

There needs to be support for Canadian digital channels not offered by cable or satellite providers on their whim. Shaw seems to be the worst culprit. When a digital channel has been around for almost ten years, how do they justify not offering it, to the detriment of the Canadian industry? Yet they are freely allowed to add new American services. Mandate carriage of Canadian digitals and then open up the market to whatever else they want to add but don't add to the detriment of the Canadian industry.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*williamreeve* ★ [1 month ago](#)

If the CRTC would drop its Stalinist mind-set and get out of the business of interfering with the

access of Canadians to satellite TV I might be able to afford to receive television programming beyond the few fuzzy snowy local stations that I can get with my "rabbit ears". I know from trips beyond the reach of the CRTC's "iron curtain" that there is a wonderful world of great television out there in the free world, much of it at no cost or very inexpensive.

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rosey ★ [1 month ago](#)

I agree with comments that the CRTC should be eliminated. This is supposed to be a free country, according to the morons that were elected. However, when it comes to wireless, cable and internet we are way behind our neighbours to the south. Our costs are higher, our selection is less varied and we have no recourse because the warm bodies at the CRTC don't give a crap about the 30+ million consumers. They only worry about the cable, satellite and wireless companies,

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Glen Strathy ★ [1 month ago](#)

Without more Canadian programming, especially drama and news, the result would be no Canadian voice - local, regional, or national. It would also be the loss of an important industry.

Clearly, only local television will produce local news and is a valuable service. However, national programming is just as important. More money needs to be funneled into Canadian programming, particularly programming that can be exported profitably to other nations without disguising or hiding the Canadian-ness of it.

Just as the Canadian content rules allowed the Canadian music industry to develop, we need to fund more Canadian content in television

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Glen Strathy ★ [1 month ago](#)

The fact that so many Canadians prefer to watch American content shows the failure of governments to foster and develop a quality Canadian presence on the airwaves. That failure needs to be addressed. Canadian culture has too often been perceived as inferior when in fact it has merely been underfunded. There is no shortage of talented Canadians, but too many of them are forced to go overseas to find work.

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nubus ★ [1 month ago](#)

1. CRTC should be shut down as an agency and the consumers should be let to decide what they want to watch. CBC and the rest of the government owned media should be privatised. If they can't stay in business, well then maybe they should produce more competitive content, cut their bloated budgets and overpaid staff and have better business strategy. This is Canada, not North Korea - why should we have government owned channels that are REQUIRED to be aired by the cable companies?

2. Let the US broadcasters in and drop tough requirements for new market entrants -that would bring competition, give better value to consumer, create more jobs and get more tax revenue for the government. Completely deregulated media market is the only sustainable model - look at the internet.

[Flag](#)

Like



The Model is Broken ★ [1 month ago](#)

Open the market and remove the completely artificial "rebroadcasting" rights system. Forcing

Canadian carriers to purchase rights from US operators has led to Canadians paying ridiculously inflated prices as the operators artificially bid up the cost between each other.

We are a secondary market to the US operators and should be paying a small nominal fee to leverage their already existing programming.

Not only have the inflated prices paid by operators has led to unnecessary increases in subscription costs to consumers, but it has led to the need to charge ever increasing (and ever uncompetitive) advertising rates. The net result is that only the largest advertisers can afford to play, and local advertising has effectively been eliminated.

Let consumers pick their channels and directly link the subscription revenue back to the content providers. This will remove unnecessary intermediaries from the process (Canadian channel operators) and allow the market to determine the value of the programming instead of a small handful of network operators.

The outdated, complex, cumbersome and nonsensical regulatory scheme currently has led to illogical market behaviour and an inevitable death spiral. Let the market prevail and consumers will determine what they should be paying - not bloated intermediaries.

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Geoffrey ★ 1 month ago

The gathering of information for this study is more than simple commercial substitution, or the request for fees from broadcasting undertakings.

The cable delivery system was originally based upon receiving a television signal, without charge, and delivering to a location. At a time when the television viewing choice was limited, it was a boon. The cable systems had to foot the cost of transporting that signal, using what are now antique systems, to far flung communities.

The television stations when they began in the 1950s originally operated in a vacuum. They had to be all things to all people. There was: a local children's show, a local news show, a local religious show for shut-ins, assorted dramas from network sources, variety shows from local and network sources, as well as the ever present sports show. In larger centres two channels appeared, and later in the smaller centres. Larger centres also got third and fourth television services, and then the economy suddenly slowed in the mid 1970s, and then the first consolidations began to happen.

The line about where one medium stops and another begins is becoming more blurred.

The satellite/cable delivery system has become very successful. They became the Masters of the 'negative option' when it came to billing and making choices. If you do not say 'no', then you got it; though to say 'no' has a cost.

Terrestrial broadcasters are, by and large, saying the cost of converting to digital will cost too much and say they want to delay the introduction of improved technology. The impression is that they would prefer not having to this.

The cable/satellite services charge a premium to use there 'digital' box to watch digital signals on a HD screen. The satellite cable company having scrambled an unscrambled service they may have received off-air for no cost. It is possible for the cable/satellite services to provide individual channels on a as requested basis. If a subscriber wants the receive "The Roady Channel", then a subscriber has to also take "The Surf Board Channel", "The Crayon Channel", and other channels that may not be wanted. Can this be changed?

It is not unreasonable for the cable/satellite companies to pay for the use of the signal. The cable company says we do local programming - yes, but it is only available on cable, satellite viewers do not have access; nor do people who do not use the services of either type of company.

It is not unreasonable for the television companies to make better use of their monies. Other than local news, where is the local production? Are the monies they have received gone into

management salaries? or forwarded to the shareholders?

The new digital terrestrial services hold much promise. There is the possibility of adding subchannels to the new signals. The broadcasting companies could add their cable channels to the main frequencies. For example, CFL games are only on TSN, would the audience have been larger if the signal was carried on a CTV subchannel?

This is an annoying argument between one set of large well-off companies against another set of well-off companies. One has business model that puts itself into debt and digs out, the other has a business model where it finds money and then starts to pay off the debt.

A complete reexamination of how television is delivered to Canadians needs to be examined. The argument of the suppliers VS the carriers is a misdirection into what really needs to be done in re-evaluating how the provided signals are getting to viewers.

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Paul Pendrith ★ [1 month ago](#)

This public forum on fees to prop up local television content is a sham.

It's a certainty that the CRTC is going to allow these fees.

The CRTC doesn't care about the Canadian television viewing public, they just want to maximize the amount of money that gets pumped into the television/arts industry.

In my opinion, if local TV can't produce a show that attracts enough viewers to make it commercially viable, it deserves to fail, just like an other business.

A large percentage of opinions on this public forum oppose local TV fees, but the CRTC will pay no attention..... we're all wasting our time.....

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cb10 ★ [1 month ago](#)

The CRTC has dropped the ball and created a mess of the television system. They are now asking for input because they do not want to admit they are over their heads and are unwilling to make hard decisions. It is time to get rid of the CRTC and replace it with something that will work for the public and not for their own interest. Let the public choose what they want to see and what they are willing to pay for each channel. If we had delivery competition we would see a very different market. I have no choice, it is either Rogers or Bell and each is worst then the other. Give me options so I can buy the service I want and drop what is of no interest to me. Give me many delivery options and 2 vendors is not competition! Give me access to multiple suppliers and access via the Internet. If the vendors cannot offer me what I want they will become obsolete and the problem will be gone. Every player in this discussion are acting as childrens and it is time that the public (the Parent) takes control. You are (CRTC) working for us so keep the Public happy give us choice or get out of the kitchen!

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Dan ★ [1 month ago](#)

Canadian content rules are somewhat not realistic. Too much effort is made too ensure Canadian content is watched. End the rules that the tv station must have X hours of Canadian content and instead place effort on making content that Canadians want to watch.

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mtexv ★ [1 month ago](#)

Canwest Global is a huge corporation. They are losing money because they spend too much money making bad TV, and are heavily biased politically. I have no interest in supporting them with more money out of my pocket. This is nothing but a money grab.

[Flag](#)

Like



ta4ghoti ★ [1 month ago](#)

I deplore the arrogance of the monopoly cable providers. Their customer service is an elaborate scam that begins with an overpriced, over-hyped product, bundled with rubbish I don't want;

then you get locked into a "verbal contract" (they won't send it to you in writing); and finally, when you complain loud enough or threaten to cancel, a charming customer retention specialist comes up with a "special offer" to shut you up - an offer that should have been on view when you signed up in the first place.

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Trish Watson ★ [1 month ago](#)

If the CRTC approves the television tax to subsidize CTV et al, then cable customers should not automatically have to subscribe to these services. Fair is fair. Our cable provider provides all kinds of local programming - why should our cable bill subsidize the networks to do more local programming?

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Anne ★ [1 month ago](#)

This business of forcing Canadian content is plain silly. If Canadians wanted to watch Canadian show, they would. As it is I, and so many others, like the American shows. It's self evident. sorry to say, though I always give Canadian shows a chance, they either bore me or their humor is so over the top that it is awful.

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Karen Morley ★ [1 month ago](#)

I am thoroughly fed up of being inundated with comments from these two - I think they are both well compensated, and should be sharing the pie they have instead of adding yet another tax to consumers. I think enough is enough, start to act responsibly, divy up what you have, and stop trying to milk the poor consumer for even more dollars.

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Brittany ★ [1 month ago](#)

I wish the CRTC provided stronger incentives to produce quality Canadian content on Canadian networks. This includes supporting the export of Canadian programming to other countries. Case in point, see BBC TV which has exported shows directly (such as Dr. Who) as well as sold reality show 'formats' to other countries (like the wildly successful Strictly Come Dancing turned Dancing with the Stars).

This would not only create jobs IN Canada (for the TV industry), it could also provide a revenue stream for the CRTC by licensing Canadian-made programs in other countries. It would also keep Canadians working in Canada, instead of fleeing to the States to work in the TV industry.

If there are such rules / support existing for radio stations, why not have similar rules for television to nurture, develop, and sell Canadian television?

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J B ★ [1 month ago](#)

Is there any possible way of setting up one, or a few, places that will sponsor production of programming in Canada, and/or distribute signals from elsewhere to other networks or stations?

Is anyone willing to come together in a supporting role instead of competing or complaining?

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John Doe ★ [1 month ago](#)

Looks to me like the error was made a long time ago by local TV broadcasters. When they saw that the cable companies were broadcasting their material and not paying for it, they should have addressed the issue at that time. It boils down to mismanagement and now they're looking for the consumer to pay for their mistake. Cable companies are over-charging for limited channels, limited flexibility in their packages but at the end of the day, it's a business and they're in the business to make money. I am not willing to fork over \$120 a year for local TV that I can get for free with rabbit ears. If they cannot run a profitable business then the business should die. Sorry to say it but this could have been solved ages ago if local TV had been paying attention.

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 [gertoskarreitner](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

Instead of packages a subscriber should be able to select EACH channel and be charged accordingly ! Out of well over 150 channels that are thrown at me I only watch less than 24 and that is what I want to select and pay for . The whole pricing structures are nothing but cash grabbers and should be REGULATED . There is NO real competition and it is high time that there is just like the land telephone lines the Cable guys must concede to others !

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 [Norman B](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

To Whom it May Concern,

I am absolutely disgusted with the manner in which the so-called "locals" are trying to make a cash grab during a downturn in the economy. They claim that they are 'locals', producing 'local programming' and that the cable and satellite companies are using their feeds for free and not returning anything to the 'local' community.

1. The 'locals' claim they have not been compensated for 35 years of free program material. I say, they have been carried free of charge for 35 years, mandated by the CRTC and the government. Imagine if you will, how many viewers so called 'locals' would have if the carriers dropped them. How many people do you think are still watching TV on "rabbit ears" ?
2. The 'locals' are no longer locals. In my neck of the woods (the Maritimes) there used to be stations in Fredericton, Moncton, Charlottetown, Saint John, Sydney, Yarmouth and Halifax. Now one 'super station' CJCH serves these three provinces. Yet Steve Murphy every evening on the supper news show makes reference to the only station that still delivers "local news". What happened to CBC Halifax ? Last I saw they were still delivering 'local' news. Besides which, any station that serves three provinces in a country with ten, defines the definition of regional broadcaster if ever there was one.
3. CTV is at the bottom of this mess and the others, CBC and Global have jumped on the bandwagon as they can smell the possibility of extra \$\$\$\$. CTV says they need more \$\$\$ or else smaller stations will close and we will all suffer as 'local' content is pushed aside. Well, CHUM certainly has experience pushing 'local' stations aside and have been doing so LONG BEFORE the current economic downturn.
4. I saw no signs of "poverty" when CTV outbid the peoples network to the tune of approximately one quarter of a billion dollars for the rights to the 2010 Olympic Winter games.
5. I saw no signs of "poverty" when CTV outbid the peoples network for the rights to "Hockey Night in Canada" - about a cool \$16 million as I recall.

I have grave reservations on the neutrality of the CRTC in this manner as it has long been filled with people from the broadcasting industry.

If it is the intention of the CRTC to grant these so-called 'local' stations the right to be compensated by carriers then there have to be limits on what constitutes a 'local'.

A. The mother network must be carried free of charge. This is almost a right Canadians should have. We pay for it, it should be free.

B. Every region would have one 'local' station in each network. In areas such as the Maritimes, where all the real locals have been closed down and only one 'super station' remains, it would be the station of record. In areas with many 'real local' stations they could negotiate their fee.

C. Every household would only have to pay for ONE 'local' per network and any locals which successfully negotiate a fee. i.e. Shaw/Star Choice has the ability to directly provide programming for each household. Therefore a subscriber in Fredericton for example would receive only the 'local' stations which in this case would be CJCH, CBC and Global if provided. They would not be charged for the other 'locals' that would be defined across the country. As Express Vu cannot do this, any stations which bleed through would be a bonus until Express VU finds the technology to provide just one station to each household.

D. If the CRTC in it's wisdom decide to package these 'locals' then they must cease to be carried by dictate and be opened up to consumers who wish to either purchase or decline to carry them. Let the 'locals' survive on their service, their record, their reputation and their content.

The final comment on the content above is made in reference to what the CRTC's actions in the past as regards sim-subbing have done to destroy Canadian content in programming. All a station has to do now is buy the license to show a particular program and they are free to do what they want with it. For example, I pay for HBO Canada. HBO broadcasts live fights on Friday and at other times during the week. However, I do not receive this as TSN and Sportsnet have negotiated separate agreements with HBO to show this programming. Or not to show it if they don't feel the show will deliver sufficient advertising revenue. Either way, I LOSE. The same goes for much of the content on Discovery Canada, National Geographic Canada, HDNET, Showcase etc etc etc. The dismal state of television in Canada during prime time is an example of the worst that sim-subbing can bring. By buying a US made program, telling the carriers they are broadcasting it at the same time as the US station does, the carrier is required by law to substitute the Canadian version, complete with inadequately timed commercial insertions and additional commercials as the Canadian stations wish to insert. An example of this was last weekends football game where the Canadian broadcaster hi-jacked the football game on both the FOXHE and FOXHW feeds until approx 16:15 EST before delivering the Minnesota game which was, by then, already in progress. By the way, I PAY FOR THE US STATIONS. I really hate having some Canadian program director dictate to me what I can and cannot see on a service I PAY FOR !

A final warning to the CRTC. Today's technology threatens the viability of many entertainment sources; whether kids downloading free music or people downloading movies sourced by torrents. Much of this is due to incredible greed and avarice on the part of performers. An actor who can demand sufficient money as to own his own airport with several warbirds, a 720 private jet and two helicopters or a singer who prices his or her work at exorbitant rates virtually invites the sort of rip-off that may eventually stifle creativity. Pricing entertainment on what is basically Canadian property - the airwaves - above what is reasonable invites the very abuse you say you want to prevent - piracy, grey market, torrent downloads and mp3 trading.

Short of making hundreds of thousands or even millions of your citizens criminals by law, your days as the premier 'defenders of the faith' are coming to an end. Today's broadcasters, particularly the so-called 'locals' had better be prepared for what they may receive. For decades they have had the weight of law and the dictates of the CRTC to ensure their continued good fortune in being carried free of charge. No company ever did their customers a favour by going out of business. Of course the carriers will pass on any costs. Some people may not think so when they look at their \$80, \$100 or larger cable/sat bills but there is a lot of competition out there now for the entertainment buck. If a \$10 or \$11 dollar increase winds its way to the consumer you can bet the grey market in this country will explode. As will the market for entertainment over the internet. The consumers may bypass the CRTC and make their anger known directly to the politicians who really run the airways.

My message to the 'locals' - "Be careful what you wish for, you may just get it !" My message to the CRTC - be careful what you give the big broadcasters. Hasty decisions or decisions already made and a process seen by the public as a sham may result in the destruction of the very industry you claim you are trying to protect.

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A lot of companies have had to adjust to these low economic climates. Better times ahead. I believe the TV Companies are trying to use the economic downturn to further their own pockets and they don't care about joe blow's wallet. I have a telephone. a cheap pay and talk cell phone, High speed internet access and starchoice dish. TOTAL COMMUNICATIONS BILL \$ 160 PER MONTH FOR BASISCS WITH LITTLE FRILLS.

TV is 67.98 or 40 % of that cost. Unjustifiable in my opinion

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I have a concern about the Canadian content regulations being weakened in favour of more imported programming. I don't fully understand why a show promoting American values, full of American characters and language gets to be Canadian content because it was filmed in Vancouver and the producer ate at a Husky stop once. Yet if Stephen Spielberg and Tom Hanks did a mini series in Europe about Canadian Soldiers in World War Two it would be considered non-Canadian. Is this rule about content or production?

I rarely watch TV Canadian or otherwise because the hegemony of ownership and content means my options are limited. I am a fan of Canadian shows that show me Canada in fiction and documentary. So far it is rare to find that kind of programming. The international programs I would like to see aren't offered in Canada either. Unless I can afford a four figure cable bill and put up with even more fluffy channels in the bundle.

One of the problems Canadian TV faces is the increased amount of a narrow right wing American point of view of shows. Shows that pander to sensationalism, corporatism and vulgarity, that never show even the slightest diversity of Canada or the US. Turning the channel rarely changes the weakening of diversity from the nation of first import.

If we had more domestic competition there would be a need for more domestic programs with production and content reflecting the country. The CRTC did the right thing with APTN giving Aboriginal Canadians a network to provide their stories and entertainment. As more competition is allowed customers will have more choice and more diversity. The main things the CRTC should focus on is ending monopoly, cartels and moving Canadian television to a more open competitive free market uncorrupted by the giant players who control it today.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*Edwin Stephens* ★ [1 month ago](#)

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kjr_f1 ★ 1 month ago

I would like to be able to watch the channels that I'm paying for.

When Rogers moved the Speed Channel from regular cable to their premium service, I duly upgraded my cable to be able to watching racing. Now this past summer, TSN was able to ask Speed to blackout their feed to Canada so they (TSN) were the exclusive provider of F1 racing, albeit the feed was coming from the BBC - it wasn't even TSN programming. These were two different broadcasts - why am I not able to choose (the superior) Speed program? TSN doesn't even air the entire broadcast of the race/qualifiing.

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Guest ★ 1 month ago

I want choice in the hardware I use to enjoy my TV experience. I don't think it's fair that providers are basically choosing our hardware for us. Example PVRs; I'm stuck with whatever system they provide if I want to make the most out of their signals. This hardware is generally the cheapest. However look to our southern neighbours and they have tons of choices on PVRs because of the Cablecard technology. I urge the CRTC to read the following website on the issue as they say it in a more informative way on the issue I'm trying to raise.

<http://thegreenbutton.com/blogs/pnear/archive/2...>

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twinkle4483 ★ 1 month ago

I'll start with an analogy. Do you remember when VCRs were all the rage? You could go to any electronics store and choose from about fifty different models of VCRs - the four head VCR, the HQ VCR, the black one and the silver one with cool rotating tape graphics. And then came the innovation stage, where they came up with VCR+ to make it easier to record scheduled shows, downloaded guide data encoded in PBS signals, and even the one that set its own clock. The point is this - you could choose your own quality from cheap garbage to over-priced nirvana and manufacturers constantly challenged each other to come up with new features. It was low-tech compared to today's standards, but that was innovation. Wondering where the analogy comes in? Well imagine that someone from the cable company went to the store for you, said "I'll take the cheapest one with the worst features" and then forced you to buy that (for a slight markup of course). Wouldn't that make you mad? Well in a nutshell, that's the problem right now in Canada - we should have choices, we should have competition creating innovation, we should have products that don't suck. Instead, the cable companies are telling us "you can have any colour you want so long as it's black."

In the United States, they are using the exact same technologies as us to distribute cable and they have choice (and in my opinion, some pretty cool choices too). The difference is that in 1996, the FCC recognized the inherent problem of tying television service to a proprietary set top box and mandated that the cable companies work with third-parties who develop devices that would use their high-definition digital signals. In a compromise that would allow the cable companies to control at least the security aspect of their networks, the cable companies and the FCC eventually settled on a technology called "cablecard". While any device could then work with the digital cable, the cable companies still encrypt or "scramble" the signal and that signal can only be decrypted when you get a special key from the cable company. That key is called a cablecard, and it is only given out to work with hardware that has been tested and proven to maintain the security that the cable company requires. And here we are...

So has cablecard been a resounding success in the United States? I would say that no it has

not. While the concept is sound, the technology itself has limitations that make it difficult to implement. Additionally, the cable companies themselves have appeared to be reluctant to extend any reasonable amount of goodwill in getting their end of the compromise, the security card, deployed and running in other people's homes. But like I said the concept is sound and with must-have gadgets like the Tivo Series 3 driving demand things are getting better.

Am I suggesting that Canada plunge in and adopt Cablecard right away? Actually no, I have specifically asked that the CRTC direct the cable and satellite companies to investigate existing technologies and report back on the best way to meet the goal of allowing third party devices to connect to their networks. In reality, this will take several years and I think that it's perfect timing for the Canadian cable companies to jump in and participate in the latter stages of cablecard version 2, which has the potential to solve many of the issues that were discovered by the early v1 adopters in the United States.

- * We as consumers should have choice in our consumer electronics and not have it dictated to us by opportunistic cable companies
- * We as a society need to continue to foster competition and creativity amongst the makers of these devices
- * There is no reason other than opportunism that cable companies would need to encrypt content that is freely available over the air
- * We need to respect the need for pay TV content producers to preserve their business model via some form of encryption, namely cablecard or it's future iterations

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[twinkkle4483](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

We wants choices. Whether it be providers, PVRs etc we want CHOICES lots of them. Because the only way to encourage prices to drop or at least not gouge us is to create competition with the providers out there. There's a monopoly with the industry and until there become more options they will continue to do whatever they wish to our wallets. I personally I want to get an HD Tivo which currently isn't available in Canada because we have no cable card system. I won't get into that in detail I'm not so much interested in what specific technology gets implemented but I do think that the concept of the Cable Card was spot on and We should be looking into the various technologies to implement that idea. Open up the market!

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[Stormintv](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

Local TV matters to me. It is where people in communities come together to learn about events that touch our everyday lives. From the SAVE LOCAL TV scam

>

> Yes that is what suppose to be done. But since all of our Northern Ontario channels were condensed into ONE when those BIG BELL GUYS bought them and totally destroyed each cities news 8 yrs ago. Tooooooo late, they changed their name. The CRTC got manipulated by the big wigs, and now here we are. I can help.

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[garysmith1](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

When is all this over pricing going to stop? My personsl opinion is this is another way to fill cable company and sat pockets. It is time to stop all this gouging and this would be a great place to start.

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[slimsilver](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

Yes there are other issues that need addressed and that is this the regulation that we here in Canada cant choose to buy programing from foreign based broadcasting companies. When i first started watching satellite TV i bought a dish from the USA and paid for my programing through a credit card and we here in Canada had the idea that we could not

compete with US broadcasters so i had to stop watching Direct TV and buy a Canadian dish and pay a higher price for programing.

That was all well till i seen what i had to pay for and that was multiple channels of the same programing and channels with a language i could not understand.

So we need a choice here in Canada and that is we should have the right to choose what channels we want like single channels and not have to pick from packages and how much we pay for those channels and not be gouged for picking single channels and not packages and who we pay for our TV and not stuck to pick from two satellite providers.

I like Canadian Satellite and would stay with them if i could choose what channels i had to pay for and had the choice to also buy some of the better channels offered by US companies.

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Torontonion ★ [1 month ago](#)

The CRTC, needs to reexamine some of the decisions it previously made, before discussing whether or not "Fee for Carriage" should be implemented.

1. The specialty channels, not the locals, should be downsized: There is no need for a YTV and a Nickelodeon: YTV shows most of the programming from Nick. Get rid of Nickelodeon.

Showcase Action? Get rid of it. MTV? Get rid of it, leave Much Music.

2. CityTV, and MuchMusic: One of the best examples of how local programming worked. Giving the ownership of MuchMusic, to CTV, was one of the worst decisions that the CRTC made. Likewise , selling CP24 to CTV. CP24 was a part of CityTV. City TV should have dropped all their prime time programming i.e. Jay Leno, and be CP24 only. The CRTC, should reconsider giving CP24 back to CityTV.

3. Get rid of OMNI 2: Why does OMNI/CFMT have two licenses in the same market? It makes no sense: Now, with Rogers owning CityTV, that makes it three. (Four if you count Rogers 10) OMNI television, does not deserve two licenses: Why are we paying for an extra channel? Get rid of it.

4. Why is there a SunTV? Toronto Sun media, would be better off running its own shopping/barker channel like Torstar, on the far end of the dial, instead of a local must carry: Even Canoe.ca is better on its own, instead of Sun TV.

These changes would immediately save Canadian subscribers an enourmous amount of money.

5. Local TV in other markets : Mostly the "A" Stations, should be supported by the subscribers in those regions, not by all Canadians. i.e. Barrie, London, Oshawa, must pay for their own stations, and ideally, should be independently owned and operated.

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Frank ★ [1 month ago](#)

As long as it does not cost me anymore "fees, read tax" then i do not give a crap what they do. Greedy companies.

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Ivan Forster ★ [1 month ago](#)

We are low income pensioners.We do not wish to pay more - nay - cannot pay more especially for the rubbish that we are compelled to watch As for local TV - please scrap it. Just give me

TVO and BBC and cut my bill in half please. By the way - we are still trying to work out how we will pay the McGuinty sales tax. Enough is enough

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Dick ★ [1 month ago](#)

I have been receiving e-mail submissions of all participants of this consultation process and the web page lists only 418 comments however I have received considerably more e-mails than that. Could someone enlighten me or should I continue to be a sceptic?

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wayne62 ★ [1 month ago](#)

I fail to see why our government through the CRTC needs, or has a right, to determine what Canadians watch on television.

How does forcing us to support stations we don't want benefit viewers? If the myriad of cable channels we never watch but are forced to pay for can't make it on their appeal to viewers, they should fail.

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arejay1 ★ [1 month ago](#)

Cable fees are a monopoly and they should be regulated. We need people on the CRTC that aren't industry stooges.

[Flag](#)

Like



Gord C ★ [1 month ago](#)

We don't have expense accounts, the only way to control our dwindling resources is to forego services. For example, the French channels are completely expendable for those who can't understand French. Why can't we choose to have an English only service - at reduced cost?

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Don -Alberta ★ [1 month ago](#)

Local programing from the CBC and CTV networks is seldom current and often time inaccurate. The majority of programing is American including news and information services. There is little local content. These networks can't even get the local weather correct.

There is very little family programing available on these networks. Canadian content is usually adult and highly sexual. The majority of programing is from the American networks.

News productions in general are strongly politically biased and represent the opion of the broadcaster. They represent a manipulation of the information to direct public opion in their direction. Public funding should not be used to support the political aspirations of these networks.

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Bruce ★ [1 month ago](#)

These days the evening television programs are filled with USA programs; where is the Canadian content; maybe the CRTC should change service requirements and require Canadian networks to show - for example 50% Canadian produced shows during the evening hours; the networks spend excessive amounts of money to YSA production companies for bland television shows - maybe the Canadian networks should use some of the money they spend on USA programs to create new and exciting Canadian programs; and allow Canaidan television companies to get into the business of producing television shows and programs.

[Flag](#)

Like*mhumber* ★ [1 month ago](#)

I do not believe in mandating Canadian content. allow the consumers to pick which channels from any where in the world and then we will find out what is required

[Flag](#)Like*msjo* ★ [1 month ago](#)

Virtually all TV we watch is pre-recorded and we record it on a PVR for watching at our convenience. The only flaw in this is that the programming schedule provided by the networks are overturned for special notices or sporting events that run late. I am not suggesting that these practices are without merit but if our services provided 1 week access to shows for paying subscribers on the internet as is common in other countries, they would be providing a value added service for which I would pay a modest added charge.

[Flag](#)Like*msjo* ★ [1 month ago](#)

One thing that should be discussed is IPTV. Internet access is effectively control by the owner of the satellite and cable services that distribute broadcast TV. This situation should be watched as it is a basic conflict of interest. IPTV is quite common globally and a competitive element albeit small at the moment. IPTV can be used in Canada to connect smaller ethnic groups and as a low cost medium to develop Canadian talent. Even with today's low speed "broadband", it is relatively easy to download a show so long as you don't want real time playback.

[Flag](#)Like*ASW* ★ [1 month ago](#)

Throughout this whole debate, the big networks have never committed to keeping local television stations on the air or otherwise supporting local programming. I do not support this tax whatsoever

[Flag](#)Like*Anthony* ★ [1 month ago](#)

Throughout this whole debate, the big networks have never committed to keeping local television stations on the air or otherwise supporting local programming. I do not support this tax whatsoever

[Flag](#)Like*lisa1234567* ★ [1 month ago](#)

I think the CRTC is a dinosaur. It really has no place in the future of satellite communication and entertainment.

We have to be one of the few countries who are forced to watch Television, by law, then are forced to subsidize said programming with our tax dollars.

Canadians want freedom to choose, and the full range of options to choose from.

If this ends up destroying some of the Canadian Television and Film industry so be it. If they produce a good product, they will find international buyers as well as Canadians.

It's time to put an end to this eniquity once and for all.

As our population ages, the internet, and television programs have become the most important tools for entertainment and information.

Why should we be rationed and tolerate it? In a democracy, it should be our choice, and if a referendum is needed to make this clear to our Canadian government, let's jump on the wagon and make it happen.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*gardenladyk* ★ [1 month ago](#)

If local stations get the fees I believe they should be paid, I would like to see local news be discounted from Canadian Content requirements of the broadcaster. Local news is one self-sustaining, saleable, potentially profit-making endeavour and should not be included as CanCon. Instead, add more hours of Canadian produced documentaries and dramas to the requirement. Also, for these Canadian produced documentaries and dramas a license fee for each specialty channel in addition to the national network should be made. A single license fee for blanket re-broadcast over all network properties is simply not right or fair.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*slimsilver* ★ [1 month ago](#)

All of our Networks are taking shows from the United States and turning them Canadian Ex: Cash Cab/Canadian Idol anyway i don't want to watch reality shows all the time i want Canadian shows like we had when i was a kid For Ex:Beach combers/King of Kensington/The forest rangers and others like that made here at home with our Canadian actors.

We don't have many good shows filmed and produced here in Canada what we have is a cartoon network with alot of foreign made cartoons anyway.

And we have Gay porn channels we are the only country in North America that i know of that has alot i mean alot of Gay porn channels(Check your Guide) in our program guide for all the young kids who are looking through the guide for something to watch can see .

There is something wrong with this picture here people and we need to take control of what our children are exposed to on a daily basis.

Remove these channels from showing in your program guide bell if there is such a great demand for your Gay porn channels add them as a specialty package don't have them in the guide.

And for those that say block them out there are some people that cant even program the clock on there TV or stereo so i would like to see them go through the process of blocking these channels.

And i would really like to see our Discovery Channel and History Channel the same as the US ones.

I don't want to watch Canada's worst driver<FAKE Show) 6 times a day 7 days a week.

They have more Canadian content on the US discovery and history channels then we do anyway so use there's and save your selves a ton of money filling our channel with a little Canadian content and buy better channels.

Our Satellite and cable providers pay alot for Spike TV and A&E and they need to buy more half decent high rated channels from other countries not Gay porn programing from France and Germany.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*Marlene Reyes* ★ [1 month ago](#)

Enough is enough!!!! To add a tax of \$10.00 is abusive!!! As a senior living on a "small" government pension(and I speak for many seniors) we have enough problems making ends meet!! What can we afford for entertainment ? - Television- and now you want to jeopardize that as well. Please give this careful consideration!!!!Thank you.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*TORoNtOcOPSaReTheBest* ★ [1 month ago](#)

Dont Bailout these networks because the cant handle their own affairs. If it wasnt for cable companies, these networks would be long gone already

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



stormintv ★ [1 month ago](#)

What can we do?

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



raulvelasquez ★ [1 month ago](#)

Basic cable and satellite charges are so high, if they increse my montly payment in order to pay for local channels I will cancelled my service rigth away

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[Like](#)



Sheila Godbehere ★ [1 month ago](#)

I am a senior. I live in medium sized town. I wan to know the happenings in my area. I want to know when there are events going on: eg. fairs bazzars etc. I feel that we are forced to pay for channels we don't want or have no interest in, because they are bundled with something we do not want. This is not fair especially for anyone on a fixed limited income. I am not interested in 850% of the channels out there, so why should I have to pay for them. I pay enough now for the few channels that are of interest. If the cable compaies want more money tell them to drop all these yuk channels that most people are not interested in and concentrate on the local channels, that way they would have the money to pay local tv for all thier talent.

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[Like](#)



david hoye ★ [1 month ago](#)

We need another national company providing Television in Ottawa - where are Telus and Shaw. Rogers reneged on my bundling package, and gets away with that because there is insufficient competition in this market.

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unis ★ [1 month ago](#)

I think that, for the price being paid, signal quality from Cable needs to be better - sometimes I may as well be watching with rabbit ears, I get so much "snow". I also think the actual stations need to monitor their equipment better - I waited almost four minutes the other day for a program to "unpause" itself - while it played on in some mysterious cyber-space, and I missed an important part of the program, as it resumed "in progress". We shouldn't have to pay for snow and screw-ups.

Also if the cable goes down, try to get a refund for the time it's down - easier to keep a snowball cold in hell!!!!

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localtv ★ [1 month ago](#)

As a child I remember watching TV with "rabbit ears" (antena) and we received signals for CFTO, Global, City TV and on a good weather day we could even get Fox TV. With all these local stations it was a part of our family and the great programs they provided which is in our memories from all their great broadcasting and providing US with all the local news and weather from day to day. What would it be now if we were to lose our local TV? No more Santa Claus Parades. No More ringing in the New Year with Cilty TV. No more community breaking news. We would lose all contact about us as a city and the people who live here. Just like computers have changed people social habits.....People will live in a bubble with NO LOCAL TV.....Elena

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valerielabadie ★ 1 month ago

This new fee should not be added to my bill for cable viewing. It should come from the companies profit. Local TV is the only way for the community to get local information. The very large cities that have a TV station in their community get all the air time for their own information concerning what is happening in their community but the smaller communities would lose their right to local information. We strongly believe this would be the case if we lose our local news/information channel.

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d. bailie ★ 1 month ago

i am tired of getting ripped off by the cable companies. i would like local television to remain as it is - free and get a rebate back for all the money i have been charged by cable for the "free" television they have been charging me for. i would also like to see the cable companies offer me just the networks i want and not have duplicate shows on three or more channels at a time which cuts down the actual amount of channels offered. at this point i am considering just dropping T.V. and listening to the radio because the cost is too high and with the coming of digital i won't be able to afford to buy the boxes needed to convert my T.V's -so what's the point by the time you do it it will be obsolete anyway.

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Lorrie ★ 1 month ago

I think that the providers need to move away from so much American programming and perhaps mix in some more International programming...I would much prefer a fee be paid to provide a European based channel than FOX. I think the time has come for us to stop allowing the political and religious based rantings of the FOX network into our home and have programming provided from more international perspectives.

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Michael ★ 1 month ago

Hi,

I would like to talk about these commercials from the major TV providers that talks about the operating profit of a few hundred million from the major TV corporations last year, yet the profit for Rogers Communications Inc was \$485 million in just the third quarter of this year. In a three month period Rogers posted a profit about the same as all the major TV stations from all of last year.

Now don't get me wrong, I'm not on television stations side. The stations have made flat out stupid investments regarding the purchase of over priced stations in 2008. In my opinion the television industry is in such a mess right now because both sides have been in a pissing match for years, I have a couple examples of that. The first, the new set built for CTV Toronto news room. The second, the profit margin that Rogers posted 2 months ago.

My conclusion, both sides have problems but that is their own faults and the consumer shouldn't be punished for stupid investment. Both sides are using propaganda on TV to sway opinion and the effect, I don't want to watch TV anymore.

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alex clark ★ 1 month ago

No new costs are welcomed by consumers.

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Philip Wilson ★ [1 month ago](#)

All I can say is that in this tough economy I would have to cancel my cable tv if the bill were to increase by \$100 per year, I'm at the brink already and not alone.

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Calin ★ [1 month ago](#)

I am against the TV tax. Why we should pay all time new taxes?

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robertdaigneault ★ [1 month ago](#)

I believe that the cable / satellite industries are already overcharging. At the same time, I believe that any TV stations and that includes the ones from the states, if they get revenue from advertisements or commercials, they should not charge a fee to carry their signals and cable / satellite should not charge consumers with a fee to see these channels. The only channels that should be associated with fees are those channels that have no commercials. The cable / satellite and local TV stations have both made enough profits on our backs and should be ashamed for asking more. We are coming out of the worst recession since the great depression and when will enough be enough. If those 2 entities were in the red, I could understand up to a limit but they are both making huge profits and deserve no more money from the average taxpayer. Enough is enough. With the service we receive right now from both entities, we should get a rebate on our bills. That's my Rick Mercer rant.

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slimsilver ★ [1 month ago](#)

People need to understand there is no talk about a TV "TAX". That is some of that propaganda that the Major Cable and satellite providers came up with to scare us and it seems to have worked in a lot of cases.

What better way to get the public to help them fight than to scare us with the threat of a tax hike.

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CRAIG D. MACKLEM ★ [1 month ago](#)

FORCE ROGERS TO ALLOW SUBSCRIBERS TO PICK AND CHOOSE STATIONS THEY WANT INDIVIDUALLY. ALLOW USA COMPETITION INTO OUR MARKET PLACE AND LETS PUT ROGERS BACK IN THE GAME OF COMPETITION IN A FREE MARKET

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debbiereid ★ [1 month ago](#)

I am a retired person and am on a pension for a medical disability. I get a lot of enjoyment from watching TV which at the moment costs me over \$60.00 a month right now. I refuse to give the Big Networks a \$2 billion bailout over the next five years. If my bill does go up the \$5.00 - \$10.00 the CRTC is requesting I will cancel my current carrier.

The TV Tax is nothing more than a bailout for the Big TV Networks, who made almost \$400 million in operating profits last year alone so why are you asking for more? The CRTC is a huge problem in Canada.

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jpfirmininger ★ [1 month ago](#)

I am fed up with additional charges, and especially a tax grab to subsidize bad behaviour of

private broadcasters. They must learn that the well is dry and make the necessary changes and belt tightening that all Canadians have had to do.

I can subscribe to Dishnet, or DirectTV and get far more value than the Cdn providers suggest they deliver. The local TV can be received off air by my outdoor antenna.

A number of friends in the Windsor/Leamington area have install HD antennas and now enjoy HD quality signals from Ohio & Michigan. So why and the world do these poorly operated "so called local Cdn stations" think we as Canadians should subsidize their bottom line. We are already paying 1.5% LIPF surcharge and never see any fruit from this tax grab, What makes you think even more taxation will improve local TV.

Our so called local TV station in Barrie Ontario is a joke. Their news & weather reports totally ignore the east side of Lake Simcoe, (about 2000 people - 25 miles from their Tx site). Their response is there is no advertising dollars over there, so suck it up.

They run a 6:00 pm newcast with 4 people plus reporters thinking they are a NEW York TV station.

If they looked at the larger markets like Toronto, Detroit, Buffalo etc they are all running with 2 news casters and a few reports. Barrie "A" just doesn't get it.

So as you can see there is a lot of things these Cdn stations can do with out crying wolf and pleading for a tax/bail out from Cdns.

CRTC members, don't be hood winked by these broadcasters, they are are jumping on the pitty party wagon and asking for more. Enough is enough, and if the heat in the kitchen is to hot, they can leave or go dark. Someone with a little savey will pick up the pieces and make things happen. The old school theology is passe' tell them to get with the pgm and get out of the box and that crying wolf to the commission is an old trick that just isn't going to cut it any more

I can assure you if additional taxes are instigated and we cannot order TV service with out local TV, I'll be cancelling my present Shaw Direct service and using my US subscribing and local outdoor TV antenna.

Enough is enough !

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chrisbartlett ★ [1 month ago](#)

TV Bills are already getting to high for the average Canadian.

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



nash211 ★ [1 month ago](#)

I do not believe we should have to pay additional monies to support local TV. If they want to base it on choice and if I should choose to want local TV and pay the extra then it would be fine. We should not be forced to pay for something just because it is part of the package, we should have a choice. If done in this manner the people that want local TV can have it by paying the extra for it.

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nash211 ★ [1 month ago](#)

I do not believe we should have to pay the additional monies to support local TV. We should be given the option, if you want to pay extra to watch local TV you can, it should not be part of the package. There are many channels for local TV that I do watch but yet i pay for, why should I have to pay additional monies now. Let the people that want local TV pay for it.

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Bart ★ [1 month ago](#)

The CRTC is totally out of control. Who do these dictators report to anyway???

These people need to be reigned in and fast.

Down with any further taxes of any kind. We've had it up to here!!!!

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BahinBruce ★ [1 month ago](#)

If after all these years local TV cannot pay its own way without asking for a subsidy then it is time they did like everyone else - cut back. There are too many local TV choices, with far too many staff, in some cases repeating the same news from one section to another. Years ago we had limited choices, now we have too many choices and some of them are forced on us. We should be able to select what stations we wish to watch, and if stations cannot pay their way through commercials etc then they should stop.

In Ontario we are now faced next July with an 8% increase in many basic services, local taxes are going up, the price of many day to day items are going up - but as a senior citizen, who fortunately/ or not depending on ones perspective. will not get any rebate year one. That means I will be paying of close on a \$1,000 in extra taxes. I don't need to have yet another surcharge/tax imposed on me. I have already stopped magazines, I watch my expenses carefully as I do not want to be dependant on the state, but if the tv stations are allowed to charge a carriage fee - I will cut back on my current tv stations. In fact I rarely watch local tv news so why should I be penalized. To those stations wanting this new fee - listen to your own news, read the papers - people are tired of being asked to pay more. You can't make a profit - tough.

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dcribbie ★ [1 month ago](#)

I think that it is pathetic that the CRTC is even considering such a plan. If these networks earned a profit of \$400 million dollars, why is there even a notion of any kind of a bailout. I do not care how big or small the profit is based on the size of the Companies we are talking about here. It is still a PROFIT!!! When or if these companies begin losing money, there might be a need to re-think and come up with a plan(that should never happen though, since they have always turned a profit). In this re-thinking process, these companies need to hire people to keep them turning profits. In any case, the little guys here should not have to take care of "Big Brother" and the "Higher Ups" at the CRTC should be ashamed of themselves for even considering such a foolish plan. Obviously these people have to re-look at the positions that they hold and place some new values and ways of thinking while performing there job. Wake up CRTC!!!

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nash211 ★ [1 month ago](#)

I believe we should not have to pay additional monies for local TV. The people who want local TV should have to pay for it, it should not be part of the package. We all pay for channels we do necessarily watch, now they want to tax us more for something we do not watch.

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Mike ★ [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!

[Flag](#)

*Wayne Daniuk* ★ [1 month ago](#)

I don't think Local TV should get any revenue from the Cable companies as the cable companies were the ones that supplied all the wiring for cable. Also I appreciate Local TV a lot but they are getting boring with all the all-day new programs. I do however believe for what the cable people give us for what we pay is rotten. Half the time they are off the air. I don't think they should be allowed to increase their rates anymore. If they do then they should give the Local TV stations half of whatever they raise and get the TV station to put on some new programming instead of all the repeats. Enough is Enough no increases for anyone

[Flag](#)*acrawford* ★ [1 month ago](#)

There are too many local TV stations. There is oversupply, and the resulting reduction in advertising income is the natural result of this glut in available advertising hours. For many people, television is no longer their primary medium for information and entertainment. This trend will continue. If we feel that the public service role of local television is important, then that role should be well funded, but provided by non-commercial stations who are not permitted to show foreign programming. The existing community channels are well equipped to step into this role.

[Flag](#)*joannetalebian* ★ [1 month ago](#)

We should abolish the CRTC and open up the market to all interested parties. Just another cash grab. Soon, we'll have another Gov't party, PC, Liberal, NDP, CRTC.

[Flag](#)*fredhamilton* ★ [1 month ago](#)

I am tired of the media war that is currently being waged in the media. I am sorry that the local TV stations are having it tough financially. No one wants to pay more. As I said above Canadians are already paying millions for the CBC. We can't afford to pay for CTV Global and the A Channel.

[Flag](#)*Ron Singer* ★ [1 month ago](#)

If we are being charged a fee for local channels I think we should be able to opt out in our Satellite and Cable services. Most of what are truly local can be pulled off air without paying any fees anyway.

[Flag](#)*Cash* ★ [1 month ago](#)

I will not pay ten bucks a month more for local TV. If I am forced to pay more for local TV I will cut off my cable service entirely. Dozens of channels and nothing to watch. I am retired, on a fixed and ever declining income because of our government's low interest rate policy which they brought in to save the skins of corporate executive hooligans that got us into this financial crisis. I will not pay more for cable to save the skins of more hooligans that can't run their business. That's it.

[Flag](#)



J Truckle ★ [1 month ago](#)

The bail out have to stop....As a senior , living in this country ALL my life, I do not get any extra help to cover all the extra costs and taxes being imposed on us. It is time that the big companys start to straighten ot their own problems instead of doing it on the backs of all the hard working people . There sure arent any luxuries anymore...maybe for the rich and famous only. We do not need this added cost. Dan has pretty much sid it all very well. STOP. Jo
[Flag](#)

Like



Lou Kirby ★ [1 month ago](#)

If the TV Stations and the Cable Carriers would stop this lunacy of spending millions on advertising their battle, we wouldn't need this stupid tax.....Both sides GROW UP
[Flag](#)

Like



Derek MacDonald ★ [1 month ago](#)

Nothing good can possibly come from this bailout. Canadians pay WAY too much in taxes as we are.
It's time to shut down bad business and say farewell to poorly managed businesses.
[Flag](#)

Like



Irene ★ [1 month ago](#)

I think they should be giving us seniors more money not taking it off us, in Great Briton they help there seniors.
[Flag](#)

Like



kennethbeaman ★ [1 month ago](#)

I pay enough taxes now, no more taxes especially to an entertainment industry!!!
[Flag](#)

Like



tonyguy ★ [1 month ago](#)

Television is a business. It must be left to find its own business plan for profitability. The CRTC is the biggest barrier to this as it mandates what channels must be carried. We are supporting many channels that simply have no audience and the advertisers know this. If the cable/satellite distributors cannot pay for transmitting local stations and drop them from the line up they can self distribute free to air or by Internet feed. If they die so be it. If CTV Toronto is an example of "local" programming" it would not be missed. Three hours of infotainment a day masquerading as news. I get more local news from the Internet and newspapers.
[Flag](#)

Like



GP ★ [1 month ago](#)

\$10 more per month will amount to me cancelling TV all-together. Not worth it. Sorry - I've had enough of increases. This is one I have control over and it will just get switched off.
[Flag](#)

Like



Sophie ★ [1 month ago](#)

Enough already!!!!
We're being charged enough. No more!!!!

It's not our war so we shouldn't get charged for it.

Deal with it!!!!

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



Deb ★ [1 month ago](#)

Don't let the TV tax happen! It's bad enough that we continue to pay for the CBC.

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



Dr David Othen ★ [1 month ago](#)

Your web site is difficult to use. If you want Coments put a button click here to make a coment on the following issues

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



Bernie ★ [1 month ago](#)

I pay enough already - they make enough profits to maintain their services - this is purely greed and unacceptable.

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



Diann ★ [1 month ago](#)

Cable and satellite companies already enjoy excessive revenues, so they can better afford to pay for local TV. In fact, they should be reducing their charges to us.

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



marc ★ [1 month ago](#)

we already pay enough for not that much, i surely will not accept an extra 25% increase per month without any reliable justifications !

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



tonguelashingfrenchman ★ [1 month ago](#)

I had enough aswell if my cable goes up one more cent ,i will cancel the tv n donate that money to feed some hungry kids ,,,,it pretty sad when the rich want more n they dont even think of the hungry children,,,,,,,,let not forget to ask for a raise aswell n dont forget to tax the canadian more ,a couple more months i will be moving to the states,,,,,,,,god bless canada it needs help , so sad

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



michelinesaggese ★ [1 month ago](#)

I believe we pay more than enough for television!!!!!!!!!!!! No more additional charges..... It's enough!!!!!!!!!!

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



M_L_W ★ [1 month ago](#)

Let the industry heal itself. I will choose not to bail them out.

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



KF, Kanata ★ [1 month ago](#)

I vehemently oppose any additional charges or TAX on my cable TV bill. The cable and satellite TV companies are raking in huge profits and they should be forced to support local programming.

Furthermore, we are already TAXED TO DEATH in this country. Any additional charges on our cable bills is just another tax that I cannot afford. The HST is another example of government raping our wallets and dwindling savings accounts.

Personally, this would be the straw to break my back. I am a Professional Engineer and have been unemployed since January 2009, and there are many other unemployed professionals like me. Television is about the only entertainment I can afford, but probably not for too much longer... even without the additional tax.

[Flag](#)

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Lynne ★ [1 month ago](#)

We have owned our own businesses for over 35 years and managed to 'support' the mismanaged tax base from our Canadian municipal, provincial and federal governments without having anyone step up and 'bail' us out during the very hard financial times brought on by government mismanagement of our tax money. It is time that the greedy few in the television industry pay their own way just like the rest of us are forced to. It's called wisdom and business acumen! The slippery slope of bad to worse television programming has made our family reevaluate how much time we actually want to spend in front of the TV these days anyway. We are tired of the violence, explicit sex and filthy language that the CRTC has allowed on the TV which has spawned commercials which are becoming progressively offensive as well. Survival of the fittest should clean up this problem and it shouldn't be placed as another financial burden on the consumer. NO MORE BAILOUTS ... NO MORE TAXES! Perhaps it is time for Canadians to have a 'tea party'!

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dennis ★ [1 month ago](#)

i think the whole notion of bailing out a company that made \$400 million in profits last year is absurd. the operative word here seems to be greed. didn't we learn anything from last years recession? in an industry that is continually trying to attract more viewers, is it smart to penalize them for the privilege of watching? they need to adapt to the changing viewing habits of the population and if that means down sizing in certain areas then perhaps they should look at that and/or other options if they wish to remain viable. we as a people cannot be expected to constantly pay for poor business decisions made by the networks (and others). isn't it time they took responsibility for their actions? we have to.

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Lynne ★ [1 month ago](#)

We have owned our own businesses for over 35 years and managed to 'support' the mismanaged tax base from our Canadian municipal, provincial and federal governments without having anyone step up and 'bail' us out during the very hard financial times brought on by government mismanagement of our tax money. It is time that the greedy few in the television industry pay their own way just like the rest of us are forced to. It's called wisdom and business acumen! The slippery slope of bad to worse television programming has made our family reevaluate how much time we actually want to spend in front of the TV these days anyway. We are tired of the violence, explicit sex and filthy language that the CRTC has allowed on the TV which has spawned commercials which are becoming progressively offensive as well. Survival of the fittest should clean up this problem and it shouldn't be placed as another financial burden on the consumer. NO MORE BAILOUTS ... NO MORE TAXES! Perhaps it is time for Canadians to have a 'tea party'!

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Like*Blake* ★ [1 month ago](#)

NO reason to bail out any company. They need to make better business decisions. I know for a fact that if I make bad decisions and my office is about to close, no-one and I mean no-one will bail me out. I have not been able to wrap my head around this one. It just does not make sense to have the users pay this type of cost. Revenue should come from there advertisers.

[Flag](#)Like*David Othen* ★ [1 month ago](#)

Do not make cable subscribers pay extra to receive signals that are available on the air for free. Charge the advertisers more not those people who choose to receive their signals through a cable rather than through an antenna.

[Flag](#)Like*guest* ★ [1 month ago](#)

I only order TV services when there's a \$24.99 special on, then I cancel at the end and wait another year. Why? Because being forced to pay for network and local channels I don't want or watch is a waste of my money. Because the cable networks repeat their shows ad nauseum. Because I don't appear to fall into any of the "new" demographics and end up watching only movies, repeats of shows back when QUALITY counted and a HANDFUL of new shows. Frankly, even though I am approaching 50, the INTERNET is far more entertaining and a lot more cost effective. BOTH sides of this argument can go to hell as far as I'm concerned. Get with the times.

[Flag](#)Like*donreid* ★ [1 month ago](#)

CABLE TV HAS GROWN TO FAST TOOSOON AND THEY TREAT THE CUSTOMERS LIKE DIRT AND THE CABLE COMPANIES HAVE NOTHING ON THEIR CHANNELS WORTH WATCHING
an INCREASE IS OUT OF THE QUESTION THE CABLE COMPANIES HAVE THE MONIES AND THEY WANT MORE NO MORE!!!!!!!!!!!!!! AND \$10 INCREASE WILL SEE A LOT OF PEOPLE GOING BACK TO ANTENNA AND THEN THECABLE COMPANIES WILL BE IN TROUBLE THE CRTS NEED TO FORCE THE CABLE COMPANIES TO CUT THIER PRICES BEFORE THE PUBLIC CUT THEM

[Flag](#)Like*Gordon Moore* ★ [1 month ago](#)

I'm on a fixed income and pay enough for cable now for programing I don't use or even want. These big cable and satilite companys make large enough profit now. So please members of the CRTS remember the lower income people who will be hurt the most by any increase in fees

[Flag](#)Like*John* ★ [1 month ago](#)

Honestly, why should we Canadians be bailing out broadcasting companies who don't need it as they've made more than enough profits in the past year. These cable companies are what bring in profits for the broadcasters as they bring more viewers, upping advertising sales. Really, we're all feeling the economic difficulties this country is having right now, why should the broadcasting companies receive a bail out when none of us are receiving one of our own?

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Aurie Massey ★ [1 month ago](#)

To Blame this all on the local TV stations is so wrong. I was under the impression that the local stations want to charge the Cable and Satellite companies and it is they who want to pass that charge onto the consumers. My understanding is Cable and Satellite pay for specialty programming and absolutely nothing to local TV stations so I think Rogers and Bell should pick up the Tab and CRTC should not allow them to pass any charges onto the already overtaxed overcharged consumer. If Rogers charges me more I will simply cut back on my other stations and they will loose in the long run.

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fedup_with_crtc ★ [1 month ago](#)

if the government/CRTC won't allow DirecTv and Dish Network to operate in Canada, they should, at a minimum, do the same thing with the cable lines as they did with telephones: open them up to all comers. At least that way we would be able to choose the best operator. It might force a little competition into the marketplace.
My preference is to allow the Americans to service our needs.

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Rickab ★ [1 month ago](#)

We pay enough in today's business world for all communication. If the local television stations cannot make it, then they should go away. You can't expect Canadians to pay for a business they don't want. If enough people supported, there would be more revenue from advertisers, not from individual Canadians. Even to think that Canadians should just pay to support is ridiculous. It is time to turn the page and if necessary, let the businesses fall by the wayside if they don't have the revenue to continue. It is time to stop expecting Canadians just to pay more.

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Gerry Colville ★ [1 month ago](#)

Being on a fixed income - we are not able to pay any more fees for Cable TV, internet or telephone.

PLEASE CONSIDER THE SENIORS !!!!@

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Like



mohamedmjagani ★ [1 month ago](#)

The existing cost of cable TV in Canada is simply outrageous. Now the broadcasters and the cable companies want additional costs to be borne by the consumer. How can this be justified? Is the CRTC merely a rubber stamping outfit for these players, or can it for once lean on these entities and force them to hold the line on how much is allowed to pass through to the consumer? Develop a backbone for once and protect the consumer!

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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.

[Flag](#)

Like



ron ★ [1 month ago](#)

First of all, paying to watch TV is like paying for a lobotomy only a lobotomy is quicker. Second, Stop doing studies or do one more study on blowing money on studies, and give that money to

them. Third, does anyone have a good pair of rabbit ears for sale?, because that's what I'll be hooking up if this tax goes through.

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BEV SCHINKE ★ [1 month ago](#)

Between the HST and CRTC - we are being taxed so heavily, I am not sure I can keep up. THIS IS RIDICULOUS - YOU AND CABLE COMPANIES MUST GET YOUR HANDS OUT OF OUR POCKETS AND

DO WHAT WE, THE PEOPLE ARE DOING IN THESE TOUGH TIMES. CHECKING OUR EXPENDITURES AND CUTTING BACK!!!!!! QUIT YOUR WHINING AND GOUGEING PLEASE

BEV

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Sarah ★ [1 month ago](#)

I think that it's terrible that during this difficult economic time the cable and satellite companies are looking to us to cover their @\$\$es! We are doing the best we can to survive on our own. Make the cable companies come up with the money out of the bills we're already paying. I'm sure they don't NEED the \$80+ dollars per household per month that we're already paying just to keep in business. If that's the case, maybe they need to look into their own financial records first. All I can say is if this does go through, I see an increase in the people using free to air satellite systems... I know that I won't be able to come up with a reason to stop my husband from switching over.

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kennierenhausen ★ [1 month ago](#)

I would like to know why cable and satellite companies do not pay for local television stations yet charge us for watching them. As for threatening this consumer with a \$10.00 monthly fee, be careful. I will immediately cancel my cable/internet service (current cost about \$200.00 per month) if this is imposed.

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Patti ★ [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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Scott ★ [1 month ago](#)

Like others I've had enough!! How can they justify raising the rates when we are having such tough economic times right now? The cable companies make enough money they should be paying it themselves.

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Like



Nicholas Mechas ★ 1 month ago

see no reason for xtra charge

system is profitable as is

[Flag](#)

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Rick Sabey ★ 1 month ago

Dear Sir,

The efforts of the Canadian broadcasters to wring yet another fee from Canadian families is most unwelcome. There are plenty of charges and fees that Canadian families already have to deal with. If Canadian broadcasters are unable to make a profit from traditional revenue streams, let them sink or swim using the large revenues they already are able to collect. If they are unable to maintain the viability of their operations, the US broadcasters will continue to provide the programming Canadian broadcasters want to purchase with the new revenue. Canadian families have had it with being treated as cash cows by every level of government.

Please do not levy yet another tax that Canadians will have difficulty paying: particularly in a tough economy.

Yours truly,

Rick Sabey

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Warren ★ 1 month ago

enough is enough when is all going to end. Another grab against the middle income poor.

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[Like](#)



Peter ★ 1 month ago

Enough is enough.

In the real business world, if you can't survive on your own, go out of business.

Peter

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[Like](#)



douglasnewburg ★ 1 month ago

tv signals are just another commodity that i as a consumer want the right to choose to buy or not to buy - i dont need a grocery czar to get between my and my groceries and i dont need a government tv czar to interfere - if they cant stand the heat let them get out of the kitchen

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Sean Bray ★ 1 month ago

Neither the cable/satellite companies nor the networks are angels in the current business model. Cable/satellite rates should be fully regulated since they are increased dramatically in recent years and customers are being gouged. As for the networks, they are the masters of their own demise. Having moved profitable programming from over-the-air channels to specialty channels, they now want handouts to subsidize so-called local channels. Too bad, so sad. These so-called local channels offer virtually nothing of a local nature any longer, and what little they do offer is available elsewhere. Wake up big networks, stop whining. And the networks should

remember, they need us; we don't need them. While we can get our information and entertainment elsewhere, their profits are tied to ad revenue. As customers walk away or are turned off, ad revenue will decline, since advertisers are not going to pay for access to smaller and smaller numbers of viewers when they too have many other options for their ad dollars.

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daveeskra ★ [1 month ago](#)

NO MORE TAXES!!!! Enough is a enough. The programs on these broadcasters and the cable and satellite suppliers are NOT worth any extra money. Come to think of it, the programs on most of the broadcasters aren't worth the money that we pay already. There really isn't anything worth watching unless you are into reallitiy shows which pretty well take up most of the air waves and WE ARE NOT INTO THESE SHOWS, so untill the suppliers and broadcasters get it together we are probably cancelling our satellite and or cable subscription.

SO as Canadians we should all take the stand if they want to increase the fees we will cancell our contracts.

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H Cook ★ [1 month ago](#)

I will not accept paying higher fees / taxes what ever you want to call them , prices are way to high now. We should be able to choose and pay for only the channels we want!! the Grey market looks better every day

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Brian - Oakville ★ [1 month ago](#)

I am wholeheartedly against any further grab of money out of my pocket. It is not a bottomless pit. The TV networks have sufficient funding already and their threats of closing down services are just hot air.

Additionally, what I would like the CRTC to do is to stop the practice of the cable and satellite companies fom "bundling" their packages. Currently I am forced to accept reception of channels which I do not watch and, presumably, if the proposal from the TV networks goes through then I will be funding these channels. I would like to choose what I want to see without having to accept a host of unwanted channels.

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imanoyed ★ [1 month ago](#)

I think it was Pierre Trudeau who said that government has no business in the bedrooms of Canada. I would go one step further and suggest that our government needs to learn to stay out of the business's of our country. Is this or is this not a free enterprise system in Canada, we all I believe have the right to go into business and we also have the right to go under. No government bailout for the small business guy, so, none for the guys who have mismanaged their business into the state they are in. Let them figure it out on their own or get out, not my or anyone else's problems. Quit trying to get your hands in my pockets.

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serged ★ [1 month ago](#)

The CRTC should no longer allow that Canadian broadcasters take over US slots when the Canadian station broadcasts the same program. As I understand this ruling came about at a time when US border stations took away publicity revenues from Canadian stations with better rates for advertisers. This is no longer the case since I subscribe (as well as millions of other Canadians) to a Satellite service with or without time shifting and the Canadian stations I am watching is not even a local station nor is the US stations for that matter. I wind-up watching a

Seattle station that is then taken over by a Canadian station in Halifax while I watch from the Ottawa area. Why should I care about local Halifax sales while I watch a Seattle station??? It simply does not make sense and is utterly frustrating especially when the switch over cuts off 30 second of even a few minutes of the program

STOP THAT CRTC!!!

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jude ★ [1 month ago](#)

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH, I do not want to psay for something that is someone else's problem. I refuse to pay any more money for ridiculous bail outs for multi million dollar corporation. Greedy Greedy. Judy Funnell

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dkspears ★ [1 month ago](#)

We are paying more to watch TV than at any other time in history. I do not know what is wrong with people these days. Greed is ruining the nation. Huge businesses like CTV owned by Bell appear to be so corrupt. If this nonsense continues, I'll be cancelling my satellite subscription and will resort to downloading my shows. They'll be commercial free. The money charged to run commercials is outrageous. Bell cancelled my favorite A-Channel news here in Ottawa so as far as I'm concerned they have already done the worst. I'm not paying more because they can't manage their money properly.

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Patrick ★ [1 month ago](#)

There is no such thing as a "tv tax"

It is simple, cable nneeds to pay for what they are getting! SUPPORT LOCAL TV!

[Flag](#)

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Linda Taxed-to-the-Max ★ [1 month ago](#)

It's high time industry (and government) get with the program (pun intended). As a Quebec resident, I'm fed up with all the tax I pay and I'm NOT INTERESTED in paying one cent more, particularly for something as frivolous as television. In these hard times, how can the CRTC even contemplate taxing an already over-taxed population? SHAME ON YOU! and tell the TV stations to get by on the income they have, like all the rest of us have to do!

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Laura ★ [1 month ago](#)

If this additional charge is permitted, I will, once again, cancel my tv service altogether. I personally don't watch tv. It is maintained in my home for the benefit of visiting family members. As a senior on a fixed income, I would find it extremely difficult to justify to my self this additional cost. To me, television, radio and telephones are for my convenience, not intended to make the rich get richer. Why are more channels necessary? One can only watch one at a time regardless of the fancy tv sets that have picture in picture capability. Please don't insult my intelligence further by saying Canadians "have to keep up". Indeed, rather than "keeping up" I tend to think we're way ahead of anyone else, particularly in the matter of paying exorbitantly for everything - including taxes. Past time to call a halt.

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d j weiss ★ [1 month ago](#)

If it wasn't for cable & satellite carrying local programming, the number of persons watching local channels would be way down, thereby reducing advertising income for these local channels.

The number of persons watching local channels via a 'free air signal' is relatively low, and will decrease even more with the introduction of DTS (digital TV) shortly - putting it simply - local channels need cable & satellite TV to keep up their share of the viewing market and subsequently their advertising revenue.

If local channels/networks have a problem with the current arrangements, cable & satellite systems should just drop their signal, thereby making more bandwidth available for HDTV.

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ronpridham ★ [1 month ago](#)

don't look now but we probably would have to pay the new HST on this if it goes through. once more the public gets it anyway

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nrich6 ★ [1 month ago](#)

I am absolutely upset that the cable companies are attempting to pass the buck and make us pay for something we shouldn't have to. We pay enough already! TV TAX NO WAY....

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Karen Seeley ★ [1 month ago](#)

I DO NOT agree with the new/additional tax being proposed/placed upon the Canadian consumer. In my opinion what needs to be done as a start, is to have these companies be held accountable regarding their spending/budgeting, as we are held accountable for managing our personal finances they should be too !!!! We pay enough taxes and I am tired of both companies and the government holding their hands out to take what little money we have left after being taxed to death !!!!!!!

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briannolan ★ [1 month ago](#)

This entire issue is another example of how corrupt Canadian business and politics has become. An industry that has been essentially stealing signals for free are finally being asked to pay for them. In response to this the CRTC is now proposing that this cost of business be passed on to Canadian citizens as a "TAX"....are you kidding me?? The entire concept is contemptible and reeks of corruption!! Why in the world would Canadian citizens be burdened with this cost of doing business for an industry with over 400 million in operation profit last year? Even worse, why would Canadians pay for this TV "Tax" in addition to the CRTC's Local Programming Improvement Fund fee of 1.5%, which took effect on September 1, 2009. And all this with now actual guarantee that anything will be done to keep the local stations on the air?? Are you people on drugs? I am absolutely disgusted that this would even be considered as an option!! Out.

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joedasilva ★ [1 month ago](#)

We as subscribers to cable outlets already pay for local television. Having another fee on top of the one we already pay is called gouging.

Stop the non-sense . Enough is enough.

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pauldp ★ 1 month ago

1. The cable companies should pay a fee for carriage, but not be required to carry the signal. If they elect to carry the signal because their subscribers want the service, then the cable company should pay for the service like they do for other services.
2. I do not understand why a "fee for carriage" is labeled a "tax on consumers", yet the increased fees charged by the cable companies over the past number of years is not a "tax on consumers" - what is the difference?
3. The best solution, in my mind, is to allow consumers to pick just the channels that they want without any bundling: if they pick "CBC" or "Global" etc. then they share in the subscriber revenue. Currently its like being told that I can only buy these apples if I also buy the oranges - doesn't matter if I want the oranges or not. In what other circumstance are consumers faced with this predicament?
4. A substantial portion of the fee-for-carriage paid by the BDUs should be paid into a fund to be used to license locally produced programming. This addresses the BDU's complaint that the revenues from fee-for-service will only go to pay higher prices for US programming; it will also result in unique programming which will enrich the local programming experience, and will also assist in the development of the Canadian production community.

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rickwoods ★ 1 month ago

I will in no way pay this tax I will do without T.V. rather than pay any more than it is already costing me and my entire family and extended family also will opt out of any form of cable that will be affected by this tax WE HAVE THE INTERNET.

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J. A. O'Flaherty ★ 1 month ago

I'm tired of having additional fees added to my Satellite TV bill every month. If you cave in to the TV folks I will have no choice but to reduce the existing programming currently subscribed. Local TV programming is something I don't think really matters all that much to most of the people I know. Red Deer TV, I'm sure they care in Red Deer but if that city can not pay for it then too bad. Stop any more fees on my bill! Seriously, J. A. O'Flaherty

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facebook-661917142 ★ 1 month ago

The cable companies are calling it a tax but it's not a tax, but payment that is long overdue to free public access stations that cable companies have been charging their customers for, for decades without compensating the local tv stations. The cable company's ads talk about the profits of the networks, without mentioning their OWN profits - this all about money and the cable companies trying to avoid costs.

This cost should be absorbed by the cable companies. Period.

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wayne twigger ★ 1 month ago

Canadians are already the highest taxed persons on this planet!!! why in heaven's name would anyone want to pay more??? we do not need another "tax" we need less..

Thanks..

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Like



Brenda Kennedy ★ [1 month ago](#)

The only thing I have to say which is purely reactive is that I am on disability and I am unable to go out for entertainment including movie theatres, dining out, symphony, etc.. My income is very limited. The one major way I get entertainment is through the television. I do not feel (on behalf of other people who are of limited income) that it should even be a question. The cable companies make enough money already and they will only continue to do so as people will be forced to have digital services as a basic package anyway. Either way they make their monies from commercials and I think it is just outrageous that they are not willing to pay for local TV. They should be ashamed of themselves for even thinking about charging the consumers. We are going to get railroaded into newer services as it is.

Shame on you (CRTC and cable/satellite, etc.) for even thinking of further burdening the consumer especially in these economic times.

MAKE THE CABLE AND SATELLITE COMPANIES PAY FOR HEAVENS SAKE, THEY CAN AFFORD IT!!!!

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Dick ★ [1 month ago](#)

I would like to add one comment. With the quality of the programming on both Satellite and cable with duplication and unwatchable programming material the corporations should be paying us to watch the garbage and not billing us.

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Vetheuil ★ [1 month ago](#)

Rates should come down for viewers, no matter what the outcome. If we are going to be continually bombarded with advertising, not only in the commercial breaks but during the actual program at the bottom of the screen, and the branding in the bottom corner, plus them telling us constantly, "You are watching.." we shouldn't have to pay such high rates. Why are we paying them to advertise to us?

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wendycameron ★ [1 month ago](#)

I think we are already paying enough to the cable companies and if I understand the process we are also subsidizing the local stations as well, why should we be forced to pay an additional fee when the cable and satellite companies make the kind of profits they are making. Then can pay the local tv broadcaster themselves.

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catherineto ★ [1 month ago](#)

I think it's fair to pay for any service you get. However, I want to stress that there should be no CRTC tax to support a TV channel. If the TV channel is funded by the gov't due to protectionism, it will not be competitive as what the consumer needs. Canadian have been overpaying so much tax to get the service that was designed by the gov't. For each dollar we made, we have at least paid 35% to 65% of income tax to subsidize the gov't. How much more do you want to charge ? It's getting so expensive to live in this country. No wonder why there is a high turnover for those who immigrated here and decided to leave within 3 years. Canadian gov't need to 'downsize' and be strong to control cost in order to give reasonable funding to the association from current taxation system. We don't need more or new tax. If we need new tax to get or sustain service, let's drop it. We can't afford it.

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Leah ★ [1 month ago](#)

Please give the Public a break. We are already paying a lot to get the service. Please keep local TV operating. Thanks.

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



Jean ★ [1 month ago](#)

Personnally, I am getting tired of the government and other areas adding taxes of some kind to my personal living allowances. Just below your comments on this tax, there was a column on the HST which we are now going to pay through our noses for! Please, would somebody tell us where we will be getting all this money from? Let the TV Stations raise their own money needed, and get out of my pocket!

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paulowens ★ [1 month ago](#)

local tv and the big broadcasters should compensate cable carreirs for carrying their programming! the poor consumer has to sit through fifteen minutes of commercials for a thirty minute program! and the crtc recently allowed them to INCREASE the amount of commercial time due to a decrease in revenues from commercial advertising. what if their revenues from advertising increases? let local tv die if they can't make it.

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Jean ★ [1 month ago](#)

Personnally, I am getting tired of the government and other areas adding taxes of some kind to my personal living allowances. Just below your comments on this tax, there was a column on the HST which we are now going to pay through our noses for! Please, would somebody tell us where we will be getting all this money from? Let the TV Stations raise their own money needed, and get out of my pocket!

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Maggie ★ [1 month ago](#)

I am sick and tired of being told that we are the ones that are going to have to pay. Everything trickles down until it is coming out of our pockets and enough is enough! The amount that we are already paying for cable is staggering.

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newmanmallon ★ [1 month ago](#)

All these years the TV stations have hardly said a peep about this and pocketed all the ad revenues. Now ads have gone down during the recession, they're whinging.

Fine, ask the cable companies to pay something based on how much the TV stations' ad revenues have gone down during the recession, but NOT all they have gone down (any business is a risk, after all). We want the payments made only when needed to balance out the down periods of a recession. This should not be made so it continues when revenues go back up, since it will only be pocketed by the broadcasters and will not likely be spent on any new programming which is severely needed.

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firecracker72 ★ [1 month ago](#)

They do have profit margins etc. make them dish it out from their to pay the tax they want. We

have paid enough and have paid enough for their services. Which if any other country like our neighbors are not paying as much. Thou they are having better programming and services. Choices in their bundles and at cheaper rates etc.

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Moira ★ [1 month ago](#)

SA TV Tax will cost you an additional \$5-\$10 per month on your cable or satellite bill This TV Tax will be charged in addition to the CRTC's Local Programming Improvement Fund fee of 1.5%, which took effect on September 1, 2009 The TV Tax is nothing more than a bailout for the Big TV Networks, who made almost \$400 million in operating profits last year alone. A TV Tax provides no guarantee that the Big Networks will do anything to keep local television stations on the air. This TV Tax comes in addition to the close to \$600 million in benefits the broadcast industry already receives from cable and satellite providers. STOP THE TV TAX

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Like



mcc ★ [1 month ago](#)

At a time when ordinary people are struggling in an already overburdened situation, why should we contribute to give additional funding to huge corporations that are already subsidized by the government thru our taxes - and if the cable companies are forced to use their funds for the contribution, do you think the cable companies would give up this funds without getting them in one form or another from their customers, the ordinary struggling person that eventually pays for the big salaries & bonuses & payouts of the executives of the big corporations subsidized by the government. We thought that the government & government entities such as CRTC are supposed to look out for the ordinary people already overburdened by more & more taxes at a time such as this where only the ordinary person are struggling & yet the big executives manage to even rake up more bonuses & payouts - ENOUGH IS ENOUGH IS ENOUGH - it is about time that the the burdens of the ordinary people are looked after by the government which is the primary reason that the democratic government was designed for.

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Katherine ★ [1 month ago](#)

Please do not allow this charge to go through, there are charges are through the roof already

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Like



grampareg ★ [1 month ago](#)

This tv tax is a joke Why are the consumers paying more all the time for one tax after another when the big companies just want more all the time. Their profits are large enough. All this is greed and they want more. Their profits are high enough that they can pay their own way.

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Arlo Bundsen ★ [1 month ago](#)

I am surprised the cable companies are allowed to rebroadcast the over-the-air (OTA) broadcasts, even though the original signal is initially free. Presumably local TV stations, as well as the CBC, Global and CTV own the rights to their broadcasts, so the cable companies should be paying a royalty, not charging a royalty for their user-base to watch these channels.

If these stations aren't bringing any value to the cable broadcasters, they should offer a free basic package based on the OTA channels.

Most of this discussion is irrelevant anyways because lots of people are moving towards internet-based delivery methods.

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Like*Angry in Waterdown* ★ [1 month ago](#)

I agree. There is no way we should pay this extra tax. The big companies make their fricken money from the advertisers....and lots of it. They do not need this 'extra'.

[Flag](#)Like*blanchad* ★ [1 month ago](#)

No more taxes, let the networks survive by themselves or die.

[Flag](#)Like*john* ★ [1 month ago](#)

This is a rediculas and greedy idea and will not benefit anyone other than the already rich owners of the cable systems. It will deny a lot of viewing altermitives to seniors and the poorist of the population. Iam very much against this proposal and will refuse to pay this extra 10.00 even if I have to give up t.v.

[Flag](#)Like*Connie Yildirim* ★ [1 month ago](#)

Dear CRTC,

My question is how much do Canadians have to keep paying? We are in a recession or so we are told. Our government is trying to ram through an irresponsible HST tax and the broadcasters want a new \$10-\$15 tax on our cable bills. And we are being told that our car insurance is going up too in Ontario. Where are these "bailouts" going to end?? How far are average wage earners salaries going to go these days? Not far in my household. For some of us our only entertainment is watching our televisions and the only way we have any entertainment. My bundle bill is now around \$190. The consumers are getting squeezed WAY TOO MUCH and it needs to stop.

These broadcasters are making billions. Is this too little? Well us little folks are having to get by on much much less and they need to start solving their financial problems like the rest of us--by looking at our budgets. It is very easy for these companies to say "just pass it on to the customer". Well I hope Canadians are waking up out there. If we do not put up a fight we will just keep paying more and more until we have nothing left and these billion dollar industries will think nothing of it. STAND UP CANADA AND JUST SAY NO!!!!

I hope the CRTC is really listening to ordinary Canadians because this new tax is IRRESPONSIBLE AND UNFAIR. We are tired of being taxed to death.

And as far as choices, the same programming is shown over and over. Nothing new for the expensive cost we are already paying. So why are we being asked to pay more?

[Flag](#)Like*ghatchard* ★ [1 month ago](#)

Competition among suppliers of TV, Internet access, cellular, and local telephone service does not seem to be working well in that costs seem to be spiralling out of control. Competition is supposed to be a positive thing for the market and consumer. About the only service that has really benefited from competition from a consumer market perspective is long distance. Local telephone service will likely rise substantially when all the trial periods are over.

Regulation? Price controls? Not sure what the best approach is.....

[Flag](#)Like*Mike* ★ [1 month ago](#)

no TV tax ...we are taxed to death already...and while we are at it open to other service providers stop the price gouging monopolies like Rogers and Shaw

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



[jacquespelletier](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

Why do we pay double price of USA for internet services. The time has come to change the system for internet and this pay line service for the cells phone.

YOU ARE THE CROOKS WITH TIE.

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



[netmasterjohn](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

Enough is enough - if a company is so poorly managed that it can't survive without a bailout, then it doesn't deserve to exist. If most businesses can't pay their bills, they are forced to close, but for some reason more and more feel they are entitled to get a free pass out of their mess by asking the government or other entity to bail them out. How about we just get rid of the wasteful and incompetent management teams and let the strong survive.

Also, cable gives local stations a way bigger audience than they could ever get on their own, which in turn boosts their ad revenue, so they should be thanking cable, not trying to extort extra fees!

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[Anna M](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

I don't understand why the TV Tax is even in debate. It is wrong, morally, economically and financially to tax the public for mistakes that are caused by big businesses. They gross billions of dollars annually but bad allocation of funds has left local television struggling. This is a matter, perhaps to be taken up with the businesses themselves and not with the general public. I do not sit in the pockets of big cable companies and dictate where they should spend their billions. I don't want them dictating where my hard earned pennies will be spent.

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[Keith](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

The TV companies need more money from us? Bullsh*t. They make upwards of \$400 million dollars a year and they want us to pay more goddamn money? All they want this money for is them. In their pocket because \$400 million a year doesn't seem to be enough. I have one thing to say to them...KISS MY ASS!

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[S. Ahmed](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

No more bailouts. if they don't have the brains to run their business without handouts then let them fade away. No more TAX at my expense.

Shamim

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[CAPTAIN CANUCK](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

CANADIANS..... Enough!!! for get this area with the CRTC needing help. I believe they've already made up their minds and this tax will go through. It's almost like every area of a governing body has no spine to say no, and why should the CRTC be any different. What a Joke..Asking us for help, look at all the comments on this page...IT'S PRETTY DAMN CLEAR..NO TAX... and it's the majority consensus. Pull the plug on your TV service watch internet tv or go grey market,

I'm not tryin to tell you were to spend your money, i'm tryi to tell you where it should no longer go. The Thives who wear sirts with ties. And I'll say this as well, Some may find it disrespectful, but i call a spade a spade....Ted Rogers was a THIEVING RETCH!!!. Remember reverse billing, "We'll give you everything, but if you don't ell us to stop we'll billing or everything with or without your consent". That is clear theft!!!

Forget this TV tax campaign..i think it's all a hoax, and they have something planned already...PULL YOUR SERVICE AND LET DO IT TOGETHER.. TOGETHER WE CAN TAKE THESE [ed] DOWN!!!

Flag

Like

 Sherwood Botsford ★ 1 month ago

The concept of broadcasting is near an end. It will be replaced with multicasting, and narrowcasting.

Multicasting: You subscribe to a show or a series. Much like an RSS feed. When a show comes available, it is sent to your computer. You can play it when you wish.

Narrowcasting: This is just an extension of the concept of the specialty channels we see now.

In the long run, I would like to see the broadcast stations shut down. Use this bandwidth instead to provide better broadband internet options for rural locations.

Flag

Like

 williambreen ★ 1 month ago

We pay enough now for this service. It's time for big corporates to lower prices.

Flag

Like

 Fight_Back ★ 1 month ago

I was laid off and I did not get to tax the {big companies or the unions or CEO`s or high management? }

Look when the OC transpo went on strike did the public get support ? No they got tax. The CEO`s and higher management keep their jobs and probable got a bonus like most big companies or at least they keep their high paying jobs without losing a day`s pay?

The public had to find away to get to work .OC Transpo is trying to get compensated for it buy taxing us and what is the mayor doing about it?

Look at the green bins another tax grab?

Cable /water /phone/bus/gas/natural gas and Hydro keep increasing their fees and we get less service.

And if this keeps up every one is going to go bankrupt like in the US.

It is too bad they do not care about you and me

Like I car and if I could change it I would

Flag

Like

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And if this keeps up every one is going to go bankrupt like in the US.
It is too bad they do not care about you and me and the small companies
Like I do
[Flag](#)

Like



lyndaharris ★ [1 month ago](#)

I am not in favor of the proposed fee suggested for the CRTC. As a pensioner with a low income it would be an additional cost i cannot afford. I think i already pay enough for the services i get. It's important to me, because this is my only source of entertainment.

[Flag](#)

Like



Jose Antonio Diaz ★ [1 month ago](#)

I think what this is really about is: A really powerfull group of Canadian broadcasting companies vs Satellite and Cable\$\$\$... Both these groups have Armies of Lawyers who Lobby for them in Ottawa so really there is no Litle Guy Local TV company. Only Big Business. Bottom line for me is this: There is no local TV company because I need Cable or Sattelite to get a clear signal.

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Pam ★ [1 month ago](#)

I refuse to give the Big Networks a \$2 billion bailout over the next five years.
End this TAX.

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Like



Pam ★ [1 month ago](#)

I refuse to give the Big Networks a \$2 billion bailout over the next five years.
End this TAX.

[Flag](#)

Like



YVONNE EGAN ★ [1 month ago](#)

NO MORE RATE INCREASES UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES. WE PAY ENOUGH FOR SERVICES NOW!
JUST DON'T GO THERE.

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YVONNE EGAN ★ [1 month ago](#)

NO MORE RATE INCREASES UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES. WE PAY ENOUGH FOR SERVICES NOW!
JUST DON'T GO THERE.

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Like



A. Graham ★ [1 month ago](#)

I do not believe that the money they are asking for will be used to do anything to improve the quality of their programming. Further, if I thought that if they were not profitable; I still would not want to help . Between ad revenues and all the support from ALL levels of government and private sources, for them to ask for more money so I can watch the same rerun on mutiple channels at the same time on the same network is ludicrous.

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Like



Terry Hallick ★ 1 month ago

This is nothing more than another money grab that I am tired of. If and that is a big IF the programming was any good it still would not be worth an increase of any kind and the fact that they made 400M profit last year is ridiculous for the crap the call programming! If they were breaking even and losing money like all Canadians, most of which have not seen a pay raise in years and are also looking at HST on top of this money grab, maybe then it would make sense. Let's stop the rich from getting richer! Everyone cancel your cable, get out and exercise for a couple of months, let's send a message - GET YOUR HANDS OUT OF OUR POCKETS!

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Dianne ★ 1 month ago

Our community is based on rural values from community members who choose to live and work in a smaller setting. Our moals are based on those values and likes. We as a group of citizens with similar life styles and goals can and do accomplish much . When there is a group with a common vision and goal with determination , purpose and grit many important and life altering events do occur. Don't sell the small guy short of what he can and will accomplish. Case in point: our province's record for contributions to Telemiracle, per capita. The small guy gets the job done because he knows the cause and people and he cares. Such is the case of local T.V. It's our news, broadcast by our people about our situations and we like it that way!!

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Jude ★ 1 month ago

Agree whole heartedly with all the comments, that we should get rid of the CRTC and have some else in its place. If I want to watch an American program then I should have the option of doing this without having Canadian ads appearing, and the fact that I am on a satellite dish poses another problem, why am I paying for stations that I never watch at all should have the option of choosing what I want to pay for.

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kevinh ★ 1 month ago

The CRTC must ensure that consumers still have access to free TV over-the-air signals. If the local broadcasters shut down, there will be no more free TV, everyone will have to pay if they want to watch a little TV.

Maybe that's what the cable and satellite companies really want, all over-the-air signals to end. Then if anyone wants TV, you will have to pay one of the cable/sat companies to get the signal.

There is no need to regulate the amount cable services cost the consumers, everyone always has the option to cancel their cable, put up an antenna, and get their TV for free if they don't like the cost the cable companies charge. I did that 15 years ago. In most major cities in Canada a good antenna will get you around 10 channels.

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carolgraham ★ [1 month ago](#)

I find it totally disgusting that they are trying to tack on an estimated \$10 'tax' to our cable bill. In these tough times, an additional and unnecessary charge is an affront to normal sensibilities and should NOT be implemented. Please don't allow this to happen!!!!!!

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smorris ★ [1 month ago](#)

Every year the head of CTV stands and proudly displays his top twenty shows in terms of ratings. 19 are American. Anyone in Canada can get on a plane and fly down to LA and buy content. This does not require talent. It is sickening to watch Fecan stand there looking so proud. It is like someone showing off their new iphone acting as if they invented the damn thing.

The CRTC allows this to run rampant. Hundreds of millions of dollars surging south. If a reasonable percentage of those amounts was retained in this nation and invested in Canadian programming and local news this debate would not be necessary.

If a cable company carries someone's content then they should pay. If a network wants to extend its reach it should pay. It is up to the two sides to negotiate an agreement. A business deal is only a deal when both sides are happy.

Why this war of advertisements and finger pointing from both sides? Because the CRTC is weak and lacks leadership and vision.

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ericberube ★ [1 month ago](#)

My big issue right now is to see CBC crying to CRTC to get more money, when us tax payer already give them 1 billion per year to manage CBC and RC. They should start to produce quality info/television programming...

Also, they should either go in same profit/sharing as other broadcaster...i'm tired to see Canadian government giving them money without any question.

Moreover, right now CBC/RC got our money from Canadian tax payer...and they are always blaming Conservative government...it fact they are trying to use their power to convince canadian that this government should be kick out...wow is it what we call democracy?

Is it a pulic broadcaster? then if so, they should represent every canadian (liberal, npd, and Conservative)

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jrc43 ★ [1 month ago](#)

Why should I pay for cable channels in my package that I do not want. We should be able to choose. Also darts and poker are not sports that should be on the sports. Also Atn do not show relevant shows. Some cable channels should be off the air.

Also tv stations are turning to their web pages .How much do they spend on those instead for local shows, and are they revenue producing? We are TV viewers not web viewers. They should be xed out of the equation

How much did CTV and other staions spend to dress up their studios. CFTO's must have cost millions.

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b28z ★ [1 month ago](#)

I think that the cable companies and the stilite companies should pay for the local tv stations signals but they should take it out of thier profits and not have the canadian people be subject to another tax.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*jerry wasserman* ★ [1 month ago](#)

The most important issue is not which of the interchangeable companies are going to provide our TV or which of them will pay for what or how much profit they'll all make but rather WHAT programming will appear. If it's only about how to broadcast the most profitable American shows, we might as well not have Canadian TV at all. The CRTC MUST require the networks and cable companies to provide significant amounts--quotas-- of CANADIAN dramatic programming: movies, series, documentaries. NOT just reality TV or newscasts.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*Chris Both* ★ [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!

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*Chris Both* ★ [1 month ago](#)

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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!

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*Ruth King* ★ [1 month ago](#)

I do not wish to pay an additional tax for TV. Drop local networks if you must...there's no great loss

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*Hugh Moore* ★ [1 month ago](#)

I was under the belief that this "tax" was to be paid by the cable companies to the local channels as transfer of revenue from the cable provider to the local channels and that they should have been taking it out of their operating profits not passing it onto the consumer. The CRTC should be able to enforce this ruling. But of course the consumer will always pay the final price.

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



martinjulien ★ 1 month ago

I really need to see more Canadian stories - fully-funded and produced Canadian productions - on our digital 'airwaves'. No nation can prosper without a healthy cultural industry - and a without a national narrative. Broadcasters pay a relative pittance for their "right" to our public media channels - they need to honour our changing heritage and all the many workers in our cultural industry by investing in Canadian prime-time drama, comedy and documentaries. There is no excuse except "profit", I guess.

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Kevin M ★ 1 month ago

We have an infrastructure and cost problem. It is no secret that Canadians pay some of the highest fees for TV, cable, high-speed Internet and cell phones. Granted our large land mass and low population density attribute to those costs; but what has not translated well over the last decade or so, is the increase of provider fees with little to no change in access to rural areas.

This is something that needs to be addressed, especially with the move towards digital television or television over the Internet. If these problems are not addressed, I will continue to feel that I am paying overinflated prices solely to line the pockets of business executives, and that is not a good feeling.

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Like



ianleclair ★ 1 month ago

If you want to save millions in tax payers dollars, get rid of the CRTC period. The limit competition in telecommunications and television and have out lived their initial purpose keeping telecommunications costs low for low population areas. With Satellite TV, Internet and other methods of transmitting bandwidth, telephone and TV in rural areas available, why don't we free up the airways, allow the competition without the support of tax dollars and drive down the cost of TV and other telecommunications platforms for all of us since we don't need costly infrastructure to deliver the TV and phone and internet services to anyone any more.

I am saying NO to any more tax dollars going toward any of the TV stations etc out there. What do we need all this programming for, go outside. I am a farmer and I don't see what the attraction is on the TV, and I am sick of paying for any of it.

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Like



Mary ★ 1 month ago

I am a disabled person who is struggling to survive on a extremely limited budget. I have to make do with what I receive so why can't the TV broadcasters? If they can't survive, then maybe they shouldn't. No one "bails out" small businesses when they are in trouble. I say no more!!!

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Like



Mireille ★ 1 month ago

I agree that extra charges are not reasonable, but what I believe is that the distributors should pay the local TV from what they already make of the fees we pay for our cable/satellite services. They are also making profit on the back of local TVs and should pay them a fairer part of their profits for the income they bring to them by drawing in local watchers. After all, they do it for the specialized chains, and local TVs are simply older than specialized one, yet no less specialized in entertainment and information of every kind; there shouldn't be two different ways of managing TV services.

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Dave B ★ [1 month ago](#)

Canadians should be allowed to purchase their programming from where ever they want, including the US. Repeal the gray market laws.

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



Louis ★ [1 month ago](#)

What local programing do I get from my local TV station? Nothing but news. But what do I get from the local cable station? Lots and lots of local programming. Our local TV stations do nothing for the community in the way of broadcasting that overall helps our community. I do not need to pay anymore money to the local tv stations. If they can't make it well good bye.

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



Brandon ★ [1 month ago](#)

I agree with pretty much every post on here. Its ridiculous. If my business was failing, would my local station come and pay more money to make sure I survive? of course not, so why should I pay more to bail them out? I won't. Cable is already extremely over priced by the cable companies, and the CRTC just added a new tax in the fall and now we apparently need more? Forget it. I will cut my cable completely before I pay more for the nothing service I already receive. Its sad when you can insure a house and a car for less than the cost of a monthly cable bill. The CRTC should step in where they are needed and regulate pricing from the cable companies and not waste time on deciding whether the Canadian people should pay more. Did you miss the recession that just ended? Did you miss the unemployment rates across the Country? What makes you think people can afford to pay more? The CRTC needs to STEP UP and do a SERVICE to the Canadian people.

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[Like](#)



rod ★ [1 month ago](#)

There is no way I will pay another penny to these people,we are paying too much as it is.

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



Jerry ★ [1 month ago](#)

cable/satellite networks also provide internet connections which they can throttle the growth of competitor internet TV. The decisions today will impact TV delivery on the internet medium, so please ensure internet innovation is supported and preserved, and use teeth against players who stifle it for their own selfish motives. Also, let's not have this debate again in ten years to allow local TV access and fair value on the internet.

[Flag](#)

Like*dguthrie* ★ [1 month ago](#)

The broadcasters should have to pay the cable and satellite companies to get carried, it increases their market share and therefore increases their revenue. Every new channel that is carried requires extra bandwidth and guess who is paying for all that bandwidth, every single customer.

[Flag](#)Like*Cindy B* ★ [1 month ago](#)

If the cable and networks are making the kind of money you state, then tax them and the telephone companies and so forth on their profits. Not the general public that use these services. Between network charges, taxes, "delivery to me" for hydro and phone, 911 services, useage fees for even my friggin sewer.....It seems that I am paying to the hint on all services to cable, telephone, hydro and water....Reduce the bottom line on these major corporations including the municipalities by taxing their Profit not my useage!! For my mother who is 72 her cable is her entertainment, now she won't be able to afford this either.....Oh and I haven't even commented on the "harmonized tax crap coming" either.

[Flag](#)Like*Philip_R* ★ [1 month ago](#)

We need more Canadian shows on television. And more specifically in Prime Time. Entertainment Tonight Canada, ET Canada and all these other reality shows shouldn't count toward Canadian content rules. There should be more scripted Canadian Dramas and Comedies on OUR televisions. We have our own stories to tell. Broadcasters and Cable companies shouldn't get the advantage of regulation without giving back to Canadians through the production and distribution of Canadian stories. I live in CANADA not the US. There should be more Canadian programming than US in our own country. It is embarrassing and absurd that this is not the case!!!!

[Flag](#)Like*markpomeroy* ★ [1 month ago](#)

Shut down the CRTC - your days are LONG past

[Flag](#)Like*monarch44* ★ [1 month ago](#)

Michael says that it bothers him that all Canadian channels are good for is copying content from the U.S. - but he also says that he doesn't care about Canadian content.

It's easy to say that you don't care about Canadian content - that's because there really isn't any to care about - why care about something that you don't get to see. The broadcasters are supposed to create and broadcast Canadian content for you in return for the lease of the public good (which belongs to you and all Canadians). Instead, Michael's absolutely right - they go shopping - they take the dollars that Michael spends on their exorbitant fees and go a purchase American content to simulcast here in Canada - wadding that content with their own advertising spots. Last year Canada's private broadcasters spent 740 million on U.S. and foreign programming and only 54 million on Canadian content creation - 11 times more.(If you look at CanWest Global's expenditures - it's pretty clear where they went wrong).

In real primetime - from 8-11 pm from Sunday to Friday - each Corporate Broadcasting group has a possible 18 hours of programming - 36 hours. You wanna know how much they have of Canadian drama in there? Maybe two hours - and one of those hours is Flashpoint which is a Canadian/American network co-production.

Do you like Seth Rogen? Canadian. Mike Myers, Jim Carrey, Keifer Sutherland, Hugh Dillon - Canadian, Canadian, Canadian, Canadian. How about that hot chick who plays the lead on House, Lost, The Tudors - Canadian. How about the creator of House - David Shore - Canadian, - the football captain heart-throb on Glee - Canadian. these are just a few of the many, many AMERICAN MADE CANADIAN STARS that could have been Canadian made stars - but hey, we can't act, we can't write, we can't direct - REALLY? Maybe, the truth is that we can't do it for Canadian networks or producers - so you tell me where the problem is.

Believe me - saying that Canadians can't act, write or direct well enough to make engaging television is like saying we can't play hockey or football. It's not like we step across the border and suddenly are sprinkled with some kind of kick-ass talent dust. If we can create, star and direct some of the hottest product south of the border - why can't we do it up here - if it isn't the lack of talent then it must be...ummm....the lack of Broadcaster commitment. The broadcasters are thinking - "meh ,why do your own homework when you can buy someone else's and just put your name on it eh?" Because idiots - you could be making money instead of spending it all - and....because...it makes you smarter.

[Flag](#)

Like



stanw05 ★ [1 month ago](#)

Failed businesses or business models should not be supported.
Support of Canadian content is a failure when the networks spend hundreds of millions of dollars on US programming instead of developing excellent Canadian programs.
Signal substitution should not be allowed.

[Flag](#)

Like



Brian ★ [1 month ago](#)

Signal substitution needs to be eliminated.

[Flag](#)

Like



harries ★ [1 month ago](#)

I purchased the 'Fully Loaded Bundle" from Shaw. Over the last few years I have found that it was not only not "Full" but that they wanted additional fees for all services added. Please change regulations so that the consumer can choose individual channels without the limits imposed by having to buy packages. Shaw has taken advantage of their customers in every way possible

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Like



janegilchrist ★ [1 month ago](#)

We need to see more Canadian drama on TV. Reality shows and stand-up comics are not drama. News is sometimes dramatic, but it is not, of course, written drama which shows us our own culture as it grows and changes as well as other cultures as they impact on our own. There should be a requirement of a specific number of hours of drama by Canadians so that our writers and actors can give us the benefit of their cultural awareness and esthetic prowess.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*Jim Garner* ★ [1 month ago](#)

could you please stop sending me all your correspondence. I don't read it and it's clogging up my system.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*jenniferhooley* ★ [1 month ago](#)

I believe we are being bombarded by American commercials, and their programming. The dramas are ok. But the dreadful reality programs are brainwashing our youth, and erasing all creativity and thoughtfulness. I absolutely detest reality TV and some nights, that's all that the networks offer.

The amount of re-runs is ridiculous. The old movies and series are so outdated.

Can no one come up with something newer? And more international programs to show a global focus. De-Americanize Canada. The CRTC should be more aware of the impact the American brainwashing is having on our Canadian identity. Put some of the money we pay into creating some good Canadian programs and movies, and instead of running Seinfeld or the Andy Griffith show for the zillionth time, put on more Global programming to show what's going on in the World and diversify our interests.

We are almost completely lost to the US way of thinking and spending, and that is scary. Then we won't need the CRTC anymore.

Thanks, from a proud, albeit confused Canadian.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*H. D'Onofrio* ★ [1 month ago](#)

Why should cable and satellite be allowed to impose another tax on television? I believe we are being taxed to death on everything and now they want to add an additional tax to the television. I think they have made enough profits and this is an unnecessary tax. Why does the CRTC okay every increase without looking into the situation thoroughly. We are not all millionaires and if the increases continue we will have to cut back on our programming. Is this fair??

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*barb* ★ [1 month ago](#)

a tv tax will hurt both consumers and business; we pay enough taxes; we do not need to be taxed anymore

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*sixty2ndidiot* ★ [1 month ago](#)

I see at least three major options:

Option 1: Theft is theft. FTA TV is copyrighted. I see no reason why a cable company should be able to violate this copy right, massage re-code, insert other commercials, and redistribute a FTA copyrighted signal without the express written consent of the owner of the copyright. As an individual, I'm not allowed to do it. If that costs them money then so be it.

Unfortunately, the side effect of paying may be higher cable fees and reduced emphasis on quality FTA signals from broadcasters who can now get paid by cable subscribers and will forget those people with antennas.

Option 2: Theft is not theft. This is currently close to the status quo. Anyone who can receive an FTA signal should have the right to redistribute it for profit as they see fit. The cable company should be able to take the digital HD FTA signal of any station and charge the subscriber to see it.

Option 3: legislate that "all" FTA broadcasts in the local area must be carried by the cable company and provided at no charge or minimal charge to their subscribers and distributed "in the clear" so QAM tuners on new TV's will pick them up without that annoying set top box. Allow charges for specialty non-FTA channels.

Selfishly, I like (3) the best. On principle, (1) seems right.

-sixty2ndidiot

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[DLB](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

if it isn't one money grab it's another . Call it what you want, but to me EVERYONE from the government to big business is dipping into MY pocket. We not only buy their services at monopolized rates but we get taxed as well, double taxed in many cases and , of course the fees go up regularly and what is the added value? It isn't fee-for-service ...our payments are simply an income stream to support stockholders.

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[J Lavoie](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) [in reply to DLB](#)

The government and the Heritage Minister say they want to protect consumers, but giving in to the cable companies blackmail (which is what they will do no matter which way the CRTC rules) is dereliction of this stated duty.

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[billcroker](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

The cable companies are freeloading by selling me signals they get for free. I have no problem with charging them a fee for reselling someone else's content. But I don't see why they can simply pass that charge through to their customers. They have a buck or two in profits! Make them pay as part of their cost of doing business. There is no inherent right to pass charges through. If office supplies cost 50% more next year do they get to charge me another 50%

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[Dave](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

Signal substitution should end. If I am watching the Super Bowl on an American channel I should see the American ads. As GEW says they are double dipping making us watch advertising that is not paying for the show they are importing.

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[Trudy](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

I believe that we need to provide more wholesome programs, family programs. The morality of shows is steadily declining and more and more profanity / nudity is being allowed. This is from our local tv stations as we do not have cable or satellite. My children and I should not have to listen to listen to profanity when watching a music awards show. What happened to bleeping out inappropriate words from people who want to have the "shock" effect?

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[no more](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

TV service quality and price are very low and not geared to consumer wants.

Too many commercials, too much of the same thing, too costly, poor production...

I gave up on am radio 40 years ago because of poor quality, recently gave up on fm radio and tv is gone now too...

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shaun morgan ★ [1 month ago](#)

I think i am being robbed as it is . Nothing on half the the time . Half the time i am not watching it as i have a life called work . And what i pay is nothing but robbery considering what is on tv wich is mostly reruns and things i will never watch . Certainly is not much choice in channel 2 to 28 and even if you have a digital box there is nothing on unless your ordering premium channels . \$40.00 a month on something that is barely worth it . And now you want to rob me for ? Your pleasure .

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Lori Long ★ [1 month ago](#)

NO NO NO NO!!!

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[Like](#)



KSantos ★ [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

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Mik ★ [1 month ago](#)

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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Guest ★ [1 month ago](#)

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Guest ★ [1 month ago](#)

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thomashauff ★ 1 month ago

We, as a society, have too long supported broadcasters who have given us foreign material. It is cheaper for broadcasters to buy this material than to produce it themselves. This has led to a talent drain that has fed the system. Stop supporting an industry that gives Canadians no benefit. Help to support indigenous Canadian producers and artists who contribute to our society and tax base.

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Michael ★ 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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robbullock ★ 1 month ago

I believe that the lack of price competition in the cable TV market is not serving the Canadian consumer well.

Historic reasons for a protected cable business environment are well understood; those reasons are no longer relevant but because the regulatory environment remains unchanged, Shaw, Rogers, etc have become less compliant to the rules, policies, procedures and directives of the CRTC and in fact, on many occasions thumb their nose at the CRTC, because Jim Shaw et al believe they no longer need the protection of the CRTC. They view the regulatory environment as restrictive at this point in their company's evolution.

WE NEED PRICE COMPETITION IN PROVISION OF CABLE SERVICES. The consumer is paying too much; it's not an economic model where all parties get the best possible deal.

Deregulate the cable/ satellite industry and get some price competition in the market place to the benefit of the consumer.

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Gary Pearce ★ 1 month ago

I am a Shaw customer here on Vancouver Island and I must say that I am appalled at what is taking place with respect to TV programming these days. I have to say that between internet services and HD TV cable services, as a package we pay \$140.00 per month and feel we are being "Ripped Off" to say the least.

For starters half the time we cannot even watch a Vancouver Canucks hockey game, every time I turn on the TV to watch a game we have to pay for Pay Per View to watch our local teams play. This is "Highway Robbery"

My next "Beef" is with the CBC (Canadian Broadcasting Corp) which I feel should change its name to the Commercial Broadcasting Service because all we seem to get is repetitious boring commercials every few minutes when trying to get some news on the CBC News channel 23 no matter what time of day it is. They seem to start their day with three or four news stories and they run them over and over and bombard us with the same old boring commercials every five minutes, day after, week after week. In my view the Federal Government should pull all funding for the CBC as it is tax payers monies that are helping to fund this boring Canadian network.

The regular programming stinks as well but for me I am more concerned about the CBC News reporting as we never get decent interesting local Canadian news that matters to most Canadians. It seems they are more concerned with what goes on in Washington, DC that what goes on in this country, it's a "Bloody Shame and a Bloody Joke" No wonder Americans know virtually nothing about Canada because all we seem to broadcast are US stories and news.

Bottom line is that Ottawa should get out of the broadcasting business and leave it to private investors. Mr. Turner of Atlanta, Ga must have some good laughs whenever he might happen to turn to the CBC and most probably wouldn't mind penetrating the Canadian Marketplace.

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 *billhb* ★ [1 month ago](#)

I get no benefits from CTV or Global. They don't have any local news & their weather forecasts don't apply. Why should I bail out companies that have been mismanaged & have taken away all the local benefits? I say let them go down, they have cut everything that pertains to me. When are they going to want more money that I can't afford to give them?

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 *moiralumley* ★ [1 month ago](#)

I do not wish to contribute to stations who already are raking in advertising dollars. Why should I subsidize them!

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 *gailblack* ★ [1 month ago](#)

I am a single mother, divorced and on a fixed income. I do not want to pay \$10 per month to help the cable companies. I pay a big bill at the end of every month to the cable company, Rogers, which is a monolith in the communication industry. The cable companies earn magnificent profits and they need to pay the extra costs, not the ordinary citizen. Please do not allow this financial burden to fall on the customers of the cable companies. These companies are extremely rich and the middle class is not rich because we are just trying to meet the payments of living in our taxed to death society. In addition, with the new HST tax instituted by the Ontario Liberal government, this extra \$10 will be taxed as well. So it will be more than an extra \$10 per month!

Please do not allow the cable companies to add to our bill in any way. In other words, do not let them absorb this extra cost by increasing our fees in other ways, either!

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Like

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 *williamheidema* ★ [1 month ago](#)

I think that quite frankly I and my fellow Canadians pay far too much for the service that we receive. The so called programs from the US are at times so stupid that it is an insult to my intelligence to even watch the junk. It is unbelievable that anybody would actually pay good Canadian dollars for this stuff.

I SAY NO TO ANY BAILOUT

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HM ★ 1 month ago

I don't think there should be a tax on watching tv...especially if it's to give a bailout to the local broadcasters. This sounds like we'll soon turn into the situation in London, UK where there is a tv tax, as well as a tax on nearly every other conceivable day-to-day item...making it a VERY expensive city to live in and unaffordable for many people who live there.

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mark S ★ 1 month ago

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!

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rickrogers ★ 1 month ago

Volume of commercials. The volume of commercials seems to often be about 25% higher than their affiliated programs. I do not have a mute button on my remote, so that is not an option. It is very disturbing to have to have the volume turned up for a program which has it lower than others to be able to hear it adequately, and then have the several commercials which typically play in between segments blaring much louder, forcing one to scramble unnecessarily to decrease it. And then having to increase it again when the program restarts. And having to do this probably 5 or 6 times for a 1 hour program.

Please find a way to remedy this. I'd also appreciate a response acknowledging receipt of this request.

Thank you.

Flag

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Lolo ★ 1 month ago

I agree that satellite TV is necessary---we don't have access to cable and would not be able to receive the variety of programs that we like to see without it. But the Satellite companies know this and charge an arm and a leg for the service. Gov't needs to regulate the cost or such a service more closely. Also I think that any Canadian Stations "i.e. Global, CTV" should carry only Canadian commercials and that they should allow the U.S. Channels to air their U.S. commercials. Sometimes the commercials are as entertaining as the programs----and I for one would love to get to finally get to see those Super Bowl commercials!!!! Maybe that way we wouldn't have to watch the same commercial over and over during the same commercial break---at least space the commercials out for repetitions and don't have the same commercial showing during the whole program. Also I don't want to see them limit the channels available from the U.S. I know we should support more Canadian content but it is the U.S. who unfortunately is putting out the good shows. In fact there are U.S. channels that I wish we were getting that are not available---example TNT. I would gladly watch more Canadian channels if the programming wasn't in the "dark ages" . They need to balance the "cultural" and "entertaining" programs and make their programming more entertaining.

Flag

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J Lavoie ★ [1 month ago](#) [in reply to Lolo](#)

The Canadian channels get to air Canadian commercials on U.S. shows because they pay huge money to have the broadcast rights to them in this country. It's called copyright. Something a lot of people, including the Heritage minister doesn't understand.

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wulfgraunitz ★ [1 month ago](#)

It has always been, and for decades so, that the TV (and radio) stations supported themselves through advertising, and now, after raising the ad spots to an obnoxious level they are looking for another cow to milk.

I don't even watch them anymore because at any time I turn to, (CTV for instance) a good number of ads are running with no end in sight and I am not waiting to see what they are airing. I wonder why the advertisers don't grasp the idea that by this intolerable dilution their advertising efforts become meaningless as there is a so much smaller audience. If local programming were to disappear tonight I wouldn't shed a tear but rejoice instead.

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erikagreen ★ [1 month ago](#)

Monopolies in telecommunications have to go. There are only 2 possible choices here -- either a free and open market on shared infrastructure (this applies equally to cable TV, internet access and both cell & land phones) OR nationalize the whole sorry mess & regulate the prices. The only monopoly I'd be willing to support would be a national, non-profit one. WITHOUT ENDLESS ADVERTISING.

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Glen McEwen ★ [1 month ago](#)

i have never had local TV. it was never available to me. My location is app 75-80 kilometers from all major NB cities but I am lock between several mountains. Some 30 years ago in order to receive TV programming for my family i had to purchase satellite. these local channels never cared or put repeaters so i could watch there programming> I do not like the idea subsidizing local TV when i have had to spend thousands of dollars and money annually to received something they do not deliver. Also I am of the understanding that there is no NB TV or local TV that networks repeater it to the cities. SO the idea of local TV is irrevelant or non existent. i would appreciate the CTRC declining local TV bid to have surcharges applied to my Satellite bill as they do not or never have delivered a viewable picture to my household

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E. Kaller ★ [1 month ago](#)

At the start the issue seemed to be who was providing a service to whom, and, accordingly, who should pay whom. Somehow it morphed into something about local TV, and into something about cable companies paying because they could afford to do so.

If the issue were clarified, the solutions would be easier to establish.

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Ian ★ [1 month ago](#)

Fine both sides for antisocial behavior and send them to binding arbitration to settle the fee-for-carriage matter. Both sides are spending a lot of money trying to villify the other on the public stage, all in the name of greed, greed, greed and it's disgusting.

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J Lavoie ★ [1 month ago](#) in reply to Ian

Binding arbitration for a percentage of the basic service fee already being charged to consumers is the way to go.

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Robin ★ [1 month ago](#)

I see both sides of the debate. I don't watch local TV because it isn't available on Shaw Direct. I could put up an antenna but that isn't compatible with my TV setup.

This debate needs to be addressed with licensing and the transition to digital broadcasting. If the signals are not up to a certain standard, then the stations don't deserve the money. If the carriers are compressing the signal to a point that the quality is shot, then they should pay a fine. I don't want to pay for over compressed, pixilated programming.

The CRTC should be a consumer representative and look at the best interest of the consumer. The networks are screaming foul over the fees yet they take home large bonuses and wages. They are not starving like many of us.

The carriers are also just as bad. The advertise quality signals and then over compress and transmit more data per channel than should be allowed and the want an annual fee increase for poor service. In the satellite industry, there really isn't any competition.

With the changes in technology, we need to look at the availability of programming from other sources. The main competition is the Internet. Local providers or even national providers are not scheduling programming for their audience, they are scheduling for their pocket books. Simsubs is a great example of this. Instead of setting programs for the time-zone of their customers, they set the schedule to maximize simsubs.

To me this is emphasized by the request to have USA signals blocked for selected programming to increase their viewer-ship. This is what simsubs do. It increases the viewer-ship by making the customer watch the Canadian version and advertising when they wanted to watch the USA version. In some cases, a sub standard quality of the same program.

Customers won't put up with that. They will look at other means to get their programming when they want it. It is already happening with the Internet. For example. No provider in Canada carries the current episodes of Doctor Who. Even through the CBC was involved with production at first, they don't show complete episodes. In fact, one episode, they only offered the complete episode on their website. This drives customers away from viewer-ship.

Of course as the conglomerates of TV/Satellite/Internet work together, they put limits on customers looking at different sources. Example, is blocking P2P traffic. They can control the whole customer stream.

Local stations, that is true local stations, should get payment from cable/satellite companies for carriage if the companies charge for these channels. If they don't charge, then a customer could have a (Shaw Direct for example) receiver and get the local channels for no monthly fee. Or no monthly fee for local channels on cable.

Cable and Satellite providers must not be allowed to degrade the quality or resolution of local programming provided. If the local station provides their customers with a 1080p signal, the carriers cannot reduce this to 720p and expect to get paid for this degraded signal. A Signal to noise ratio needs to be set. Degrade the signal to much and customers don't have to pay.

I understand that there is a cost for maintenance and running their networks. Over the big scheme of things, providing local channels for free is a small cost out of their massive profits. If they want to charge for what as many say is a free service, then they should pay the providers. This provision puts it squarely in the hands of the carriers. You pay for what you charge for.

We don't have the customer base of the USA providers. We don't have the customer density as USA cable providers have. This makes it hard to compare between USA and Canada for services. People have to recognize this.

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[J Lavoie](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) [in reply to Robin](#)

The other issue is why is the government and the Heritage Minister going ahead with killing analog signals and not compensating consumers like they're doing in the U.S? What's the rush?

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[frankdrebin](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

The local broadcasters already enjoy advantages of mandatory carriage and simultaneous substitution of signals. If they want a fee-for-carriage, then they should be put on the same footing as specialty channels who are not privy to these advantages.

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[Diane Ramautarsingh](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

Enough with the taxes already. Why do the big networks feel that they need to add this tax? Are they not already getting enough money from advertisers and other big money ventures? Why is it always the "little guy" that continues to be nickled and dimed into the poor house. I refuse to pay any increases and I've long ago discovered that I don't have to play the game with networks, suppliers or anyone else trying to take more out of my pocket. I just stop receiving any of these "SERVICES". I will not be dictated to as to my cost, the stations or anything else having to do with TV or radio. I grew up with the understanding that TV would be free or minimal cost at most and when Cable and then Satellite services came into existence and then began the escalating charges I've stopped the insanity in my own home by refusing to subscribe to any service. There are a lot worse things in life than a home without tv and I'm raising my family to understand that you can live a rich life without tv. I'm also raising them to understand that you don't have to let anyone force/bully you into paying for any service that should have been free or charging a minimal fee in the first place. Especially, when you end up with services or channels that you don't want coming into your home. I believe that we are better because of this. We actually communicate with each other, we read, we interact with the real world and on and on. In closing, I'd once again like to remind you that tv is entertainment, not a lifeline and that it is perhaps pricing itself out of existence. The internet has a lot more to offer and at better cost (a lot is even free). This is the message that I continue to share with those that I have contact with. I would also like to tell you, as a government body, to stay out of my wallet. Enough is enough. The government is already taking a big chunk of change from our paychecks. It's time to stop. Budget according to the cash that you have, just like you expect all of those living within Canada's borders to.

[Flag](#)

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[J Lavoie](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) [in reply to Diane Ramautarsingh](#)

The big networks don't want to tax you for local TV. It's the cable companies that want to do it. They already bill you for local TV on your basic service of your cable bill but they're not transferring any of that money back to the locals. That's the issue. The cable companies are just making a threat to provoke outrage and it seems to have worked.

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[B. Mackenzie](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

I think the Canadian public is being taxed to death! We have one of the highest if not the highest cost of living in the world (outside of japan). With the economy in trouble why is it that

the HST and Cable costs are going up? You just can't catch a break in this country. The cable companies are getting as bad as the OIL companies, the price changes daily, we are being held hostage for everything and we are just sick and tired of it. Try cutting back on your expense accounts and that would save the cable industry millions!

[Flag](#)

Like



Ross ★ [1 month ago](#)

The cable companies would have me in jail if I resold their signal to a neighbour - it is ridiculous to suggest they should not pay for the the content they resell.

If they think that they should not be required to provide it as part of the basic package, then they should give up thier monopoly and let other providers use their wires, much like Bell was forced to do. Let the market decide.

[Flag](#)

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gbstone ★ [1 month ago](#)

Production and distribution are required to make both the cable/satellite and networks stay in business - neither could operate without the other. Don't see why they both can't earn a profit without addition of one more tax.

[Flag](#)

Like



J Lavoie ★ [1 month ago](#) [in reply to gbstone](#)

So true. Why can't the two sides come to some agreement that doesn't hurt our pocketbooks.

[Flag](#)

Like



mikeco77 ★ [1 month ago](#)

Rogers TV is the only real local programming, CBC has some good made in Canada programming the other networks have mostly American Shows available on American Networks where we then see simulcasts and now they want more money to pay to buy more American programs we already have. This is ridiculous the CRTC is even considering this in the first place which shows us they don't know what they are doing but doing irreparable damage to TV in Canada.

[Flag](#)

Like



Sue Lamping ★ [1 month ago](#) [in reply to mikeco77](#)

The viewership for these community cable channels is abysmal, nobody watches them. Virtually everyone watches local channels whether it be for the news, any of the top rated U.S. programs or sports, such as the Olypmics and hockey playoffs.

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sixty2ndidiot ★ [1 month ago](#)

The cable companies need to have their businesses split up. The physical bandwidth/cable to the homeowner should not be owned by the content provider. The same principle applies to cable broadband internet as well. That way we would be free to get our content from a number of competing providers. The fee for bandwidth/delivery could be regulated and charged to homeowner as a separate fee. Can you imagine actually having a choice between cable content providers without the need to change your postal code?

[Flag](#)



Michael Parillio ★ 1 month ago

Let me decide if I want to watch and support local channels, after all, this is a capitalist economy, is it not? If their product is inferior, the market will decide if they survive or not. Why are you fixated on forcing people to watch local programming? This is a global economy!!! If it becomes too expensive for me to watch television with your propped tax, then I will reduce my services...simple as that.

[Flag](#)



Sue Lamping ★ 1 month ago in reply to Michael Parillio

Sure it's a capitalist economy. With a regulator that allows monopolies. Oh yeah, that's capitalism.

[Flag](#)



Angela Cope ★ 1 month ago

If the cost of watching television is not reduced then people will find new ways to watch their favourite shows either online or by downloading them illegally.

[Flag](#)



Sue Lamping ★ 1 month ago in reply to Angela Cope

That's what the Heritage Minister does now.

OTTAWA -- Heritage Minister James Moore - one of the government's lead on the copyright file - admitted Monday that he hasn't always abided by Canada's copyright law.

Like many younger Canadians, Moore told reporters he doesn't watch television the "conventional way." In addition to legally purchasing shows to watch on his iPod, he said he was an early adopter of the personal video recorder (PVR) - although the PVR is already old school for him.

"New media isn't frankly new media anymore. I watch more television on my iPod than I do on an actual conventional television set or through my PVR. I think if you ask the average Canadian under the age of 20 how do they consume their media, you'll hear a very different story than you'll hear from Canadians over the age of 40," Moore, 32, told reporters in Toronto.

"Strictly speaking, almost anything he'd be using PVR for would be illegal," says University of Ottawa's copyright expert Michael Geist

Canwest News March 9, 2009

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Sean ★ 1 month ago

Cable and satellite companies charge almost the same amount for the same number of channels and little choice in packages to consumers, WHY? I thought there was supposed to be some competition but it's like buying gas, the same wherever you go. I want more choices to get the channels I want and ultimately for a lower cost as opposed to paying around \$50 a month for channels that I watch less than half of I want to pay half, like \$25 a month or less. On top of that I would prefer to have LESS advertising or the ability to block/skip advertising as with TIVO for example. I also think that the CRTC should be regulating commercials for their content and the times/channels they can be advertised. I'm not sure why 'Smilin Bob' or Viagra have to be advertised when children are likely to be the viewers whether the signal is from the USA or not.

Maybe the broadcasting business model is broken and THEY need to fix it without closing down local stations even if they can't secure an easy revenue stream like a tax to subsidize their poor business/acquistion decisions. I don't know how it is there but if I make enough mistakes where I work, I would get fired, not a golden handshake or a bailout but perhaps broadcasters and the cable/satellite providers don't see it that way.

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[Sue Lamping](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to Sean](#)

As I've said earlier in this thread, we should have access to a smaller basic package with Canadian channels and a few US ones, not the 57 channels we have to subscribe to now

[Flag](#)

Like



[eileen](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

I'm on a fixed income and enjoy TV as my most important source of entertainment and staying in touch with the world. An extra fee could be deemed as 'the final straw' on the camel's back for me!

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[Sue Lamping](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to eileen](#)

You're one of the taxpaying Canadians that the Harper government won't mind being screwed over by cable companies.

[Flag](#)

Like



[derf11](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

TV is a business and when there are too many competing for the same advertising Dollar, not all will survive. So be it. As a consumer I should not be forced to pay more just to keep unprofitable stations in business. If keeping all TV Stations is deemed a cultural necessity, the needed subsidies should then be shared by all Canadians, using general revenue by the various levels of government and not ask individuals to carry the burden. As it stands, TV signals are not free whether I watch using my antenna or my cable service. Every time I watch a commercial or buy a sponsor's product, I helped pay for that program. The cable company is not stealing the signal, but are in fact increasing the number of viewers, which allows the networks to charge more for their ads. It is to their benefit.

[Flag](#)

Like



[Sue Lamping](#) ★ [1 month ago in reply to derf11](#)

If the cable companies here did what they did with local signals and tried it in the U.S. they would be fined. You can't take local signals without paying in America

[Flag](#)

Like



[B Mavin](#) ★ [1 month ago](#)

Cable/satellite companies are doing quite well in North America. The recent purchase of NBC by COMCAST certainly is one indicator; the various businesses of Rogers is another. The recent victory at the CRTC by Bell and Rogers giving them the right to throttle internet access is an example of further gains that they have obtained with the blessing of the CRTC. In simplest terms, this effectively gives them the ability to control access and performance of whatever competition that just might eventually start to appear. Other than the choice of either cable or DSL, the two major players have a monopoly on internet service (which will eventually be the future of television signal distribution). The CRTC hopefully recognizes the threat that monopoly will have on the consumers of those services.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*B Mavin* ★ [1 month ago](#)

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[Flag](#)[Like](#)*Sue Lamping* ★ [1 month ago](#) [in reply to B Mavin](#) 1 person liked this.

The CRTC has done nothing but create this playing field that has allowed these cable monopolies to profit and play victim. The CRTC is in denial because it has created this threat to consumers. If it wasn't, it would regulate the cable monopolies more.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*John* ★ [1 month ago](#)

CTV and Global want additional funding from signal providers while at the same time continue to simulcast over top of U.S. stations. It galls me to see them pick up feeds of football and golf. If they want to legitimately broadcast these programs then show them on their own channels and leave the U.S. stations be. Would it be such a terrible thing if for 1 day a year we saw U.S. ads for Super Bowl? Or could you allow Bell Expressvu to insert a 1 time only digital channel for that day like we saw 2 years ago? the whole packaging situation we have now for choosing programming is unnecessary. Surely we have the technology to menu pick our channel choices.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*Larry* ★ [1 month ago](#)

Allow more access to U.S. sports programming and stop forcing us to watch Canadian commercials during major sports coverage.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*J Lavoie* ★ [1 month ago](#) [in reply to Larry](#)

CTV and Global and other Canadian channels pay huge amounts of money to broadcast these events in Canada. They own the Canadian rights. The CRTC isn't doing this as a favour, it's a law.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*Shaun Ritchie* ★ [1 month ago](#)

Get rid of the CRTC, with the internet so readily available we are exposed to content globally at all times any time. For cost savings to the consumer we should be tapping into the US market. With everything being digital and by satellite there are no borders. It won't be long before the CRTC controls what we can view on the internet, cell phones as well. They will dictate that we must view so much Canadian content per not Canadian content.

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



Robert ★ 1 month ago

1. Canadians do not need a 'cultural dictator' aka CRTC to prop up poor quality Canadian programming nobody watches - for example, Hockey /Coronation Street/ Dr Who is about all I use the CBC for, the rest is dreck.
2. Cable companies should be allowed to unbundle channels and let the unwatched die, again you will most likely see TSN and HBO come up tops.
3. Broadcast AND cable TV are dying - the internet will bury them both - because it gives the viewer CHOICE. This is a last minute cash grab by both parties concerned.

Flag

Like



sixty2ndidiot ★ 1 month ago

Robert wrote: "3. Broadcast AND cable TV are dying - the internet will bury them both - because it gives the viewer CHOICE. This is a last minute cash grab by both parties concerned."
I tend to agree. Still I think there would be great benefit if the last mile of cable to the consumer was controlled by a neutral company and regulated by the CRTC in much the same way as my natural gas has two costs, one for delivery, and one for the purchase of the quantity I use. As long as a company like Rogers owns both you'll have tremendous conflict of interest when other companies try to deliver services like internet thru that cable in favour of their own services.

Flag

Like



dpottier ★ 1 month ago

The ongoing CRTC hearings regarding Canadian broadcasters being paid for their signals may very well result in the citizens of Canada paying over \$120 per year on their cable or satellite TV bill. As I watch the two sides accusing each other of varying degrees of bad faith through the media I empathize with the CRTC who are a regulatory agency not an enforcement body. The responsibility for this state of affairs lies elsewhere.

Signal theft is the source of a well documented 10 and 20 percent of the viewing public. A Freedom of Information Act query concerning a report in the hands of the CRTC would I believe indicate that Canada Customs reports that between 15,000 and 20,000 illegal satellite dishes come into our country every week primarily from South Korea. The rest of the country is paying for those stealing cable or satellite signals and indeed may end up paying more.

If broadcasters and broadcast distributors were able to garner this stolen revenue one hopes that what we, the honest majority, would pay less every month instead of what looks like more. The answer is that the federal government, which has no hesitancy in charging broadcaster and broadcast distributors healthy license fees should enforce the signal theft legislation the government created to safeguard Canadian citizens, culture and industry. Let Industry Canada fulfill their enforcement responsibilities and stop worrying about the number of "signal theft votes" that they may lose should they finally decide to do what they were elected to do.

Flag

Like



Lori McGibbon ★ 1 month ago in reply to dpottier 1 person liked this.

The government should also prevent the signal theft of local channels by cable companies

Flag

Like



stormintv ★ 1 month ago in reply to dpottier 1 person liked this.

"The rest of the country is paying for those stealing cable or satellite signals and indeed may end up paying more. " Not true. How did you figure that out? First of all 99% of people with FTA satellite systems have cable or basic pack so they have local TV also. I'm sorry that your neighbour has cadillac tv and you don't . Very plain and simple. We're not happy with cable or dish in Canada and over 1 million Canadians agree.

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

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

Cable, Bell, Starchoice, MacDonalds,MacDonalds,MacDonalds they all have the same menu.So they told you to eat Big Macs every day.The government would rather you steal the channels than send money to the states for american programming, as long as their getting a cut it's OK. I know. Your magic machine that can point in my house and tell if I'm watching tv is a scare tactic. And last, do you think that 1 million Canadians X4 in each home are all a bunch of pirates, no, they are average Canadians from 18-65 who want a burger from somewhere else . Legal, pirate, you make it sound like they are smuggling guns. Watch out they are going to tell you what music you have to listen too.

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

Brian ★ [1 month ago](#)

Make some form of TAX credit or tax shelter for the private sector so they can INVEST in Canadian Programing. Force Cable & Broadcaster to invest in Canadian content for every dollar they spend or channels they air that are NOT canadian. It worked for Music with Cancon legislate it for Drama n Comedy and please lets stop allowing cheap reality tv to be considered canadian drame my god that is AWEFUL !

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

phil01 ★ [1 month ago](#)

There are 2 scenarios that could play out here - but if the cost of local TV station signals is taxed why should the consumer pick up the cost? This is a fight between cable stations and analog stations, and consumers should not be in the middle. Cable companies make huge profits and there is no reason they can't absorb the cost.

On the other hand if the CRTC is determined or corrupt enough to actually tax consumers over something that is not their fight then let the local TV stations die. I don't watch them very much as it is, but there are pockets of people where local TV is all they have.

So - if the CRTC decides the local TV stations have a point, then make cable companies absorb the cost - it should not be legal for them to simply pass on the costs to consumers.

But if the CRTC says costs must be passed onto consumers then abandon the whole project, and let the chips for local TC fall where they may.

I don't care what happens as long as consumers are left out of it.

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

J Lavoie ★ [1 month ago](#) [in reply to phil01](#)

The government has given every indication that they will overturn any CRTC ruling that hurts the cable companies. The cable companies have threatened to raise rates if fee for carriage is approved and the government immediately said it will wanted to "protect consumers" from fee hikes. Do the math.

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

Loretta ★ [1 month ago](#)

I'm tired of the profits of the telecommunication corporate sector being the tail that's wagging the dog (the public). It's time that decisions regarding all telecommunications are done with the public welfare in mind, including support to our Canadian production industry. Also, more Canadian programming should be mandatory -- it's better for us in so many ways.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*J Lavoie* ★ 1 month ago in reply to Loretta

This government isn't interested in the Canadian production industry. James Moore the Heritage Minister -- the only person in cabinet who is supposed to stand up for Canadian cultural institutions -- and all he talks about is protecting the consumer. That's the industry minister's job.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*Russell McOrmond* ★ 1 month ago

In case anyone here didn't know, CPAC is making the CRTC hearings this week available in an on-demand format. Go to <http://cpac.ca> and click on Video-on-Demand. It may be useful for people to post their thoughts on these presentations here as well.

I participated this morning. I posted my speaking notes and related links at <http://digital-copyright.ca/node/5096>, and will repost those notes below. Comments welcome.

Name: Russell McOrmond

Contact information via <http://flora.ca/#contact>

Submission to CRTC 2009-614: <http://digital-copyright.ca/node/5079>

Commissioners, Ladies and Gentlemen,

My name is Russell McOrmond, and I am speaking as a private citizen. I will start by offering my opinions on the specific questions before you, and then put these questions into context.

I believe when it comes to local programming that the approach you took with the Local Programming Improvement Fund (LPIF) is in the right direction, with minor changes. If preserving and enhancing local programming is the goal, this needs to be focused on individual programs and not stations or broadcasters. LPIF should fund local programming independent of the delivery mechanism, which would include traditional broadcasting, cable access, and Internet distribution.

I believe it is inappropriate for the broadcasters to suggest local programming is a fee for carriage issue. I understand that some channels are not bringing in the same advertising revenues as they have in the past, but this is more an issue of convergence than local programming. As advertising revenue moves online from traditional media, content creators will need to move online as well.

On the issue of fee for carriage I believe this historical arrangement has two sides that created a symbiotic relationship. Cable companies were allowed to redistribute Over The Air signals without payment, but were also mandated to offer these stations as part of basic cable and on more prominent positions on the dial. It seems to be a simple matter of fairness that if one part of this arrangement changes, the entire arrangement should change.

The CRTC should allow over the air private broadcasters to designate themselves as specialty channels. This would mean that they would get fee for carriage, but also that the cable companies would no longer be required to carry them in any specific bundle or on a low channel on analog service.

The CRTC should mandate that the cable operators offer these channels a-la-carte, and not require any specific bundle. This is the most common message from the online consultation website, which is that audiences are fed up with bundles. The CRTC should mandate that all stations be available a-la-carte. It is clearly unfair to offer fee for carriage for any legislatively mandatory stations.

Public broadcasters like the CBC or TVO should be considered separately, as citizens already pay for them. They should not be able to designate local stations as specialty channels, would

not receive fee for carriage, and would be mandatory carriage.

Cable or Satellite companies should not be allowed or mandated to manipulate the signals of third party channels without agreement from these third parties. The concept of a Canadian program rights market is a throwback to a past which should no longer be supported. If I am a subscriber to a specific channel that has scheduled to air a specific program, it must never be blacked out or otherwise manipulated simply because some other channel also wishes to air that same program simultaneously or at some other time.

We have the larger picture which is sometimes summarized with the title of convergence.

The CRTC was formed at a time when broadcasting and telecommunications were two silos that each had their own legislation and regulation. In a recent submission from the CRTC you indicated that "the Copyright Act should be reformed in a manner that defies a silo based approach". The same needs to happen with broadcasting, telecommunications and the new converged infrastructure. We are moving towards there being one digital pipe into homes and offices where voice, streaming multimedia, and other data are all simply types of information on that pipe.

The Internet should not be seen as a service offered by incumbent telecommunications and broadcast companies, but as a common platform which will include traditional telecommunications and broadcasting services as a subset. For reasons clearly articulated in economic texts such as The Innovators Dilemma by Clayton M. Christensen, these incumbent industries will have conflicts of interest and be least able to embrace this new medium.

Let us look at the connections into my home. I have water and sewer which are fully municipal services. I have natural gas and electricity where the pipes are fully neutral, and yet I have a choice of providers for these sources of energy. I have coax and twisted pairs that are allegedly fully owned by the phone and cable companies.

Convergence should cause the government and regulators to ask is whether we should abolish this communications exception. We need to ask if the broadcasting and telecommunications sectors are two massive government programs, or if they are services that can exist in a minimally regulated marketplace. The CRTC has indicated that it wants to rely on market forces, but unfortunately these forces can never exist if the CRTC relies on inter-modal competition: Cable and satellite for television, cable and DSL for Internet access.

We have experience with the type of transition we need to make in order to receive the full benefits of convergence. We have something to learn from the previous Progressive Conservative government of Ontario. The Energy Competition Act of 1998 aimed at establishing a deregulated market for the supply of electricity, continuing the deregulation of the natural gas supply market. This was partly accomplished by recognizing that energy distribution was a natural monopoly, and that expecting each potential competitor to put their own pipes into our homes and offices would be impractical. The sector was split into supply that would be a fully competitive private sector marketplace, and distribution which would operate under a highly regulated utility model.

We must do the same thing for our communications infrastructure, separating a highly regulated utility model for municipal distribution from minimally regulated services that are then built on top. This will allow a free market to build services that actually meet the needs of consumers. This will allow local programming to become more local, lowering existing barriers to distribution of neighborhood programming.

I recognize that this is not something that the CRTC can create itself, but this type of forward facing vision should be part of your submissions to government.

Thank you.

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[slimsilver](#) ★ [1 month ago](#) [in reply to Russell McOrmond](#)

I wouldn't waist my time speaking to the CRTC.

They are not going to change anything for anyone.

The cable and satellite companies have what you call business interest in the CRTC and if they let the CRTC do there job then it is not in the interest of big business.

So in this corrupt world we live in we have the honest business man who give's to the homeless and hungry and sick kid's and then we have Cable satellite and the CRTC who take from the poor and hungry and sick to fill there pockets before there corrupt empire collapses.

They have been doing this from the day they all started operating and the CRTC has been bought off from day 1 as well and has done nothing but cater to big cable and satellite broadcasters and handed them the key's to the Canadian market.

And for the little guy here at home that wanted to bring good affordable entertainment to the people they had the CRTC run him out of business so they could have full market control.

That is a fact people all you need to do is search the net and dig deep into the archives of the CRTC and it is there.

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

Both the government and the CRTC are not looking out for consumers. If they were they wouldn't let the cable companies make threats to raise your cable bill.

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Phil Dickman ★ [1 month ago](#)

Two issues concern me. they are: the roll that local stations play in supporting the growth and developement of neigbourhoods and communities and the financial viability of local TV stations.

I believe that one of the important resposibilities of the CRTC is to facillitate the strengthenning and developement of neigbourhood and community identity. Local TV stations contribute to these goals especially where the local TV stations air programming that is specific to a neighbourhood or community. If local TV stations do not have adequate funding souces, they must limit programming or even close down, as we are seeing happening at present. I believe that the CRTCshould take whatever measures are in their power to support local TV distribution of community oriented programming.

My second conderm, of course, directly involves funding souces. Local TV stations must of necessity have access to programming delivered by a few large national companies that apparently pay nothing local stations for the distribution of their programming, and advertising, by local stations. It also seems to be known that these large companies do very well financially. Therefore it seems reasonable that ther should be payment to the local stations for the delivery of their programing and advertising by the local stations. Surely the "Big Boys" are interested in paying for a service they have been getting for nothing all in the interest of fairness without having to pass on the costs to others. I believe that local TV performs an Important community service that should recieve the protection and support of the government.

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LOD ★ [1 month ago](#)

The cable companies should pay for signals they sell.

[Flag](#)

Like



Suzanne Phillips ★ [1 month ago](#) in reply to [LOD](#)

That's the way the Americans do it.

[Flag](#)

Like



harryaleslie ★ [1 month ago](#)

I would like to contribute the view that the "public good" would be served if all broadcasters were required to give up one minute per hour of time for public messages from the police, health department, transportation department etc.

Soap, cars and maximized profits are not as important as an informed body of citizens.

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R. Frager ★ [1 month ago](#)

The cable companies have lucrative monopolies (or near-monopolies) and are charging Canadians too much as it is. They should be compelled to pay local TV stations for the content the cable companies are using. The cable companies should not be passing this cost on to their customers. The public airwaves belong to all of us.

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R. Frager ★ [1 month ago](#)

The cable companies have lucrative monopolies (or near-monopolies) and are charging Canadians too much as it is. They should be compelled to pay local TV stations for the content the cable companies are using. The cable companies should not be passing this cost on to their customers. The public airwaves belong to all of us.

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Suzanne Phillips ★ [1 month ago](#) [in reply to R. Frager](#)

That's the way it should be, but Harper and James Moore and the Tories are going to protect their friends at Rogers who allow one of the MPs to use the owners box at the Rogers Centre for a fundraiser

[Flag](#)

Like



B. Gallpen ★ [1 month ago](#)

I don't wish to pay a TV Tax. I think I am already paying too much to watch the few channels I do which includes the local channels - city, prov, CBC . This cable/local channels debate is so uncreative. It is about the profits of each group, not the service they can provide to the customer at a reasonable price.

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jilllutz ★ [1 month ago](#)

Like thousands of other Canadians, I have seen the television 'commentaries' on both sides of this debate. They each say the other one is not telling the truth. Hmmm. IS someone lying, or what??? I really don't get it. I KNOW that we NEED and WANT local programming period. We have TOO much American garbage. There IS excellent Canadian programming out there and I want to see it. One thing I have noticed in my city, Calgary, is that SHAW CABLE SYSTEMS is the company with the big new fancy building on prime downtown real estate, NOT local stations. So I guess I now will draw my conclusion from this fact and believe that at least one cable company has LOADS of money.

[Flag](#)

Like



Suzanne Phillips ★ [1 month ago](#) [in reply to jilllutz](#)

My Cable company owns the Blue Jays, the Skydome all the luxury boxes there and is trying to get an expansion NFL franchise. And they're threatening to pay for local TV because they say they can't afford it.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*Lori McGibbon* ★ [1 month ago](#) [in reply to jilllutz](#)

Not only that. The president of Shaw told the CRTC at a hearing this week that it was the ultimate arbiter of this dispute meaning he was pretty confident that the Harper government would override any CRTC decision that affects the cable companies negatively. Nice to have friends in high places.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*mbbrooks* ★ [1 month ago](#)

Canadian TV programming should be available to US citizens. The US should not have a monopoly on North American TV. Many Americans would be willing to pay for access to Canadian TV, whether it be through cable & satellite providers or online. There is more Mexican and Latin American programming in the US than there is Canadian programming. The absence of Canadian culture is inexplicable and threatens Canada's sovereignty and political power in the western hemisphere.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*alanmyers* ★ [1 month ago](#)

I don't have any sympathy for either party. Let them fight it out in the open market. We don't need to interfere. What are the Local stations going to do if satellite and cable refuse to pay them? Boycott? That's a joke.

They are both in the business of "borrowing signals" and profiting from it. That's their business model. Let them find the best way to do that. Don't put any artificial barriers to entry and watch the marketplace sort it out.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*Leon Hoffentoth* ★ [1 month ago](#)

Big business runs both the networks and the cable companies, sometimes hand-in-hand, and they're increasingly determining government policies worldwide. If you don't believe me, watch the news (it's on between commercials).

I don't have much confidence that these hearings will turn out to be in any way beneficial to consumers.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*Janine Size* ★ [1 month ago](#) [in reply to Leon Hoffentoth](#) 1 person liked this.

This whole process is a joke. If the CRTC doesn't side with the cable companies (as they have in the past) the government will.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*james wardman* ★ [1 month ago](#)

i get my tv signal from rogers, when i added internet they put a splitter in. now my tv only gets half the signal i had. this is then split between the living room and bedroom tv's giving me poor reception. why am i paying full rate for both services. if i had a separate line for each i could understand this. this is a total ripoff, i should pay for what i get, half rate for half signal.

[Flag](#)

Like*William Peter Dale* ★ [1 month ago](#)

My chief concern is for the preservation and expansion of local TV broadcasting. I also would like see more opportunity for the development of Canadian Programming on TV. I am appreciative of the efforts of both CBC and CTV to indeed offer Canadian programs but I would hope that these channels as well as Global would have the economic means to do more. I would be very much in favour of having the very financially successful cable networks pay the TV networks to assist in the developing of this kind of programming.

I, of course, would love to see the CBC become commercial free and offer a whole range of alternative programming supplementing its present excellence efforts to offer disitinctively Canadian content.

[Flag](#)Like*DWright* ★ [1 month ago](#)

The future should be:

Fiber optics to every home (F.O. company installs, receives revenue and does support/maintenance)

Hudge bandwidth - TV, Internet, Phone, Radio, Security, Computer merge into one "Coms" device

Fiber available to all service providers

On demand services from many sources

[Flag](#)Like*vicshaw* ★ [1 month ago](#)

I want to know what the CRTC intends to do about all the specialty services becoming too similar. What i'm talking about is 5 or 6 different channels airing CSI and Law & Order. Why is Canwest allowed to run so many networks that are so similar, like Showcase, Action, Mystery, Showcase Diva, MovieTime, it ends up being the same programs, different times, even same movies sometimes. I really hate what they did to Showcase also, I think CRTC should force Canwest to return Showcase to what it originally was, real foreign programming and movies, not American shows and movies. There was obviously an audience for that and I wish somebody else would create a channel like that now.

Also, in regards to the skinny basic, I don't think it's any good, especially since most of what we're paying for in the basic rate is customer service/tech support type costs and not for the actual channels, creating a skinny basic would just be less channels for the same if not more money!

[Flag](#)Like*fernietv* ★ [1 month ago](#)

What is classified as "local TV" depends on where you live. If you happen to live in a major urban center, CTV, CBC and Global probably provide you with local television programming. However there are millions of Canadians that live in smaller cities and towns, and the major networks DO NOT provide us with local programming. Instead, for smaller cities and towns it's the cable TV community channel that offers true local programming. If the CRTC wants to help foster local programming, it should mandate additional funding for, and expansion of, community cable TV. The major urban centers already have a variety of local news and community affairs programming offered by the networks. It's the smaller communities without a network TV presence that need more local and community programming. Cable community TV needs more funding for local programming, not the major TV networks.

[Flag](#)Like



Bruce Johnston ★ 1 month ago

I am against any more taxes to bailout anyone. If you can't make it in business, then get out of it. Mr local channel has allready been closed. Broadcasters make the claim that cable/sat. can just eat the cost. Would they just eat a cost without passing it along in the form of increased ad rates?? Propping up broadcasters doesn't seem to work,....how about our CBC. Do we really need any more of that?

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



Ed Zobetz ★ 1 month ago

If T.V. companies want to save more money they should dispense with the majority of their graphic design personnel as continuous graphics make T.V. watching a chore rather than being enjoyable. Once a story is presented it should proceed from beginning to end and not be interrupted with a sprinkling of other stories and graphics.

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



tom ★ 1 month ago

The 'tv tax', despite not actually being a tax, sounds like communism. You cannot mandate that the cable companies broadcast something, and then charge them for doing it. If there's going to be a 'fee-for-carriage', then I suggest that the cable companies be allowed an 'opt-out of carriage' option. We'll see how much CTV makes that way.

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



joco ★ 1 month ago

A TV Tax could 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 Rogers.

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



joco ★ 1 month ago

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[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



Jean Dore ★ 1 month ago

A TV Tax could 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 Rogers.

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, and receive close to \$600 million in benefits from cable and satellite providers annually. 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

[Flag](#)

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notvtax ★ [1 month ago](#)

Throughout this whole debate, the big networks have never committed to keeping local television on the air or otherwise supporting local programming. What do they do that's local now??? News? 10 mins off the top, that's about it. Not sure how they can call that local tv. I DO NOT want to pay more, and not get anything new because of it. I don't believe that a bailout for the big networks will help. They can't seem to manage their own finances so should suffer the consequences as any other business would. They need to learn how to manage their balance sheet and stop asking for a handout.

[Flag](#)

Like



dforsyth ★ [1 month ago](#)

I have been a broadcaster for more than 40 years and I am outraged that television networks are asking for this handout. Shame on them! They are making no guarantees that local stations will not be shut down and I would bet my last dollar many of them will cut jobs and give themselves and their cronies "golden handshakes". The CRTC is responsible for making the networks too big and not allowing smaller companies the opportunity to show that they can make a go of the business. There are too many accountants who only see the bottom line and not enough people who recognize that you have to have a product to sell. There is still too much emphasis on American acquired programming and left to their own devices, the networks will continue to spend our money on those shows while Canadian content will suffer. DO NOT give the broadcasters the chance to destroy a great business. Make them own up to their mistakes and let people with passion and vision buy up the properties and put people to work!

[Flag](#)

Like



MarcC ★ [1 month ago](#)

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Like



ST ★ [1 month ago](#)

Seriously ... which came first ... chicken or egg ... can I decide? can I get what I want? Unpack every channels and let me choose. Let me pick what I want.

If we pay the TV network now ... than we will also pay for something else later on. Everyone wants money.

I bought a house and now i am having a hard time to pay my mortgage and other bills. Since I am watching TV channels I want the TV network guys to pay me. I too want some money. Does this make sense? Or would it be if you don't want to watch turn your TV off. Turn it off but keep on paying the bill.

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Like



sherie ★ [1 month ago](#)

The govenment is supposed to make it easier for the citizens not make it harder for common folks to live in this country. Everylittl pice adds to increase in cost of living and this is TV tax is stupidest idea of the new millenium and just show how inconsiderate CTRC is.

[Flag](#)

Like



shoeism ★ 1 month ago

So we're talking about an increase of \$5 to \$10 per month on Canadians' cable bill. For what, exactly?

The CRTC has already done the tax for local tv improvement fund. Any new TV tax will actually be charged on top of the 1.5% LPIF fee that already went into effect earlier this year. So... the CRTC is essentially asking for a giant wad of cash. People have been calling it a bailout, and that's what it looks like. Don't try to re-tax for the same thing by calling it something slightly different.

And? Throughout this whole thing, the big networks have never committed to keeping local television stations on the air or otherwise supporting local programming anyway. So what is the point? And what are they asking money for?

Thank you for the opportunity to communicate this opinion.

Flag

Like



Gary ★ 1 month ago

I have a question, but I'm not sure to whom it must be addressed. Who is responsible for the loudness of TV commercials? It is a shame that we are manipulated with commercial elevated "noise" every time an advertisement comes on. This could be another reason why Cable/Advertisers should be reined in by the CRTC. Give them rules they must follow. Show them who the boss is- The Public Interest.

Flag

Like



Pete ★ 4 weeks ago in reply to Gary

Here's a good explanation on the loudness of commercials. It's essentially the advertisers engineering it that way, on purpose. [http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/17229281/ns/business-...](http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/17229281/ns/business-technology-canada) Believe it or not, they're not "louder"... but they really are.

And yes, i hate it too.

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bmairs ★ 1 month ago

OUTLAW SIGNAL SUBSTITUTION.

When I pay for an American network, I do not appreciate a Canadian Network replacing the program with their own signal ie: Superbowl Broadcast.

Flag

Like



bmo ★ 1 month ago

There are too many taxes and hidden fees in canadian culture as it is. from extra fees on media (blank cds blank tapes etc) to fees such as this proposed. With the HST coming as well increasing everyones living expenses significantly Canadians can't afford another one. The TV Tax is something we cannot afford. Forcing fees is not the way to go.

Flag

Like



Bilal ★ 1 month ago

The fact that Bell and Cable companies account for around half the local TV market and both own the majority of the channels seems to indicate that Bell should be able to provide enough to keep CTV Globe Media afloat and Cable companies will keep their local access programming

funded. I don't see the problem.

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slimsilver ★ [1 month ago](#)

Who is going to be on the losing end of this deal?

The General public that's who.

The Executive Director of the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Mr Scott Hutton is not going to lose that's for sure he and his cronies are still going to get that big raise and living increase every few months in their pay and we will be paying the cost increase for the cable and satellite companies.

This guy won't be that's for sure I will be getting my TV from another country.

There is no accountability in our Government if they don't do their job and take kickbacks from big business there are no consequences for their actions.

They just shrug it off like it is normal practice.

And until we the Canadian people grow a set and do something about our corrupt Government and General services departments they are going to keep using the same practices and give you inadequate service

And we will complain about it that's all we ever do.

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gojo1 ★ [1 month ago](#)

It would be nice if the government of Canada provided basic service as they did years ago that everyone could access free with rabbit ears - they could do this instead of subsidizing the CBC - we now have several hundred channels and nothing that is worth watching - at least give people the option of free TV - it might surprise them how many people would not bother with cable or satellite - we are held hostage at the present time to the cable and satellite companies - the price of the HD boxes is outrageous - just a few thoughts

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Roger F. ★ [1 month ago](#)

There is no need for any additional "tax" on cable or satellite services.

We do need local TV stations, but they are endangered because the networks have taken away their identity (i.e. CTV Ottawa instead of CJOH) as well as their share of local programming time so that there is no service left for them to sell to local and regional advertisers.

In addition, local stations are saddled with heavy corporate costs, parts of which are due to unsuccessful takeovers, mergers and other expensive corporate strategies (i.e. Olympic coverage, etc.) which have left them with heavy debt loads and large interest costs.

Let the networks find their own survival strategies without government bailouts, or adding to the costs of consumers. We don't need mismanaged network organizations. If they fail, then the field will be open for new networks to emerge.

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robert metcalfe ★ [1 month ago](#)

I'm just reading down the list of posts it's amazing how little people actually know about what's happening. I hope you take the time to read some of the posts and do some research instead of just listening to the ads on TV made by the stations in question.

A few facts: the CRTC forces cable and satellite to carry these local stations.

Cable could otherwise drop these stations and add new ones with better content or even the same content.

The only ones who actually benefit are these 5 or 6 stations that claim to be local.

If I have to pay for these stations I want the option not to get them and have a different channel instead.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*slimsilver* ★ [1 month ago](#)

Local tv is payed through your taxes and advertising revenue.

Cable and satellite broadcasters are payed through there subscription's and advertising but with an added bonus of not having to pay for unscrambled Canadian signal's 45 in all < That adds up to be a big profit for them in the run of a year.

They are told by the CRTC that it is open air signals and are free view so they reap the profits from what they charge you for these channels they don't pay for..

Now the American PBS channels they have to pay for even though they are open air signal's or they would be joining Conrad black in his new holiday home in the NY State hotel for con's.

This is what the CBC and other local station's are talking about they pay other station's in other countries for there open air channels but refuse to pay there own station's here at home for there's.

That is were the FCC in the United States and Ofcom in the United Kingdom are far more in touch with what matters in the telecommunications and wireless communications sectors in there Countries and the consumer's that use these services who also pay through there tax dollars and through Fund raising that PBS has 1-2 times per year to offset programing increases..

Unlike the CRTC here at home the caters to the ones that have the deepest pockets and can offer the most in perk's.

And that is the truth.

Look it up on the Internet and CRTC's web site archives they take from our local station who also have copy rights to there programing but have the OK from the CRTC to take it.

But pay foreign stations cause the copy right laws in there Countries would prosecute Satellite and cable providers if they didn't pay.

So you tell me what is right for them to steal from us here at home and reap the reward's from a stupid law that was put into place back when foreign Satellite was able to offer better programing at a cheaper price to us.

Or for us to loose our local stations cause the fat cats at Bell and Rogers have had such big profits for the last 10+ years that they can not bare the thought of making less then a billion in the coming year in profits.

So you make up your mind what you want.

Your local station to close its door's and Cable and satellite to provide you with programing and you pay them \$80-\$100 or more a month for crap channels cause they have to pay for all the channels they offer.

Or the right to choose OTA and watch it for the cost of an OTA antenna.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*Faizel Desai* ★ [1 month ago](#)

Since both local TV and cable/satellite companies want to spend hundreds of millions of dollars on buying or funding USA programming, why not go directly to the source. Allow USA cable and satellite companies to freely access the Canadian market and broadcast directly to Canadians. This would allow competition in the TV industry and hopefully reduce the outrageous prices we pay for cable and satellite. This would be a great day for consumers - competition. The CRTC should change its regulations or abolish itself to allow this. If not, the Government of Canada should make this happen, just as they overrode the CRTC on allowing more competition in the cellular phone industry on December 11, 2009. Canada needs more competition in TV/Cable /Satellite. Make it happen.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)*slimsilver* ★ [1 month ago](#)

That is that regulation i was talking about Faizel Desai it was put into place back in 1997. Here is a snippet of the article.

The growth in DirecTV in Canada continued until after the federal election of 1997 which saw the Liberal government sweep to power with a massive majority. Following the electoral landslide which saw the Conservatives almost wiped out, the CRTC and the federal government suddenly

decided that, in order to protect the Canadian television industry, Canadians could not be allowed to watch HBO and U.S. satellite programming.

So that will answer your question about us getting competition back from US satellite and cable broadcasters.

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cheryllangevin ★ [1 month ago](#)

We should NOT have to pay for FREE airways ... why are we under their thumbs? what options do we have?

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



Kim Clayton ★ [4 weeks ago](#)

I think this should not go through, we pay enough as it is

[Flag](#)

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Kim Clayton ★ [4 weeks ago](#)

This is stupid, we pay enough tax already

[Flag](#)

[Like](#)



claudio_Jones ★ [3 weeks ago](#)

Forget it, Im already forced to get certain packages in order to get the channels I require. There has been enough cost increases for the last 2 years and with the economy getting back to shape i refuse to readjust my budget because some companies are challenged when it comes to devising there budget. If you cant afford the shows then Don't purchase them.

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slimsilver ★ [3 weeks ago](#) in reply to [claudio_Jones](#)

Then we all need to fight our Government and the CRTC cronies to have this changed. In the Fall of 2008 it was said the the public was going to have the right to choose single channels and not be required to buy package's. What happened to that??

When i asked my service provider why i cant just buy the channels i wanted they said they are package deal's and they don't sell singles.

This need's to change but on the other side they will just charge you a big price and a penalty for not buying a package any way that is the way our corrupted service providers work.

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Harinder ★ [3 weeks ago](#)

The CBC, Global, and CTV would just use most of the extra money to bid higher for U.S. programming as well as Global and CTV just increasing long term profits - a recession is a short term thing and this big one is nearly over or is over already. The increased bidding for American programs is just a zero sum game. Why should we subsidize these purchases?

There currently is really no local programming other than local news on these network's stations. If they want to shut down local news, then go ahead. Lets call their bluff. They won't because this is their lead-in to get people to tune in to their stations and watch other programs on it. See how many viewers they would lose if they tried it because this is the only real connection they have with a local viewer who otherwise would have no reason to have any degree of loyalty

to the station and network.

The CBC should actually be funded this way (but not the private networks) instead of getting government funding. Much like is done in the UK with the BBC and it's license fee everyone pays for their TV's. This way the CBC would not be dependent upon the federal government for funding and have to worry about appeasing the party in power and would truly be independent from government.

[Flag](#)

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[Nick Carasis](#) ★ 3 weeks ago

I think people also forget another alternative - grey market.

It is perfectly legal to receive a service that is currently not available in Canada. I won't mention any companies, but there are a couple of them that broadcast in the US and are not allowed to conduct business in Canada because of "competition" and "content" laws. Therefore, theoretically, a person could have an over-the-air solution for local tv, and dip into the grey market for premium content.

Hmmmm...on second thought, impose the tax CRTC. Maybe when the current infrastructure is completely annihilated, maybe then, and only then, will the Canadian consumer be provided real choices.

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[Amanda Hartery](#) ★ 3 weeks ago

Job loss in the event that local stations close. What is the CRTC prepared to do for broadcast veterans as well as new grads?

[Flag](#)

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[derekhrnyshyn](#) ★ 3 weeks ago

Television content will soon be available through the internet, in all likelihood, and the commercial model of support for OTA broadcast may be difficult to sustain for coming decades. The CRTC needs to be thinking now about how to handle that transition, since it will be complex and many factors need to be taken into account. But one thing needs to be preserved: affordable access to information for all. If OTA broadcast is abandoned, it will mean that many low-income Canadians, those who can't afford broadband internet and computers in the home, will not be able to access information at all. This is a complex issue and I don't have the answers but that is where the questions must start to be asked.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

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[Ted M.](#) ★ 3 weeks ago

I think the bigger question is "Why is the Government still, in this day and age, FORCING us to deal with one of a handful of companies who, according to Statscan released figures released this week, Canadian cable and direct-to-home satellite television companies had operating revenue that totaled \$10.3 BILLION in 2008?"

This is up a whopping 14.4% from 2007, and this during the deepest recession in our lifetime!!!

What is going on!!?? Is the CRTC getting a commission from these companies?

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Nancy ★ [3 weeks ago](#)

It's time for cable to start paying for the local TV they charge me for. And don't forget to stop them charging me twice for. 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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sawphillips ★ [3 weeks ago](#)

The economics of cable and satellite versus local TV is certainly an important topic for discussion, but so far I haven't heard about the cost to Canadians in the transition of regional television to the generic- one size fits all mode. Local television does serve its surrounding communities better than a far-off studios in Toronto. Montreal, Vancouver, or Calgary. We, who live in smaller centres, want to hear our local news and discuss our local issues. Cable and satellit TV only offer generic news stations, that don't reflect local issues and sensibilities.

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Mohammed Razzaq ★ [3 weeks ago](#)

I have recently signed an two agreement for TV Dish. At the time of asking for the service the operator never told me about a 2 year contract binding with it. Now I consider it a catch. If you complain, they have a reason. Later on and until this date the billing is not correct. I wish there is a law in Canada to bind these service providers to follow the words/promises, they make, to get the business. There must a strict rules for these type of business practices.

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jacksellar ★ [3 weeks ago](#)

Jack Sellar - 542 - Nordstrum Road - Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. S7K 7X4

It seems blatantly simple to me as a consumer. We look to the regulating body (in this case the CRTC) to represent the best interests of we - the consumer - in establishing regulations the industry must follow - then establish them into law, and finally .. enforce them.

Is the normal process to ask the public - who sometimes do not have all of the related facts at their disposal - to set rules and regulations?

Does the government ask the public what highway speed limits should be - or does it step up and do what is expected of it - and act in the public's best interest .. in setting rules that both the police and the drivers must abide by.

IN THIS CASE - we seem to want the industry - through very miss-leading advertising on both sides of the issue - to then ask the public to support their specific point of view - and then contact the CRTC to "assist" them in their ruling. THAT'S RIDICULOUS!!!!

We all want local content with news, local weather, and local and national sports events.

ABSOLUTELY ANYONE WHO THINKS ABOUT THE RAMIFICATIONS OF NOT HAVING THIS SERVICE will agree to that. Who wants the weather/news/local sports - from Atlanta Georgia, or Detroit or some other American location to be our ONLY source of such information??? THAT'S SIMPLY NOT A REALISTIC OPTION!!!!

So - now the problem who pays for it?

Simple solution - the CRTC amends it guidelines - as it has historically done in the past when needed - to INSIST that any cable company, or satellite signal supplier - who wishes to broadcast their signal into CANADIAN AIRWAVES - to sell, to give away, to sell subscriptions to - or indeed - even to broadcast into - as a condition of it's license to do business - must provide local content - from a source that is within a 300 mile radius (or less if CRTC deems it to be needed for accuracy of content) as a condition of their license to use or rent our AIRWAVES. (That is what the CRTC was created for - isn't it?).

The discussion of who pays - is redundant. The consumer always pays - in the end - so FORCE these business firms - to GROW UP and STOP WHINING! They either find a way to negotiate the rates with the local signal suppliers as they already do with the American sources of the network programs they are flooding our airwaves with - or they do not get a license to broadcast their signal ... and find a new business to be involved in.

WHY ARE WE ASKING THE PUBLIC WHAT WE WANT TO PAY? Did the satellite - or cable networks ask that that when they entered our markets? I am old enough to know they DID NOT!
SO - we are getting digital Television signal by 2011.
The CRTC made that decision for the public. They did not let the satellite and cable companies make that decision - regardless of who pays - for what. DO IT - or no CRTC license to operate. The question of who pays for local news, weather, and sports MUST be handled the same way. The suppliers of the signal will find a way to comply or go out of business due to not complying with the guidelines for their license.
This is not too hard to figure out the CRTC needs to put SERIOUS teeth into the requirements that MUST be met for these firms to operate in our sovereign airwaves. If they are unable to negotiate with the local stations doing it now for a suitable rate - then they will have to create a TSN type of set-up themselves - at their own expense - that will provide the signal - so the public's best interests are PROTECTED.
Where is the problem here? There isn't one - we are all being duped into the belief that this is somehow different than any of the other guidelines that the CRTC has required of cable, and satellite suppliers in the past, and it is NOT!

They are trying to mask the FACT that their costs - to convert to DIGITAL TELEVISION - are what this is really all about - NOT LOCAL CONTENT!!!!
WAKE UP - they are going to charge us all more. They just want us to BLAME someone - other than themselves - for why it is going to happen. Yet their ads ask us - the public "do you want to pay more?" "It could be as much as \$10.00 per month" - they state. Competition for our TV dollars drove the rates to the level they currently are - not CRTC rules, and that is what will drive the rates for the future signals as well. If the rates get "too high" we - the consumers - will stop buying your signal mr. private business firm! Wake up and smell the coffee - it is not up to the CRTC to establish a rate for this - nor is it up to the CRTC to somehow set up the framework for the negotiations.
SET THE DATE - SET THE RULES THAT MUST BE MET to protect the EXTREMELY IMPORTANT local content - PASS THE LEGISLATION (as has been done with the digital signal issue) and make it part of their license requirement and let the public buy from the supplier with the best bang for her/his buck.
If they do not meet the guidelines - stop them from broadcasting period. Competition will set the acceptable price - not "public input". This whole thing is a non-issue that has been manipulated by the very firms it will effect as a DODGE to blame new higher rates for DIGITAL SIGNAL - on local content issues. Shame on the CRTC for letting this limited number of very high powered firms do this - to us ... and them.
Warn them - then FINE THEM ... if they do not stop these ridiculous ads (they seem to have "found" a way short of adding the cost of these ads to my monthly bill ... to finance their cost). Just like covering the cost of "local" content - they WILL find a way ---- or LET THEM GO OUT OF BUSINESS! They knew going into business they were working in a field controlled by governmental rules - this is not NEW to them. SO - grow up - stop whining - find a way to provide the required service - or go away!!!!
Let's get on with some real problems like global warming - or poverty,

Flag

Like



Mike ★ 3 weeks ago

If i'm paying for cable and it includes local tv (which i watch mostly) and then they disappear, i'm going to be wanting a refund or reduction. Also how about a proper internet tv station for local tv with extras stream it to the net, i know everyone doesn't have internet/pc's but lots have games stations which have access. It's a back up and the future anyway.

Flag

Like



Karin Lenman ★ 3 weeks ago

Local broadcasting (and particularly public broadcasting) has been a vital part of Canada since the inception of broadcasting itself. I feel strongly that this aspect of our system needs all the support government and the CRTC can give it. Broadcasting (even for-profit broadcasting) has been an integral part of what has protected the values that made Canada a country that has until recently been respected around the world. In view of what Mr. Harper is prepared to do in the name of profit at any price, you have a unique opportunity to stand up for the country you

were appointed to serve.

I urge you to protect local broadcasting from the rapacious maw of the cable companies, and while you're at it from foreign ownership, which is also within your purview.

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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



ray_s ★ 3 weeks ago in reply to Gary Kubisek

This sounds more like a PR release for CTV than any kind of serious consideration of the issues involved.

Flag

Like



Lyle ★ 3 weeks ago

Why are we being charged a CTRC charge on our satellite Bill?

Flag

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Phyllis Roberts ★ 3 weeks ago

I watch only LOCAL TELEVISION Stations

[Flag](#)[Like](#)**Bob** ★ [3 weeks ago](#)

I have 2 separate antennas In order to receive the television's programs of choice

1, Terrestrial TV Antenna; that is amplified and is presently capable of receiving some 29 analog and HD digital TV signals, of which the signal that buffalo WBEN PBS DIGITAL HD transmits is far superior to the HD signals that Bell Express Vu is presently producing, I suspect that once all the Canadian TV stations start transmitting DIGITAL SIGNALS plus HD signals I will be able to receive in excess of 29 TV stations, provided they are not put out of business. It is my hope and expectation to be able to stop paying \$75.00 to the satellite company for the poor repetitive programming quality and focus on terrestrial TV viewing.

2, A BELL EXPRESS VU DISH which I have had for some 8 years programming consists of HD, plus NEWS and sports, plus I pay for the basic package which includes all the FREE DIGITAL AND HD terrestrial TV stations that I can receive on my terrestrial TV antenna.

I do not feel that any FREE terrestrial signal traversing Canadian air space should be captured and converted and ENCODED, redistributed and sold to Canadians.

The SUGGESTED THREATS being made by the CABLE and SATELLITE PROVIDERS of passing on a \$10.00 surcharge fee to their Canadian customers for the privilege of watching a TERESTIAL REDISTRIBUTED TV signal on cable and satellite that they obtain FREE, (the same signals I receive on my terrestrial antenna), I find insults the Canadian viewers' intelligence .

I HAVE TO ASK, WHY WOULD THE CRTC ALLOW a free terrestrial signal to be captured then encoded and sold to the Canadian viewers Including the FREE PBS Buffalo TV signals. (which is suported by the public \$\$\$ already).

[Flag](#)[Like](#)**KIP** ★ [3 weeks ago](#)

I myself, want to have local television available to me. It is an important communication link for my family to the larger community in which we live. We might not have knowledge of, or understanding of, issues or events that we do not come in contact with as we go about our daily lives. None the less, the dollar rules and so does profit. Those of us who invest in the communication fields, do not want our profits lowered. Thus the dilemma is to fairly distribute moneys to have some of both: the profit income and the communication at local levels. Now it up to our government to intercede and make this happen. We of course will probably end up paying more, as is often the case.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)**Bloewen** ★ [3 weeks ago](#)

I agree that cable companies should be taxed to provide funding for local tv stations. I would not want to lose my local tv station which has already been cut back.

[Flag](#)[Like](#)**Brian Rankin** ★ [3 weeks ago](#)

Rogers Cable Toronto/Oshawa has phoned me and told me personally, "We don't care what the CRTC imposes on US to pay, we will just past it on to the customers! If we can't get the money out of you (the customer) one way, we'll get it out of you another way!" This came from some guy claiming to be from the Presidents Office at Rogers. He has called me twice because he

didn't like my email about the LIPF fee they are charging us already without CRTC approval and in regards to any other fees you impose upon THEM!

So in other words, If you (CRTC) do legislate what Rogers can charge for their services, they are blowing you off as a joke and charging whatever they please! That came directly from the horses..... you know.

[Flag](#)

Like



mnewton ★ [3 weeks ago](#)

I agree if cable companies are charging for local programming then this should be passed on other independent companies and not kept by the cable companies for their own 1 channel of local programming. Plus cable companies have to be restricted from over dubbing advertising that is part of a broadcast. This means that cable companies can charge for advertising on channels that they don't produce content. Restrict cable companies to providing the transportation open up all channels for one price. pay per view gives them enough from movies etc. With over 1000 channels now lets give the consumer value for money and if the content is good advertising will follow and productions will improve, rather than have all the funds go to cable companies that have no incentive to produce quality shows.

[Flag](#)

Like



T. Follington ★ [3 weeks ago](#)

Hello from an island community that relies on TV because of no other form of visual entertainment. I hate that syndicated shows that are on again and again like Anne of Green Gables, Road to Avonlea, and other shows that have outrun their time and with only so many being made, that in itself is enough of rerun within a month, or seeing the same show many times in the same month. When you see that same show on CTV, CBC, and Global, and the other channels (I have STAR satellite) so that is a triple chance of seeing the same show in one day. So saying all that i don't watch that much, and when I see these shows being posted on the schedule, I find other things to do, but why not change this policy to include new shows. Living on a remote island and pleased that I can get TV and radio, I feel that I have just as might right to make a statement about the TV choices as those with CABLE, and other choices. The American shows also need to be rescheduled for reruns of reruns. Oh, that money someone is paying is coming out of our pockets, and my provider bill STAR CHOICE is raising my bill with the reason that they have to upgrade their technical services to cover all these new stations, that they are paying for, and yet I am not getting them because I really don't want them, and what I have is enough for the hours in the day that I have to watch the TV. The American football games on SAT. and SUN are a little to much, but those couch players of sports need to be keep busy. Get the Cable and Satellite companies a policy to follow so the rates don't keep going up; and those that are retired and on really fixed incomes, and having to no chose and some are not vocal enough to wonder why they have to keep paying more, and are not getting any more channels or service; would be a great gift to the citizens of the whole country. Thank you and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Cormorant Island. T. Follington

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Like



parksvilledon ★ [3 weeks ago](#)

Why is there not an issue heading for cable fees in general? Really, who cares only about local Television fees other than a very few? I, as well as most Canadians, watch American programming (other than sports) most of the time and am upset that the fees for cablevision in general are way too high when compared to what Americans can obtain. Higher pricing in Canada versus the U.S. is the same issue for mobile telephone service and auto prices. However, I have noticed recently that television and camera prices in Canada are approximately the same in Canada as those in the U.S. after the exchange rate is taken into consideration. Maybe the government should investigate what has happened in these areas to better understand why our prices on goods such as televisions and cameras have pretty much approached parity with the U.S. when not too long ago they too were much more expensive in Canada than the U.S.

Something must be done to address the exorbitant cable television fees being paid by

Canadians relative to our U.S. neighbours before we all find a way to bypass the Canadian signals altogether. For sure, this is not what anybody really wants, but we can only take so much. P.S. Don't forget internet service fees as well.

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slimsilver ★ [3 weeks ago](#)

You are right sir.

The prices for television's and Camera's have come to be about the same on both side's of the border.

I was in the US a few week's ago and did see that the prices were about the same even with the difference in the Canadian dollar.

It would seem that the manufacturers of these product's have come to the conclusion if they are going to sell there product's they need to get in line with both Canada and the United States in price comparison.

And if my cable and Satellite providers would do the same i would come back and pay for it here in Canada but as it stand's right now i am saving a bundle in the US even with the Exchange in the money.

I have looked at internet service in the United States and have been talking with one of the large providers and can go with the Satellite internet service but it would be hard to get perfect service the farther north you are from the US border cause of the small foot print.

But for what i am paying my provider here in Canada i would save \$50 a month in fee's alone for there service.

In today's economy we need to save every were we can and as long as we have only a few providers for our services we will get gouged from all side's till we can get more competition for our service providers back into Canada.

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Gerald Balm ★ [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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Gerald Balm ★ [3 weeks ago](#)

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Genevieve Janssen ★ [3 weeks ago](#)

I'm very upset with the way the CBC is being undermined. It's the only voice speaking for Canadians-- the other stations are so swamped with advertising that one can't bear listening. The CBC funding has been so badly affected that television is now also inundated with repeats, and ads ad nauseum. If I hear that woman banging her head because she is such an impatient driver one more time, I will blow my circuits. The government appointed as head of the "CBC a hatchet man. Disgraceful. Are you powerless? Do you support Canadian broadcasting?

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Edward MacPherson ★ [3 weeks ago](#)

Yes I truly think as consumers we are getting shafted by the cable companies for there services, and little of it I might add, so there fore we should all just pull the plug on our cable and go to just getting the local stations we normally get and it would free us up to do more things outdoors and around and also we could even watch some great programs online on our computers.

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Karen ★ [3 weeks ago](#)

here are some points that i feel need to be considered before you make your ruling. Local TV is an important part of Canadian life and should not be put at risk because the big cable companies refuse to pay for local tv although they charge the consumer for it. Dont let this continue. - 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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kenmetcalfe ★ [3 weeks ago](#)

In a fee based system I support the CBC charging a fee to providers for the right to distribute their signal. However the fee MUST be returned to the taxpayer. About \$1.1 billion taxpayers dollars annually support CBC for the purposes of Canadian content and national distribution. Any fee's collected MUST be included in decisions as to the level of support by tax payers. These fees are NOT the purview of a not-for-profit federally supported broadcaster. Loss of public control of funding CBC is NOT in the best interests of Canadians. To protect public interest these fees MUST flow directly to the the federal process in determining CBC's public funding.

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Wemdy Johnson ★ [3 weeks ago](#)

I live in small town Saskatchewan. I value watching CTV Regina each night and would watch CTV Saskatoon if it were available from StarChoice. Local TV is very valuable to get local news and messages out. I have participated in TeleMiracle for many years and have watched it on tv even more. Without the support of local tv, people from Saskatchewan would have gone without funds raised thorough the Kinsmen Telemiracle for the past 33 years and may not benefit if local tv is cut.

I pay almost \$100.00/month for StarChoice cable and I do not have a premium package. You cannot tell me that they cannot afford to continue offering CTV, Global etc without raising costs. Local TV, all the province's tv stations as well as neighbouring province's local stations should be

given, free of charge.

Many other large companies give back to the communities. What are the satellite companies doing by way of service or giving back?

Make the satellite companies accountable and post their profits. I say no to any extra fees for local tv. It needs to be a basic feature for all satellite packages.

Wendy Johnson

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 *Ann Dawson* ★ [3 weeks ago](#)

Don't know what anyone may think of this, but I decided long ago that T.V. rots the brains! I cannot afford the outrageous costs of cable just to have duplicates of channels to make up the number to over 300! So, what I have is Rabbit Ears and get 9 good channels (english) which is plenty for my needs. BUT IF WE LOSE LOCAL T.V. THEN I'M SUNK, SO Let's not lose it please...thankyou, Merry Christmas to all !!

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 *Dave Ruch* ★ [3 weeks ago](#)

I have read that CTV and Global Canwest are also proposing the right to arbitrarily block signals from American channels if they are showing a program at a time the canadian networks don't like. I am adamantly opposed to this. It's bad enough they already get to superimpose their advertising over American broadcasts, in a world of "flat earth" and "global villages" the last thing we need is more censorship and control over what we can see or when.

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 *Iorneskoronski* ★ [3 weeks ago](#)

Local does not matter , because in Sask we have only two major stations.Saskatoon and Regina.All the previous stations were bought out and now we just two. CTV and it affiliates are crying for revenue but they overpaid billions to get Olympic coverage. Suck it up !!!!!. Maybe the networks should charge less for their feeds.

I think the future of TV lies in the advancement of internet services. Make decisions that enhance that service because I think that is the future.

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 *Jamie O'Brien* ★ [3 weeks ago](#)

Hi CRTC

There is only one thing that I like less than the thought of paying \$10 a month more for cable to be able to see local free TV channels that is the countless number of out of market commercials for car dealers or fast food places that I am subjected to each time I watch cable TV. These commercials are irrelevant to me as we can not buy from them – but the space they take up could be a solution for this debate.

Why can't a deal be struck to enable the cable companies (or vice versa the local TV stations) that would enable local companies to purchase commercial time to be run on these out of market channels. This way a share of the "new found revenue" could go to cover what the local TV stations are asking for and help with Canadian programming content and maybe even bring down cable costs for the public.

To me it seems like a natural way to benefit all parties involved. This way the public would not have to pay more for an already expensive product and we would not be subject to irrelevant commercials... the cable companies would not have pay for a free product – and the local TV stations would still have their programming (and commercials) distributed for free. As a bonus

some of the local businesses could maybe afford to advertise more which could help their businesses grow and in turn create more jobs at the local level – as well as generate some additional income for the cable companies and/or local TV stations.

I also don't think a car dealership in Atlanta Georgia would be too concerned about losing a few viewers of their commercial from St. Catharines Ontario.

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William Hepburn ★ [3 weeks ago](#)

Just a point to ponder...if Canadian TV stations decide to discontinue OTA broadcasting, then it will be like it was in Canada circa 1948-1952, many people, such as myself, will be content to point our antennas at Buffalo and get our glorious HD signals for free and never end up watching any Canadian TV. Is this something the CRTC wants?

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WiMax ★ [3 weeks ago](#)

The real issue over all telecommunications is the existence of the CRTC. IT needs to GO AWAY PERMANENTLY! They do not have a mandate to regulate the Internet and yet they are doing just that but allowing the incumbent telcos like Bell to discriminate against wholesale customers. That means that if I am a customer of Teksavvy and my neighbour is a customer of Sympatico and we both pay for the same service, I will be slowed down (regulated) whereas my neighbour will not. This was all permitted by the CRTC. They had no business getting involved. What has this to do with TV? More television is being delivered over the Internet. This past year I have watched 3 major events over the Internet. I don't want the CRTC telling my ISP that they can slow me down and prevent me watching Internet TV while my neighbour has no issues. The bottom line is that the CRTC needs to be abolished, they are out-dated and irrelevant to the modern world of an open market.

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Mercedes Migliori ★ [3 weeks ago](#)

I don't see the major issue addressed anywhere in your regular options: why should Canadian cable companies get to rake in millions for rebroadcasting American TV? What on earth is the value they are providing, except for Lloyd Robertson and the occasional Tim Horton's commercial?

Watching shows like Being Erica and Flashpoint and Corner Gas reminds me how much talent we have in this country -- even with the massive brain drain to California. Canadian actors, directors, and writers are key players in almost every major series south of the border. Do they suddenly get a talent transplant when they cross the border that allows them to compete with the best in the world? No. What they get is opportunity.

The Canadian government managed to create opportunities for amazing artists, years ago, when the CRTC forced Canadian commercial radio stations to have a quota: a small percentage of their airtime had to be given to Canadian musicians. They screamed and howled about how government interference would ruin their business, and Canadian listeners had to put up with some wretched bands for awhile (Glass Tiger, anyone?) But the quota system meant that independent Canadian talent no longer got muscled off the air by the huge publicity juggernauts of American record companies, and now... is there anyone in the world who is not aware of the vibrancy of the Canadian music scene and the global reach of our musicians? It is time to create space for the next Little Mosque on the Prairie, the next Boys of Saint Vincent. Make the broadcasters pony up more hours of original drama, now!

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RWM ★ [3 weeks ago](#)

Pay a tax for local TV? The government is trying to solve everyone's problems on the tax payers

back. We bail out the automakers, Greyhound bus lines and the local TV channels only because they can't manage their money. Companies that are that fiscally inept are doomed to die anyways so let them either die now or smarten up and live on what they earn like the rest of us.

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Maureen Rieger ★ [3 weeks ago](#)

I believe that we should have access to all the channels in the US and Canada. We are being censored by not being allowed to pick the channels we would like. Such as ESPN. TSN coverage of certain sports is atrocious.

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M Lafontaine ★ [3 weeks ago](#)

21 December 2009

Mr. Robert A. Morin
Secretary General
Canadian Radio-television and
Telecommunications Commission
Ottawa, ON K1A 0N2

Dear Mr. Morin:

RE: Broadcasting Notice of Consultation CRTC 2009-614 (the "Notice")
(S-Vox Group of Companies' Final Written Comments)

1. On Friday December 18, 2009, the S-VOX Group of Companies filed final written comments as part of this proceeding. In order to ensure that they will form part of the public record we are filing these comments once again.

2. These are the final written comments of the S-Vox Group of Companies (S-VOX) in the hearing initiated by the above-noted Notice. They propose specific recommendations with respect to two issues raised during the hearing, namely a mandated "skinny basic" service, and a value-for-signal regime. In particular, we recommend that the Commission not mandate any "skinny" basic. We also recommend that the Commission take bargaining power into account in any mandated value-for-signal regime. For such a regime to be effective for smaller, independent broadcasters, the Commission should establish some form of "floor" valuation of over-the-air signals.

3. These recommendations are set out more fully below, where we explain how they respond to the two issues set out in the Order-in-Council that was attached to the Notice:

- (a) their impact on consumers' affordable access to local and regional news, public affairs and information, and
- (b) the implications on current and emerging business models.

4. These comments are filed in accordance with the procedure set out at paragraph 3 of Broadcasting Notice of Consultation CRTC 2009-614-1.

A. Skinny Basic

5. The proposal that the CRTC order broadcasting distribution undertakings ("BDUs") to make available a small or "skinny" basic package to consumers, either at a regulated or unregulated price, was raised several times during this hearing.

6. S-VOX strongly recommends that the CRTC not mandate a skinny basic package, because it would harm consumers. First, it would harm consumers because the basic package would not become more affordable. Services now excluded from the basic package, including national services that shine a light on regional and local issues, would be more expensive. Second, it would hurt Canada's ability to develop new audiovisual business models.

7. Evidence filed in this proceeding makes it clear that excluding Canadian specialty services from the basic package would not make the basic package much cheaper. In fact, it would have virtually no impact on affordability. The largest cost reflected in the price of the basic package is simply not programming. This was reflected in the following oral submission at the public hearing:

At EastLink in Halifax, we offer 29 services on basic for the price of \$22.42 per month. 14 of those services would comprise the skinny basic that is being discussed at this hearing. The incremental costs for the additional channels that make up our basic service are negligible.

8. Similarly, as a Bell Canada representative noted:

The English package that I mentioned is \$34. Now, as Natalie was saying, only \$2 of that is programming. So you take away and you go from our current enhanced basic to your definition of a skinny basic and a little bit less than \$2 goes away. So not much of the cost goes away.

9. Chairman von Finckenstein himself acknowledged the level of the fees that are being paid for Canadian specialty services.

10. While consumers would save virtually no money, they would suffer substantial losses if the Commission ordered BDUs to exclude Canadian specialty services from the basic service, as has been proposed.

11. First, specialty services such as Vision TV provide access to important sources of viewpoints on public affairs and news programming, much of which has a significant regional component. Those specialty services now carried on basic, but which would be excluded from basic under the "skinny basic" proposal, would experience an important loss of subscribers. They would therefore be forced to increase their fees considerably to remaining subscribers in order to earn enough revenue to pay for the same programming, or end up with less funds to invest in Canadian programming.

12. So we have a lose-lose proposition. Consumers gain little by the exclusion of pennies-per-month Canadian services from the basic service. Then, in addition, they, would be faced with a new price barrier to accessing the niche and regional voices that services like Vision TV make heard on important public affairs issues—if such voices continued to be viable (or available) at all. In this respect, we can only echo the comments of Carolynne Parsons, a concerned citizen who addressed the importance of scrutinizing the content of any limited-choice package that the Commission mandates:

No. The limited choices can include the specialty channels, because we want to teach people. You can't leave people poor and ignorant. You need to have people learn about their country, you need to have people have the availability to communicate back and forth. And so that's where the programming comes in. If it's basic to that, to get them to think, then that is what's necessary, critical thinking.

13. Second, impairing the viability of those Canadian specialty services that BDUs had previously offered as part of the basic service, would also impair those services' ability to innovate and develop new business models. Specialty services aim to target consumers more efficiently. They are better able to compete and attract advertising in a digital environment. Impairing the very viability of the services that are thriving in the gradual transition to a new media environment also impairs emerging business models.

B. Value-for-Signal

14. S-VOX supports in principle the notion of payment by BDUs for OTA signals. However, particularly in the absence of a strong regulated regime, such payments will not increase the ability of small, independent broadcasters such as S-VOX to create local and regional news and public affairs programming. That is because small broadcasters do not have the necessary leverage to negotiate fair-market payment by BDUs for our OTA signals.

15. The debate on value-for-signals has been dominated by large BDUs and by large broadcasting groups. The equation changes considerably once smaller players are involved. Large BDUs, in particular, enjoy very significant bargaining power. The Commission acknowledged this little more than a year ago, in Broadcasting Public Notice CRTC 2008-100.

16. Unless the Commission establishes some form of "floor" valuation for independent OTA signals, or is prepared to consider substantially involving itself in fair arbitration, small,

independent broadcasters will not likely be advantaged by such a regime. However, it is the smaller, independent television broadcasters that are often closest to their local communities. These broadcasters are well-positioned to program local news and current affairs programming with an organic link to the communities in which they operate.

17. Accordingly, S-VOX recommends that the CRTC develop a value-for-signal framework that mandates BDU payments for OTA signals made available by smaller players that do not have leverage at the negotiating table. Small and independent market participants must not be an after-thought or an exception to this framework. They must be accounted for at its core.

C. Conclusion

18. Many of Canada's communities have grown to rely on S-VOX' inspiring and informative programming. We believe that this programming has substantially enhanced the diversity of voices and viewpoints on many pressing issues that face Canadians.

19. Further, a skinny basic offering would raise the cost and threaten the viability of VisionTV as well as others without any corresponding benefit to consumers. That is why we have recommended that the Commission abandon this proposal.

20. A value-for-signal framework could enhance S-VOX' ability to continue to create informative, interesting and entertaining programming, and to improve on it, particularly in the current affairs area. However, this will work only if small, independent broadcasters can engage in fair negotiations despite their lack of leverage at the negotiating table. That is why we have recommended firm rules that take into account imbalances in negotiating power.

21. We thank the Commission for the opportunity to provide these comments.
All of which is respectfully submitted.

Yours very truly,

Bill Roberts
CEO

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[Kamiki](#) ★ [3 weeks ago](#) [in reply to M Lafontaine](#)

Dear Bill,

Just a reminder. When Cable TV started, it was as a transmission facility only and built to carry broadcast signals that were received using a centralized antenna system. i.e. all of the signals were received free of charge through-the-air and the payment of the monthly service fee was for the delivery of the signals to the home and not for the programming.

I would like to return to that formula completely, with all specialty programming to be made available in accord with a separate fee structure such that I can choose what I want and with very clear restrictions on bundling so that I don't have to subscribe to that which I don't want.

Your argument that some channels only cost pennies is without merit. If you went to a store to buy a quart of milk, would you be happy if they forced a potato on you because it was (a) healthy and (b) only pennies?

By the way, I really liked the paragraph in your section 12 that strongly suggests that without S-VOX programming, the people of Canada would be poor and ignorant. That will certainly inspire me to watch Vision TV.

cheers ...

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[Mark Henschel](#) ★ [3 weeks ago](#)

December, 21, 2009

Hi

One truism of problem solving is that first you have to ask the right question. It seems to me that the questions the CRTC has asked and their separation under the chosen distinct topics (divide and conquer?) are counterproductive. These are problems that must have their resolution in a recollection of first principles and a renewed commitment to them. In short, we need to keep our eyes on the ball Canada-wise.

The Romans understood that strong lines of communication helped knit their empire together and made it strong. They invested a lot of attention, effort and money into their famous road system, remnants of which are still evident thousands of years after they were built.

For Canada, too, communication systems such as the railroad, our road system or our communications networks, including our radio and television systems, have made significant contributions to making our country what it is today. However, perhaps like the Romans did at the end, we seem to have taken these systems for granted and in so doing are in danger of compromising our home and native land.

While empires like that of the Romans certainly thrived on better communications democracies cannot function reasonably let alone thrive without significant empowering networks for public discourse – communications that embrace, support and enable governance and national identity from the grassroots up. This is the core issue in the current debate about “local television”.

Canadians own the airwaves and the purpose to which this valuable Canadian resource is put must be first and foremost to support, on behalf of each and every Canadian, the business of Canada – our democracy and culture. This is what I expect the CRTC is (or should be) about – their core mandate.

Canada has been described as a multicultural society or mosaic, in part to differentiate us from the United States notion of the melting pot. The key component of this Canada is a respect for and support of our inherent demographic and geographic diversity. In our celebration of that diversity comes our strength as a nation. I think of Canada as heterogeneity of people – a rich diversity of human culture overlaid on a similarly rich and diverse geography. We can find in every local community a cultural diversity that is a part of that community as well as being connected to the larger regional and national demographics. Each community has a unique story to tell to itself and to be shared with the rest of the country.

Democracy and multiculturalism are inherently grassroots operations. They derive their strength and coherence from the ground up as a synthesis. In democracy this means that the politicians work (or should work) first and foremost for the voters. In the sphere of communications it means that local narratives must be nurtured in balance with the overarching regional and national stories. Centralizing, monopolistic tendencies must be tempered. The national story should be the “orchestral” synthesis of the individual parts with a measure of international perspective providing knowledge and context too.

Presently our democratic systems are failing to empower our Canadian heterogeneity and our Canadian communications systems are similarly failing us as well. Both now demand serious remedial efforts.

--- - ---

Terrestrial broadcast is an inherently local process. The throw of the tower signal is short. But it is a technology that mirrors the needs of Canadians for our public discourse. Individual local programming efforts can be augmented by nationally-oriented ones via network associations. Debate can be fostered at each level via station and network competition. The economic model works well too – local advertisers and local programming mutually supporting each other to everyone's benefit.

The spanner in these works is the immense weight of proximal American content and the intimate access to Canadians of this programming provided by the cable and satellite companies. The monopolistic homogenizing force that this combination represents severely compromises the necessary function of our national enterprise with its grassroots cultural and

democratic character.

Are local television stations and our local community narratives going to be adequately supported by multinational advertising? We have seen that it hasn't been and won't be. Their focus is on homogeneity and conformity. The technologies that enable their preeminence – cable and satellite – are antithetical to supporting our communities and, in the context of North America, Canada itself.

The Romans would understand this. The brilliant road system they engineered was a double-edged sword – the roads could (and likely did) provide as much assistance to invading armies as they did for the Roman army. They required protection and support.

Another aspect of this is the issue of public vs. proprietary pay service -- the proprietary must not compromise the public service. Currently they do. Whether Canadians choose to obtain television via OTA broadcast, cable, satellite or any combination of these, the Canadian content should be equally and freely available to all.

We are presently at the threshold of a new delivery paradigm – the transition for analogue to digital delivery – that also provides a powerful opportunity for re-affirming our priorities and implementing change that supports Canadian narrative and democracy. It is a opportunity that make use of the airwaves and the “wired air” of the Internet to realize this and that I hope will close the book on the monopolistic middleman mentality represented by cable and satellite.

In a digital world realtime television can be obtained freely and for free over the air or for nominal cost via the Internet (in much the way one can listen to CBC programmes “live” at cbc.ca. Alternatively, Canadians could obtain, direct from the networks or content generators, on-demand content for a price or with local advertising included. Either way, the cost and the inconvenience of the cable/satellite middle men are eliminated. That's probably the way it should be.

--- - ---

I outlined some of the philosophical underpinnings of the questions, problems and issues. Here follows some suggestions for particular actions in no particular order:

- Support the conversion to digital transmission throughout the country and particularly in smaller local communities. For their part the broadcast networks must renew efforts to reverse the trend of stations disappearing from the smaller local markets. If the smaller stations require financial assistance to make the conversion there should be funding made available.
- Renew and magnify Canadian content rules for Canadian-borne communications
- Review rules with respect to simultaneous broadcast of American content on Canadian networks such that the Canadian stations are not forced to compete and synchronize with the American network programming and schedules when they do deliver content from the U.S.A.
- Regulate cable such that there is available an "air replacement" base package that provides all the OTA content otherwise available in a community for a nominal fee such that Canadian households all have equal access to the television programming that permeates the airwaves.
- Prepare for a world where the cable/satellite companies as middlemen/gatekeepers are obsolete -- where television is available realtime both over the air and via the Internet as well as on-demand programming directly from the programming sources -- networks, production houses, etc on a user defined basis.
- Networks should be encouraged to avail Canadians of the full benefit of the new digital transmissions by transmitting HD content whenever it exists and by utilizing the sidebands -- xx.1, xx.2, xx.3 for Canadian content, some of which is available now on cable such as CP24, NewsWorld, CPAC etc.
- The CRTC should end the territorial monopolies of the cable companies. In the same way that Bell telephone infrastructure can be used by other companies to deliver competitive telephone services, the cable companies, perhaps, should become infrastructure companies that provide "wired air" to service providers that generate and deliver programming. If the cable companies

do persist in their present form direct competition should effect lower pricing schemes that also put an end to cash-grab multi-station packages whereby customers pay more for more than they really want.

- Alternatively, the CRTC could supplement the conversion to digital delivery by sidestepping the cable companies and supporting the early implementation of an Internet-based system.

- The CRTC must act on the clear and present danger to our sovereignty of permitting the essentially unfettered swamping of Canadian media venues by American programming via cable and satellite.

- It might be remembered that at their inception the cable companies were able in part to build their infrastructure by offering content they obtained for free from the broadcast networks. It might seem fair and reasonable for them to return the favour now as the broadcasters re-build their infrastructure.

Hope this helps.

Mark Henschel
Toronto, Ontario

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Like



Robert Bradley ★ 3 weeks ago

In 1960 the BBG (now known as the CRTC) approved private OTA TV stations (other than CBC affiliates) licensing provided they comply with a 65% Canadian Content in programming. Within a year they started belly aching that the 65% content was too high. The BBG said ok how about 45% that was still too much for these stations so they tried a new plan 45% between 6 and midnight, which still was never met and profits over quality won out. Then they decided that businesses that were buying advertizing on border stations which most Canadians watched, should be punished, so the government disallowed tax deductions (business expense for Advertisers) would not be allowed. Then somewhere along the line pirating (called simsubing) of US Stations on cable and satellite started the CRTC approved this is in local markets (However, most stations now show no IDs so local market term becomes ambiguous) This was developed by CTV which owns Bell expressview so they can simsub in any market even when the station they own dosen't serve this market. This forces viewers of Cable and Satellite services to watch local stations even if they don't want to.

Now these stations with all the influence and control they have over the CRTC we are supposed to give them more subsidies by charging cable and satellite subscribers a carriage fee. (By the way with a few exceptions CTV owns Bell expressive, Rogers TV stations, owns Rogers Cable etc.)

We are told that they don't make enough profit so they cannot provide local news in smaller markets, so a special fund is or has been developed ? However, there is another motive here, tv station CKX of Brandon MB went bankrupt on the pretext it was losing money a new owner was found and in a interview with the Winnipeg Free Press he let the cat out of the bag so to speak, by implying that with the new local programming fund he would be able to upgrade the transmitter and studio equipment to digital service, now is that local news. CTV and this other Toronto service Global have only one or two HD stations is this what they want this fee for so they can pirate US Border HD stations on their cable systems etc.

But the best and most important issue is why should we finance private broadcasters so that they invest their money In TV stations in Ireland, Australia radio Stations in Turkey. Own Cable and Satellite systems , newspapers, telephone and cell companies. When they don't even invest money in there own countries TV shows. Why is it in 49years (CTV invented in 1960) CTV has produced one TV programme that good enough to sell to a major TV Network in the US, and how much of there own money was used because I will bet most of the money for this series came from the Canadian TV Development fund that is made up of contributions from Cable – Satellite fees that already exit.

Last but not least why are there so many local OTAs when none of them produce more than a local newscast. Winnipeg used to have to local Stations CKY and CKND now we have Toronto rebroadcasters of CTV, GLOBAL ,CITY-TV and one called (JOLY-TV?)

Robert Bradley Winnipeg

[Flag](#)

LikeScott_S ★ [3 weeks ago](#)

The ads the two sides have shown on TV show how short sighted they are and they they both don't care about the consumer. I'm happy to say that the CRTC seems to realize that the issue is quite a bit bigger than just a fee for carriage. I've explain on the other pages my ideas and rather than repeat them here I'll just finish this as if you've read the 3 comments of mine prior.

I'm not saying that what I propose would be easy to implement, but I do say that the implementation is a much more stable solution. Not only would it clarify the the ways things are done, it solves the economics issues, and gets Canada ready for the future of media. I realize that there are some little kinks to work out, but even without seeing a detailed submission of the operating finances of the distributors and local TV, I'm confident that only minor tweaks would be needed.

Something I didn't pay much attention to (since it's only a secondary problem) is the openness of technology that is used. The great example is the headway the TiVo has lacked while coming to Canada. Distributors should be just that, they should be equipment resellers as well. It's basically a conflict of interest because they want to trap you.

I want to commend Rogers for setting up there online TV site. While I realize, and I'm ok with, the legal reasons why Hulu isn't here in Canada I do hope that the site expands and I see it as being one of the possible paths for the future of media. And if you notice, it goes hand in hand with having channels a la carte. There is a slight issue with having them carry local TV for free. But if local TV where to set up a server instead of a tower than the size of the costs could be mitigated.

With the cost of bandwidth aside, that really is the future of delivery, and with having things as open as possible (including the API's for the web) one could really capitalize on the vast skills of Canada to make set top boxes (which would be just mini computers). One could buy them for under 400 dollars, and using an OS that doesn't have a licensing cost, and "mom and pop" shops would be able to build, sell, repair, and upgrade devices that would be compatible with taking the content from there distributor and playing it on their screen. That would even allow for smaller markets to have a new business. On a side thought, the distributor might want to then sell based on the number of people in the house versus the number of devices. That definitely has some issues either way, but I don't think that it should be a major concern.

Lastly, if you think my thinking is far from the way things could be. Well then I should mention that it's actually very close to the way things are now, and if the transition to digital goes with lock-ins, then you may be correct. But for the time being, with analog, things are open enough that the flexibility is absolutely amazing and it could usher in some amazing things if that openness is allowed to exist in the digital era.

Oh, and if you didn't take all my suggestions (spread over the pages), than at least take the a la carte for distribution. It's the one that would have the most impact of local tv, even though it only partially readies us for the future.

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We as the consumer are expected to pay, I think everyone should share in the expenses as well as the profits and make the service that is being provided the best possible. That can happen with everyone working together and nobody getting greedy.

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Cable companies have indicated that subscribers will not be forced to go to digital cable. The CRTC must make sure that cable companies abide by this promise. Currently, the digital boxes are proprietary and another money maker for these companies whose rates are no longer

regulated. The profits of cable companies were in double digit percentages again while inflation was much less. If anything the CRTC should be in place to regulate rates, not content.

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