



CANADIAN POLISH CONGRESS
KONGRES POLONII KANADYJSKIEJ
CONGRÈS CANADIEN POLONAIS

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Toronto, June 12, 2013

To: Jean-Pierre Blais
Chairman of the CRTC

Dear Mr. Blais:

On behalf of the Canadian Polish Congress and the over one million Canadians of Polish descent, I must express my shock and dismay at the cancellation of Polish language programming on Rogers OMNI TV. As one of the largest ethnic groups in Canada, Polish Canadians, for many years, have been supportive of multicultural programming, not just for our community but for other ethnic groups as well.

Rogers has systematically reduced the production of multicultural programming beginning with the cancellation of several Diversity Language Programs in June of 2012. At that time, members of the Canadian Polish Congress and several other representatives of various ethnic communities wrote letters and met with OMNI TV to voice our concerns. We were promised that programming would be reinstated but in a different format. Now, less than a year later, programs are being cut once again without any consultation or thought as to the needs of our communities.

These programs are not only a source of information for each specific ethnic community but add to the harmony and multicultural fabric of Canada as a whole. A variety of listeners enjoy these cultural programs and with the growth of the numbers of Canadians who speak another

language besides the two official languages of Canada, there is an even greater need for such variety in our social media.

The ability to have a Federally mandated Public Licence in Trust was given to Rogers by the Canadian Radio-Television Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) . I quote from the current broadcast licence for OMNI TV:

"(Conditions of Licence for CFMT-TV[OMNI.1] – Appendix 1, CRTC decision 2009-504)

1. The licensee shall devote to the broadcasting of ethnic programs: a) not less than 60% of the total number of hours broadcast monthly between 6 a.m. and midnight;

4. The licensee shall broadcast ethnic programs in a minimum of 20 distinct languages monthly.

5. The licensee shall devote to the broadcast of Canadian programs: a) not less than 60% of the total number of hours broadcast annually between 6 a.m. and midnight;

Cultural Diversity

The Commission expects the licensee to endeavour, through its programming and employment opportunities, to reflect the presence in Canada of ethnocultural minorities, [...]

Advisory Board

The Commission expects the licensee to continue to ensure that its Advisory Board of Directors consists of representatives of ethnic groups, [...]."

The Canadian Polish Congress, as the umbrella organization for over 270 various Canadian Polish groups, clubs, and societies across Canada, is most concerned that our voice will not be heard nor seen by our young people, by our seniors, and by those in our community who want to be informed about the events that unite us in our culture, heritage, history and language. We feel that Polish programming is essential to the continued diversity of this great country of Canada. Our opinions, views, and contributions to not only the Polish Diaspora, but to multicultural Canada, need to be seen and heard on public television.

It is the hope of the Canadian Polish Congress that in your deliberations as to the future of ethnic programming, the CRTC will take into account

the conditions of the licence granted OMNI TV and the needs of the many communities that strongly see the value of continuing such programming.

I hope to hear from you as to your decision regarding Polish programming on OMNI TV.

I can be reached at: Canadian Polish Congress,
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416-532-2876 Monday to Friday 10am to 2pm
kongres@kpk.org

Sincerely,



Teresa Berezowski
President, Head Executive Board
Canadian Polish Congress

cc.: Hon. Peter Van Loan - Leader of Government in the House of Commons
Hon. Jason Kenney, Minister of Citizenship, Immigration & Multiculturalism
Hon. James Moore, Minister of Heritage & Official Languages
MP Wladyslaw Lizon
MP Ted Opitz
MP Bernard Trottier
MP Peggy Nash
MPP Dipika Damerla
MPP Cheri DiNovo
MPP Helena Jaczek
MPP Jeff Yurek
MPP John Yakabuski
Nadir Mohamed, President and Chief Executive Officer, Rogers Communications
Keith W. Pelley, President Rogers Media
Scott Moore, President of Broadcasting