



BRIEFING NOTE

Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC)

December 19, 2011

Issue:

As of August 31, 2012, CBC television will no longer be available to London and area over-the-air users.

Key Messages:

- The size of the London area market merits the building of a CBC digital transmitter
- Digital conversion should not create a digital divide between those who can afford to buy satellite and cable services and those who cannot

Background:

In July 2011, Municipal Council received and noted a letter from the CBC President to Mayor Fontana concerning the potential shutdown of the CBC transmitter in London on August 31, 2011.

In September 2010, the Canadian Radio and Television Corporation (CRTC) decided that it would make the transition from analogue to digital television and that this would be fully implemented in mandatory markets, including London by August 31, 2011.

The CBC does not have its own station in London but relies on a repeater transmitter from Toronto. Through an intervention to the CRTC, the CBC indicated that it did not intend to install a new digital transmitter in London to serve the London area market. This move would affect some 30,000 people who receive over-the-air signals.

The City of London undertook a number of measures in response to this anticipated decision including a letter from Mayor Fontana to the President of the CBC requesting reconsideration of the decision, gathering support from other Southwestern Ontario municipalities affected by the decision, and requesting support from local Members of Parliament.

Mayor Fontana received a response from the CBC President indicating that he was seeking an extension from the CRTC of analogue transmission in London and other communities. This extension was granted to CBC for a one year period until August 31, 2012.