

June 4, 2012

Investment and Economic Prosperity Committee

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

I am writing to you as a concerned citizen of London, Ontario. The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation has submitted a request to the CRTC notifying them of their intent to shut down their entire analogue TV network. This includes our local repeaters of CBC in both French and English.

Some of you may recall Mr. David Winter's presentation to the finance committee and city council showing the large void in CBC coverage over South-Western Ontario, from Chatham to Kitchener. Based on this presentation, the city requested that the CBC maintain coverage in our area. In response, the CBC continued coverage in analogue. This summer the CBC has requested to shut down our transmitters again on July 31st, but this time with no replacement at all.

I would ask that the city write a letter to both the CBC and an intervention to the CRTC asking that the CBC be made to replace our two transmitters with at least one digital transmitter. The city of Windsor has already intervened asking that their digital English station carry the French CBC feed as a sub-channel. This is known as multiplexing and is a feature of the ATSC standard (used for digital broadcasting). I believe that our city is entitled to no less.

The area previously covered by our analogue broadcast reached over 600 000 citizens (according to estimates by other broadcasters with similar coverage maps). At an average of \$33 a year per citizen, the London area is contributing nearly 2 million dollars to the CBC every year. The return on our investment is the "privilege" to pay a cable company to watch in HD - in other words, there is no return on investment for London, Ontario.

If the CBC is allowed to follow through on their current path, it will widen the existing digital divide in London. And so, I would like to formally request that the city write a letter to the CBC again, and intervene on the proceedings with the CRTC. The deadline for a submission to the CRTC is June 18th.

Your Citizen,

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