

CBC  Radio-Canada

10 ; AOUT 2012

The Honourable Joe Fontana
Mayor
The Corporation of the City of London
300 Dufferin Avenue
PO Box 5035
London, Ontario
NA 4L9

OFFICE OF THE
MAYOR

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 For Action
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For Report
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City Clerk
H. Hopcraft

Dear Mr. Fontana,

Hello Mr. Fontana,

Thank you for your letter regarding CBC/Radio-Canada's decision to shut down its analogue over-the-air television broadcasting system in London, Ontario.

As you're aware, CBC/Radio-Canada has been asked to contribute to the government's Deficit Reduction Action Plan (DRAP). To minimize the need for programming reductions, CBC/Radio-Canada took a close look at the effect that the evolution of technology has had on the services it currently provides. Over-the-air television in Canada has been in steep decline for years. Today, 95 percent of Canadians get their television from cable and satellite companies. Given this trend, over-the-air can no longer be considered as an efficient way of distributing television signals to Canadians.

As a result, the Corporation will shut down all of its 620 analogue transmitters at the end of July, including the one located in London. The measure will result in over \$10 million of annual savings for CBC/Radio-Canada by 2013–2014. CBC/Radio-Canada has installed a digital transmitter for every one of its television stations, for a total of 27 transmitters. Given our current financial circumstances, investing in over-the-air technology, be it additional digital transmitters or in multiplexing technology, is not possible at this time.

At the same time, CBC/Radio-Canada is striving to give all Canadian taxpayers the best possible programming on all of its other platforms, including cable, satellite, radio, digital and the Internet. The decommissioning of our analogue TV transmitters will help us lower our costs and generate revenue to do even better.

This plan will ensure that we can maintain our commitment to our regional presence: the \$10 million saved by decommissioning infrastructure will be used to augment programming, particularly at the regional level, in the London area where CBC will be launching new local radio and online services in early 2013.

We empathize with the people who will be affected by this change. Part of the longer-run solution is making the technology of today – cable, satellite and the internet – more affordable.

In the immediate period, the good news is that all of the persons affected by the decommissioning will have access to a free basic service provided by Shaw Direct TV as part the [Local Television Satellite Solution](#) (LTSS), which includes the signals of CBC/Radio-Canada. The program allows those that haven't been a cable or satellite subscriber within the last 90 days to continue to receive the same or similar Canadian over-the-air channels they've always enjoyed.

For more information, please visit our corporate website at: <http://cbc.radio-canada.ca/site/budget/en/index.shtml>.

Thank you for taking the time to write on their behalf.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. Lacroix", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Hubert T. Lacroix
President and CEO



London
CANADA

300 Dufferin Avenue
PO Box 5035
London ON
N6A 4L9

*Request
Letters*
Office of the Mayor

June 18, 2012

Mr. Hubert T. Lacroix
President and CEO
CBC
1400 René Lévesque Blvd. East
PO Box 6000
Montreal QC H3C 3A8

Dear Mr. Lacroix:

You will recall that we exchanged letters last year concerning CBC/Radio-Canada's decision to shut down the analogue television transmitters to the London market without installing a new digital transmitter to replace them.

We recognize that CBC/Radio Canada is required to make the transition from analog to digital television in mandatory markets such as London. Furthermore, we are thankful that the Canadian Radio-Television Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) granted CBC/Radio Canada a one-year extension to make this transition until August 31, "to find solutions for viewers who may lose access to its over-the-air signals after the transition to digital television."

I am writing to you again, at the request of London City Council and London citizens, to request reconsideration of the decision to shut down CBC/Radio-Canada's over-the-air television transmission to the London market and the analog TV network, including local repeaters of CBC in both French and English. We are also asking that the two transmitters be replaced with at least one digital transmitter.

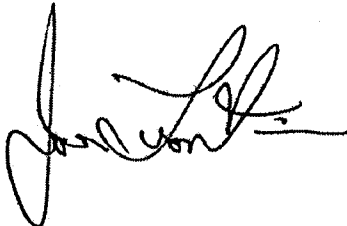
A positive decision would impact some 30,000 Londoners and more from the surrounding area as well as many others from surrounding municipalities in Southwestern Ontario who rely on over-the-air signals.

We recognize that there is a significant cost to the implementation of a new transmitter, and that CBC/Radio-Canada has suffered from budgetary constraint. Nevertheless, all Londoners, from all income levels and communities deserve access to Canada's national, public broadcaster in both of our country's official languages. In particular, our French-speaking community, including newcomers, who are reliant on French-language media, will lose access to all over-the-air French language programming.

As evidenced by the overwhelming support that London City Council received last year on this issue from Londoners and neighbouring municipalities, CBC's move has angered residents in London and more broadly in Southwestern Ontario who rely on over-the-air signals.

Once again, on behalf of London City Council and our residents, I ask that the CBC/Radio-Canada find a solution for viewers to maintain free public access to the services of our publicly owned broadcaster.

Sincerely,



Honourable Joe Fontana
Mayor

Reference: hearing # 2012-0509-7

cc: Jean-Pierre Blais, Chairperson, CRTC
Steven Guiton, Vice-President and Chief Regulatory Officer, CBC
Ed Holder, MP, London West
Irene Mathyssen, MP, London-Fanshawe
Susan Truppe, MP, London North Centre
Joe Preston, MP, Elgin-Middlesex-London
The Honourable Chris Bentley, MPP, London West
The Honourable Deb Matthews, MPP, London North Centre
Jeff Yurek, MPP, Elgin-Middlesex-London
Teresa Armstrong, MPP, London-Fanshawe