

TO:	CHAIR AND MEMBERS FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE MEETING OF AUGUST 17, 2011
	GRANT HOPCROFT, DIRECTOR OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND COMMUNITY LIAISON
SUBJECT	SHUT-DOWN OF CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION (CBC) TRANSMITTER IN LONDON

RECOMMENDATION

That, on the recommendation of the Director of Intergovernmental and Community Liaison, this status report on the anticipated shut-down of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) television transmitter in London **BE RECEIVED** for information.

PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER
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May 18, 2011
July 20, 2011

BACKGROUND

At its meeting on July 25, 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. This report provides an update on the current status on this issue.

London Civic Administration have learned that the CBC has filed two interventions with the Canadian Radio and Television Corporation (CRTC) both with an abbreviated one week intervention period. The first intervention, filed July 14, 2011 is an application to maintain an analogue transmitter in London. The second intervention, filed July 19, 2011 is an application to amend the licence of its over-the-air (OTA) television programming undertaking CBLT Toronto in order to change the technical parameters of its transmitter CBLN-TV transmitter in London. The application requests that the channel be moved from its current location at Channel 40 to Channel 23 and that the transmitter's strength be decreased.

According to the attached map (Figure 10), the application requests a significant reduction in transmission area; note the current transmission areas Grade A and B (dotted blue and red lines, lines 3 and 4 respectively) compared to the proposed transmission areas (solid blue and red lines, lines 1 and 2 respectively). Anyone living within the proposed Grade A contour (solid blue line, line 1) should continue to be able to receive over-the-air transmission. Those living within the proposed Grade B contour (line 2) may require an upgrade in equipment unless they already have a rooftop antenna or tower.

The CBC has also requested an amendment of its transmitter CBLN-TV-1 Kitchener, and the French language service CBLFT Toronto for its Windsor transmitter.

Bell Media made an intervention with the CRTC requesting that the CBC applications be returned for procedural reasons and also arguing that the CBC is requesting preferential treatment with respect to the digital transition which would negatively affect not only Bell Media but other licensees of OTA television stations in the affected markets.

Since the July 25th report, additional municipalities have added their support to Council's resolution of May 30th bringing the total number of supporting lower and upper tier municipalities to sixteen.

There has been additional national media coverage on this issue Civic Administration have also circulated copies of newl materials to all of our supporting communities and to our local MPs and MPPs.

PREPARED BY:	RECOMMENDED BY:
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