

November 16, 2011
Mr. John Traversy
Secretary General
CRTC
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0N2

Re: MAC and the Broadcasting Accessibility Fund

Dear Mr. Traversy,

The Alliance for Equality of Blind Canadians (AEBC) is a national organization established in 1992. Our mandate is to work for an accessible and inclusive society so that all blind, deaf-blind, and partially-sighted Canadians may participate fully as citizens of Canada. To that end, the AEBC has participated in a number of CRTC proceedings and has sat on various working groups tasked with increasing the accessibility of broadcasting and telecommunications in Canada.

I write today to express the AEBC's strong support for the MAC submission in relation to the call for comments regarding the establishment of a Broadcasting Accessibility Fund. The AEBC is a member of the Access 2020 Coalition, and one of our members, Anthony Tibbs, is a director on MAC's Board.

The AEBC agrees with MAC that those who have a direct interest in accessibility have historically been the ones to move broadcasters in the direction of increased broadcasting accessibility. It is for this reason that management of the BAF must rest with the accessibility community if we are to reach the laudable and achievable goal of a fully accessible broadcast day by 2020.

We believe that the MAC proposal, whereby the six accessibility community representatives are chosen by the Access 2020 Coalition, is the most practical and

well-thought-out way to ensure accountability to those organizations and, ultimately, those citizens who have a direct interest in seeing that this important fund is managed effectively and efficiently.

Moreover, the MAC proposal, through its inclusion of a number of specific means of consulting the accessibility community, offers the most detailed outline for identifying and addressing the concerns of the accessibility community and building expertise within our community.

The Commission now has an opportunity to set this country on a new path towards meaningful and cumulative improvements in the accessibility of the Canadian broadcasting system. We urge the Commission, in the strongest possible terms, to do what is right and allow MAC and the wider accessibility community to administer the Broadcasting Accessibility Fund.

Sincerely,

Donna Jodhan
National President
Alliance for Equality of Blind Canadians