

C.A.A.T.T.S

Canadian Association for Accessible Travel, Training, and Tourism Services

16 November 2011

Mr. John Traversy

Secretary General

CRTC

Ottawa, ON K1A 0N2

Dear Mr. Traversy

Re: MAC and the Broadcasting Accessibility Fund

CAATTTS (Canadian Association for Accessible Travel, Training and Tourism Services) is an organization consisting of and providing services to members with disabilities. We have been in existence for the past 5 years, and our mandate is to make the world more accessible for those who require extra time or space. Our officers and directors are themselves afflicted with disabilities and therefore understand from a grass roots level the difficulties encountered by persons with disabilities. It is our goal to open doors and opportunities that are currently closed to an individual solely because of their disabilities.

I am writing to express my support for Media Access Canada (MAC) and the Access 2020 Coalition in this matter and to urge the CRTC to select MAC to administer the Broadcasting Accessibility Fund.

The establishment of a Broadcasting Accessibility Fund is a great move forward in the development of accessibility in Canadian broadcasting. The CRTC should be praised for its foresight and courage but it is also vital to recognize that this would never have happened without the hard work and tireless efforts of the disability community and most notably, Media Access Canada.

The means to achieve full accessibility in Canadian media have existed for some time but the willingness in the broadcasting industry has been lacking. Without constant pressure from many organizations representing disabled Canadians, there was little prospect for change. This reality should be uppermost in the mind of those deciding on governance of the Broadcasting Accessibility Fund.

The fund must be headed by those who are fully committed to accessibility. It must be led by those who have experience with finding and implementing practical solutions. It must have leadership who can bring together all the interested parties to reach a consensus and work towards a common objective.

It is for these reasons that we feel strongly that leadership of the fund should be placed in the hands of MAC. MAC has demonstrated its ability and commitment to representing the interests of the accessibility community. MAC has a track record in practical solutions to accessibility issues ranging from standards development and monitoring to developing accessible communications technologies.

The fund could have a huge positive impact on the lives of hundreds of thousands of Canadians. We urge you to ensure it gets the leadership that will make that happen.

Yours truly,

Maria Reis

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