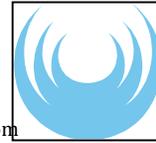


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14 November 2011

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

Re: MAC and the Broadcasting Accessibility Fund.

Dear Mr. Traversy;

I am a consultant working in the areas of rehabilitation science and engineering. Much of my work has been concerned with developments in medical and assistive technologies – I served over a 25 year period at what is now the Holland Bloorview Children's Rehabilitation Hospital in a number of roles including Director, Rehabilitation Engineering and Research Departments, then Vice President Research. I am currently Professor Emeritus in the Institute of Biomaterials and Biomedical Engineering, University of Toronto where I also at one time served as Chairman of Rehabilitation Medicine. I retired as President and Chief Executive Officer, The Health Technology Exchange a year ago. Much of my R&D activities have been concerned with issues of accessibility for persons with disabilities.

The Broadcasting Accessibility Fund (BAF) represents the possibility of matching dollars for project partners who otherwise would not be able to participate in research. The most difficult funds to secure are those actual dollars from the private sector to meet larger project funding criteria. All academic institutions face this challenge and hence it is critical that the administration of the BAF be independent of any one academic enterprise to ensure diversity of supported areas of research and innovation for the promotion of accessibility. Accordingly, I support the Media Access Canada (MAC) proposal in response to BNOC 2011-523. MAC is an independent entity, its mandate is very closely aligned with the Commission, its project funding is conditional on the Principles of Universal Design and publication of funded work is open source.

Having MAC administer the fund will ensure that academic institutions from across the country have equal opportunities to design, develop and research projects to remove barriers for accessible content in a rapidly changing content

distribution environment.

I, therefore, ask that you support MAC and the Accessibility Community which includes all academics across Canada who work in this area.

Yours sincerely,

Morris (Mickey) Milner
Professor Emeritus
Institute of Biomaterials and Biomedical Engineering
University of Toronto
and
Consultant, Rehabilitation Science, Medical and Assistive Technologies