

March 13, 2018

Claude Doucet
Secretary General, CRTC
Ottawa, ON K1A 0N2

Dear Mr. Doucet

Re: Supplemental comments to BNOC 2017-359-2 - Call for comments on the Governor in Council's request for a report on future programming distribution models

Unifor requests leave to supplement its Phase 2 submissions, filed in a timely fashion on February 13, 2018 with respect to an important development occurring the day following the deadline. The issue is relevant to local news, a topic addressed in our submission.

On February 15, 2018 Global News (Corus) announced the layoff of approximately 70 unionized positions across its nationwide network of local news stations. It also announced that it would post 50 new positions, representing a restructuring of the labour force, resulting in a net reduction of 25 local news jobs.

Unifor now provides an updated version of its local television staffing chart (appended), first submitted to the Commission in 2016 for the English-language Group Licencing proceeding (CRTC 2017-148).

The CRTC currently does not publish a detailed accounting of television station staffing levels, only aggregate level TV employment figures. As a result, Unifor has undertaken a survey of local TV stations where the union has bargaining rights. The survey asks local union representatives to provide a biennial snapshot of in-house and field production and editorial staffing levels at their respective stations. The results of our latest survey indicate that since 2014, local television station employment has contracted by approximately 25% (using a sample of 28 identified local television stations). The most significant losses were associated with "in-house editorial" job classifications (34%), including news writers, associate producers,

assignment desk, and others. This is followed by losses in “in-house operations” jobs (26%), including studio crews and technicians), “field editorial” jobs (20%), including feet-on-the-street reporters, and “field operations” (16%), including videographers.

With respect to the impact of the layoffs, we note that some of the job elimination is related to technological change, some relates to the reassignment of labour from conventional television to web-based media, some to the elimination of content gathering and some to the remote central casting of regional broadcasting. These were all issues raised by Unifor in the Local TV (CRTC 2016-224) and the Group Licencing proceedings.

We trust this important information is of sufficient assistance to the Commission that it can be admitted into the record of the proceeding.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Howard Law', written in a cursive style.

Howard Law
Director, Media Sector

EMPLOYMENT CHANGES ACROSS SELECT LOCAL TV STATIONS IN CANADA (2014-2018)

SURVEY OF UNIFOR LOCAL UNIONS Updated: Feb/March 2018

Call Sign	Local	Name	Location	June 2014 - Employment				June 2016 - Employment				March 2018 - Employment				Totals			2014-2018	
				In-house Operations	In-house Editorial	Field Operations	Field Editorial	In-house Operations	In-house Editorial	Field Operations	Field Editorial	In-house Operations	In-house Editorial	Field Operations	Field Editorial	Total 2014	Total 2016	Total 2018	Net Gain/Loss	Change (%)
CFTO	79M	CTV	Toronto	40	10	30	15	36	10	29	15	36	10	29	15	95	90	90	-5	-5.3%
CFPL & CHWI	87M	CTV2	London/Windsor	23	18	7	21	24	16	4	20	25	5	1	19	69	64	50	-19	-27.5%
CIII	M-1	Global	Toronto	45	25	26	20	51	29	32	27	60	35	30	15	116	139	140	24	20.7%
CFCN	899	CTV	Calgary	56	16	19	27	40	15	16	23	30	22	13	14	118	94	79	-39	-33.1%
CFRN	899	CTV	Edmonton	59	22	18	21	48	21	15	18	35	23	17	13	120	102	88	-32	-26.7%
CIHFNS & CIHFNB	M-1	Global	Halifax & Saint John	5	6	6	13	7	4	6	13	6	8	3	14	30	30	31	1	3.3%
CICT	M-1	Global	Calgary	48	16	20	15	47	15	21	16	46	17	21	15	99	99	99	0	0.0%
CITV	M-1	Global	Edmonton	47	29	25	12	51	36	22	12	51	28	18	19	113	121	116	3	2.7%
CISA	M-1	Global	Lethbridge	2	0	7	1	0	0	6	1	0	1	0	4	10	7	5	-5	-50.0%
CKND	M-1	Global	Winnipeg	11	5	10	9	5	7	11	8	5	6	10	7	35	31	28	-7	-20.0%
CHBC	M-1	Global	Okanagan	3	1	9	6	3	1	8	7	6	2	5	9	19	19	22	3	15.8%
CHAN	M-1	Global	Vancouver	157	58	22	24	106	45	23	17	93	35	23	40	261	191	191	-70	-26.8%
CJOH	715M	CTV	Ottawa	11	19	18	9	11	14	16	8	16	0	13	0	57	49	29	-28	-49.1%
CKVR	714M	CTV2	Barrie	23	9	2	14	15	9	0	17	15	8	0	16	48	41	39	-9	-18.8%
CKVU/CHNM	830M	City TV/OMNI	Vancouver	19	14	13	9	8	9	6	4	20	3	15	8	55	27	46	-9	-16.4%
CITY/CFMT/CJMT	723M	City TV/OMNI	Toronto	236	66	44	57	173	48	39	34	148	11	42	17	403	294	218	-185	-45.9%
CFTK	827M	CTV2	Terrace	4	3	2	4	4	2	2	3	4	2	2	3	13	11	11	-2	-15.4%
CICC	2013M	CTV	Yorkton	4	0	0	2	3	0	0	2	2	0	0	2	6	5	4	-2	-33.3%
CHAT	1010	Indie (City TV)	Medicine Hat	9	4	4	4	11	5	4	4	10	3	3	5	21	24	21	0	0.0%
CKWS	713M	Global	Kingston	8	8	4	13	7	8	4	13	6	3	0	11	33	32	20	-13	-39.4%
CFJC	1010	Indie (City TV)	Kamloops	11	3	3	4	12	4	3	4	13	4	3	4	21	23	24	3	14.3%
CFCF	614M	CTV	Montreal	40	12	20	11	32	12	20	11	28	11	18	10	83	75	67	-16	-19.3%
CHRO	78M	CTV2	Ottawa	12	0	4	2	14	1	3	1	13	1	3	1	18	19	18	0	0.0%
Total (group)				910	363	322	332	738	327	298	294	670	239	271	267	1927	1657	1447	-480	-24.9%
								2014-2018 NET GAIN/(LOSS)				-240	-124	-51	-65					
								Change (%)				-26.4%	-34.2%	-15.8%	-19.6%					

Notes:

- Surveys conducted in February and March, 2018.
- In-house operations employment includes studio crews, video editors, technicians, and others; In-house editorial employment includes news writers, associate producers, assignment desk, and others. Field operations employment includes ENG-EFP camera operators, videographers and others; Field editorial employment includes mainly video journalists and reporters.
- OMNI 1 & 2 figures for 2014 represent employment levels in May/June, 2013 – prior to major job and news programming cuts.
- All figures represent individual station employees. Employees whose job duties overlap between stations were addressed, wherever possible, to avoid double-counting.
- Employment figures provided for CITY/CFMT/CJMT; CKVU/CHNM; CIHFNS/CIHFNB; CFPL/CHWI are consolidated figures (i.e. not individual station figures), based on the construct of the bargaining unit.
- To ensure comparability in job classifications across time periods, some respondents modified employment totals from 2014 and 2016 and will differ slightly from Unifor’s submission as part of BNOC 2016-225.
- Program hosts and news anchors have been excluded from these employment totals.