



February 15, 2013

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

Notice of Consultation: CRTC 2013-19
Reference Number: 2012-0689-7 and 2012-1051-7

Dear Mr. Traversy:

It gives me great pleasure to write to you on behalf of the British Columbia Bereavement Helpline (BCBH) in support of the renewal of “Avis de recherche’s” (ADR-TV) license, as well as its renewal of its “Public Interest” status.

Effective communication in the English language is essential for Canada. ADR-TV proves media forms to be an effective tool in reducing crime, improving processes and increasing public awareness. I praise the efforts made by Vincent Geracitano for having achieved this with *Avis de recherche* (ADR); this mode of specialty television services across Canada continues to contribute to the effort to fight crime, help victims of crime, and promote crime prevention, as part of the basic service of all-digital television distribution.

All too often, the only opportunity for individuals to express themselves in media form is at the most traumatic moments of their life. Unfortunately, the experience and lessons of the actual criminalization and victimization experience are not fairly represented, sometimes not even realized until a later point in the process. ADR-TV has a long-term focus that addresses issues in a mature, responsible manner. At a municipal, provincial and national level, ADR television will greatly aid organizations, governments, professionals, caregivers, victims and offenders to better understand criminal issues in our country and will create a safer Canada.

As President of BCBH and the Founder of BCVOH, I believe that expansion of the ADR-TV into the English language television network is of significant, lasting benefit for Canadians in many ways. Through Service, Education, Advocacy and Research, BCBH has an established 25 year track record of important data collections, associations, resources, services and the personal stories of approximately 40,000 callers since its inception in 1986. BCBH is the provincial hub, networking with over 300 groups and agencies to serve the bereaved in 83 communities across BC by connecting callers to the most appropriate support available.

My personal journey of grief, trauma and victimization began when I was just 14 when my mother, Patricia Ducharme, became the second murder victim of her boyfriend, a former Vancouver Police Department Officer, Brock Graham. Having lost five people to murder, both

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personally and professionally through youth work in the downtown east side of Vancouver, has inspired the creation and vision of BC Victims of Homicide (BCVOH) to ensure immediate, short term and long term support is made available for victims of crime.

A stronger focus on victims is a promising step in building a more robust justice system. Victims deserve to feel safe and supported in the communities where they live. Legislation and programs that consider victims' needs and experiences will prove a more sustainable, beneficial approach for Canada. Our system has been myopically, offender focused for too long, and we applaud and appreciate any attempts to alleviate the suffering of the victims of crime.

Feedback from BCVOH participants and BCBH callers over the years identifies a strong demand to be heard and have their experiences validated. This demand for public awareness, understanding and education echoes many of the similar issues outlined through the ADR-TV program. Common public interest themes include: public safety, privacy, unresolved crime, non-criminally responsible legislation, investigations, missing persons, policing, court processes/procedures, parole hearings, punitive measures/sentencing, victim advocacy, philanthropy, restorative justice, legislation/government, victim services, addictions, counselling, media issues, peer support and access to support services.

The collaborative approach exemplified by ADR-TV, will give Canadians the tools and resources needed for our societies to come together to acknowledge crime responsibly and, consequently, empowering victims, offenders, government and non-government programs to think and act more intelligently and considerately. This inclusiveness is an inspiring, innovative development of public safety and public service as a result of public interest. A national broadcast of public expression in English and the existing French language will open essential dialogue and will, ultimately, create a platform for a healthier, safer and more hopeful country to live in.

I am passionate to be writing this letter in support of the great vision of Vincent Geracitano, President of ADR-TV, and hope it provides support to produce similar services in other provinces of our great nation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best Regards,

Christopher Ducharme

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