



Vancouver Public Library

Office of the Chief Librarian

January 27, 2016

Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission
Les Terrasses de la Chaudière, Central Building,
1 Promenade du Portage,
Gatineau, QC
J8X 4B1

Dear Commissioners,

RE: A review of the policy framework for local and community television programming (Broadcasting Notice of Consultation CRTC 2015-421)

Vancouver Public Library endorses the Ontario Library Association's (OLA's) position for the Consultation [CRTC 2015-421] that Canada's public libraries are an important component in our national information ecology and that they should be funded to establish or expand fully networked Community Media Centres. These fully networked Community Media Centres would provide the public tools, training, and production support for the creation of community television content that would be broadcast through local Community Television channels, satellite, Internet, or other suitable platforms. Public libraries could also help coordinate preservation and long-term access responsibilities for valuable community content, which is always a concern for protecting our Canadian heritage, especially for the works of new artists, community events, and historical accounts.

We agree with OLA that public libraries are well-suited to meet the broad information needs of their communities, including Community Television training and production support. They are ready to adapt to ever changing demands for new technology and content. And, they are long-standing places of learning to develop ICT skills and content, including confidence and empowerment. They have become platforms for creativity and innovation as they seek to highlight and amplify the creativity and innovation of their local communities.

Public libraries are central to their communities and are respected for their neutrality and depth and breadth of partnerships. For example, each public library may nurture relationships with hundreds of stakeholders to inform the development of their collections and programs, seeking to ensure they represent the diversity of local interests. What this means is that when a public library is involved in Community Television programming, it is well suited to reach out to their community to include a diversity of people and content.



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For the past two decades, public libraries throughout Canada have been funded by the Federal government as a platform to connect Canadians to the Internet through computers, connectivity, and training. After taking on this challenge, public libraries are once again ready to take on new programs and technology, and evolve to the next stage. Across the country, an increasing number of public libraries are responding to their communities' interests to acquire skills, tools, and support for video and film production. Just last year, Vancouver Public Library launched our creative digital media lab – called the Inspiration Lab(<http://www.vpl.ca/InspirationLab>) – that provides access to the very tools that communities need to provide the community content described in this letter. If funding were provided to public libraries as a platform to deliver Community Television programs, we believe that more public libraries would respond similarly. Because public libraries are highly collaborative and adaptable, where best practices are widely shared, and budgets managed closely with high levels of public accountability, we believe public libraries would capably assume management responsibilities and succeed in meeting the CRTC's goals for its Community Television program. And, the content produced would become integrated into the public library's collection, providing extra value to and long-term access for the community.

Thank you for your review of this letter and your consideration of OLA's presentation. If you have any questions about the content of this letter or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at sandra.singh@vpl.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandra Singh". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sandra" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Singh".

Sandra Singh
Chief Librarian
Vancouver Public Library