



Canadian Media Guild

La Guilde canadienne des médias

CWA/SCA CANADA

Please find below preliminary numbers on job cuts in the Canadian broadcast industry between 2008 and 2013. The numbers are compiled from press reports based on Corporate announcements.

We reached out to Statistics Canada to see what information they have on job loss in the media industry; their response was that there would be “severe data suppression” which they explained “occurs when there is insufficient sample to produce reliable estimates or for reasons of confidentiality”.

We are confident these numbers reflect the troubling reality of job cuts in our sector over the past five years, and we encourage further and ongoing research in this area.

Notes:

- We are cautious about the number of 900 people laid off at Rogers Communications in 2009 which includes workers from the wireless division.
- There may be more data from Québec

Job cuts in the broadcast industry in Canada, Nov. 2008 – Aug. 2013

2013

August

- In the wake of BCE Inc.’s \$3.4 billion acquisition of Astral Media, “as many as 100” people are slated to lose their jobs in Toronto and Montreal. Details not yet available, though CEP Local 723M president Kelly Dobbs says that so far the cuts have not affected unionized employees and are all in management.¹

June

- Groupe TVA, a subsidiary of Quebecor, announces that it is cutting 90 jobs (or 4.5% of the division’s staff). The company also said that it will eliminate unfilled positions and phase out other jobs through attrition; it is unclear

¹ Bell Media cutting dozens of jobs after Astral buy: Management first to be axed in Toronto, Montreal offices, unionized workers not hit yet
Lewis, Michael; Mills, Carys. Toronto Star [Toronto, Ont] 16 Aug 2013: B.2.

whether this is part of, or in addition to, the 90 jobs that are on the line (Radio Canada seems to indicate the former², while the Globe and Mail seems to indicate the latter³).

May

- Rogers Communications announces that it is shutting down its CityNews channel and cutting production in some areas of its OMNI Television operations. This “impacts” 23 full-time positions at CityNews Channel and 39 full-time positions at OMNI Television.⁴

2012

December

- Radio-Canada announces a reduction of 47 jobs described as ‘excess’ in the current production climate. The reduction will affect production, post-production, and information production (infographic design and sound recording).⁵

November

- Faced with budget cuts from the provincial government, TVOntario cuts 35-40 jobs. TVO does not specify if the job cuts would be through layoffs or attrition. In a push to save \$2 million (or 5% of its budget), TVO says it will focus more on “digital innovation in children’s educational media and current affairs”.⁶

April

- CBC announces that it expects to lay off 650 people over the next 3 years after the federal government cuts funding by 10%.⁷ 475 jobs will be eliminated this fiscal year, with the first round (by June 21st) amounting to 215 (88 from news and the rest from operations, programming, and administration).⁸ As some jobs were kept vacant in anticipation of the cuts, some people receiving layoff notices will be able to move into these.

2010

² Radio-Canada: <http://www.radio-canada.ca/nouvelles/Economie/2013/06/05/003-groupe-tva-suppression-emplois.shtml>

³ Globe and Mail: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/tva-cutting-90-jobs-in-face-of-tough-ad-market/article12357781/>

⁴ Puget Sound Radio: <http://www.pugetsoundradio.com/cgi-bin/forum/Blah.pl?m-1369931394/>

⁵ Le Devoir: <http://www.ledevoir.com/societe/medias/365816/radio-canada-supprime-47-postes>

⁶ Huffington Post: http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2012/11/13/tv-ontario-job-cuts-cancellations_n_2123619.html?ncid=edlinkusaolp00000008

⁷ The Toronto Star:

http://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2012/04/04/cbc_announces_major_cuts_plans_to_shed_650_jobs_over_3_years.html

⁸ Globe and Mail: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/arts/television/cbc-cuts-current-affairs-shows-88-news-jobs/article4101155/>

January

- Rogers Communications-owned CityTV announces that it will no longer produce local newscasts in Calgary, Vancouver and Edmonton, while Toronto's team will be greatly reduced in a bid to restructure operations. 60 jobs (29 in Toronto) are to be eliminated. Many of the employees are represented by the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers union.⁹

2009

November

- Rogers Communications lays off 900 people, mainly in cable and wireless divisions. No detailed breakdown by department available.¹⁰
- 10 staff members laid off at CHUM Radio in Ottawa (5 show hosts, 1 program director, 1 engineer, 2 copywriters, and an announcer). Other employees are told that they will see shift reductions.¹¹
- CHUM 1410 in Vancouver lays off 23 people as it shifts to an all-sports format. 19 of the positions will not be replaced, and 3 of the laid-off people were offered new positions.¹²

October

- Hubert Lacroix announces an end to cuts at CBC/Radio Canada (so far there have been 800 since March of this year).¹³

August

- Canwest local television stations CHEK-TV in Victoria and CHCA Red Deer fade to black. A Canwest representative says that 80 jobs are "affected" (e.g. lost).¹⁴
- Restructuring at Montreal's English-language talk radio station CJAD (owned by Astral Media) results in job losses for 8 on-air personalities and one off-air employee.¹⁵

May

⁹ CBC: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/story/2010/01/19/citytv-layoffs.html>

¹⁰ The Toronto Star: http://www.thestar.com/business/2009/11/26/bracing_for_new_competition_rogers_lays_off_900.html

¹¹ The Ottawa Sun: <http://www.ottawasun.com/news/ottawa/2009/11/24/11910116.html>

¹² Metro news: <http://metronews.ca/news/vancouver/91889/am-station-opts-for-all-sports-coverage/>

¹³ CBC: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/story/2009/10/05/lacroix-cbc-cuts.html>

¹⁴ CTV: <http://www.ctvnews.ca/canwest-to-close-tv-stations-in-victoria-red-deer-1.419396>

¹⁵ CBC: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/arts/media/story/2009/08/06/montreal-radio.html>

- The first round of cuts at CBC include: 73 voluntary retirements, 158 layoffs of permanent employees, 19 vacant jobs that will not be filled and about 100 contracts that will not be renewed (total 350). It is noted that the cuts announced in last month will target 393 jobs at CBC, 336 at Radio-Canada, and 70 corporate positions.¹⁶

March

- CTV Montreal cancels its early news broadcast, resulting in the loss of 4 positions (one of which was vacant). The program will be replaced by the first half of Canada AM.¹⁷
- CTV cuts 118 jobs in newsrooms of A Channel stations. Licenses will not be renewed for stations in Windsor and Wingham, eliminating 28 jobs.¹⁸

February

- CHUM radio in Toronto (a division of CTV Ltd) confirms that 40 positions will be affected (17 terminations and 23 vacancies that will be eliminated). The staff reductions will affect stations in Victoria, Vancouver, Edmonton, Winnipeg, London, Toronto, Peterborough/Lindsay, Ottawa and Montreal, and are effective immediately.¹⁹
- Corus Quebec cuts 12 jobs at Info 690 and 20 more at administrative offices.²⁰
- Global TV in Toronto announces that it is eliminating its noon-hour newscast, with a loss of close to 40 jobs.²¹

January

- Astral Media announces a reorganization of some of its English-language radio operations, resulting in the “departure of 23 employees at all levels of the organization. For the most part, these positions will not be replaced”.²²

2008

December

¹⁶ The Toronto Star: http://www.thestar.com/entertainment/2009/05/28/350_to_leave_as_axe_falls_at_the_cbc.html

¹⁷ CNW: <http://www.newswire.ca/en/story/465599/ctv-montreal-cancels-first-news>

¹⁸ The Toronto Star: http://www.thestar.com/business/2009/03/03/ctv_cuts_118_jobs_at_a_channel_stations.html ; http://www.thestar.com/entertainment/television/2009/03/28/tv_tumult_on_the_canadian_dial.html

¹⁹ CNW: <http://www.newswire.ca/en/story/477693/chum-radio-confirms-staff-reductions>

²⁰ Canoe/Journal de Montreal: <http://fr.canoe.ca/divertissement/tele-medias/nouvelles/2009/02/05/8276426-jdm.html>

²¹ CBC: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/arts/media/story/2009/01/20/global-cuts.html?ref=rss>

²² CNW: <http://www.newswire.ca/en/story/413311/astral-media-announces-reorganization-at-radio-division>

- Rogers cuts 100 jobs from media division, including CityTV. Detailed breakdown not available.²³
- CTV's cancellation of *Canadian Idol* means that nearly 650 people across Canada will not be able to find short-term work with the reality show as they did last year (jobs included production assistants, electricians, drivers, editors, writers and cameramen).²⁴

November

- CTVglobemedia: 105 jobs cut (mainly at MuchMusic, MuchMoreMusic and MTV). 24 jobs cut at Canada AM.^{25,26}
- Canwest Global announces that it will cut 5% of its workforce, or about 560 jobs. This includes 210 jobs from Global and its other television operations, and 350 in publishing; jobs will disappear through “voluntary buyouts, attrition and layoffs” (no information given on numbers for each)²⁷. Broadcasting headquarters in Toronto, which houses specialty channels and some network TV operations, is taking the brunt of the cuts in broadcasting. The Global Ontario morning news (broadcast from Toronto) is slated to be replaced by a network show from Hamilton. Cuts are also to be made in Vancouver, Edmonton and Calgary.²⁸

The Canadian Media Guild

We are 6,000 journalists, hosts, producers, technicians, videographers, editors, librarians, programmers, sales reps, administrative staff and freelancers. We believe a quality media system that serves all Canadians is built on healthy organizations that treat workers fairly.

²³ The Toronto Star: http://www.thestar.com/business/2008/12/02/rogers_announces_layoffs_in_media_division.html

²⁴ Friends of Canadian Broadcasting: <http://www.friends.ca/news-item/7567>

²⁵ The Toronto Star: http://www.thestar.com/entertainment/television/2009/03/28/tv_tumult_on_the_canadian_dial.html

²⁶ The Toronto Star: http://www.thestar.com/business/2008/11/27/ctv_cuts_105_jobs_in_toronto.html

²⁷ Canwest cuts jobs, morning show; Loss of 560 newspaper and broadcast employees will save beleaguered company \$61 million

Popplewell, Brett. Toronto Star [Toronto, Ont] 13 Nov 2008: A.3.

²⁸ CBC: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/arts/media/story/2009/01/20/global-cuts.html?ref=rss>; CanWest axes 560 jobs
Robertson, Grant. The Globe and Mail [Toronto, Ont] 13 Nov 2008: B.3.