

July 14, 2014

Monsieur Rémi Racine, Chairman
Board of Directors, CBC/Radio Canada
CBC
181 Queen Street
C.P. 3220, succ. « C »
Ottawa (Ontario) K1Y 1E4

Re » Future of CBC/Radio Canada

Dear Mr. Racine,

We the undersigned, former members of the Board of Directors of CBC/Radio Canada, are very concerned for the future of our national broadcaster following on the substantial production cuts that the Corporation announced recently. It appears that the Board has forgotten that the Board members are trustees of a statutory mandate based on the maintenance of a capacity within the Corporation to broadcast, inform and certainly to create.

As CBC Board members, you well know that CBC/Radio Canada has a public service mandate – it is not a business in any conventional sense.

“CBC is a public good, like the school system, like Medicare, like our universities and colleges, our public museums and galleries.” “It exists not to make money or to satisfy financial goals, but to fill a public need – one that is not being served by private media outlets. Its purpose is to serve its audiences as citizens, rather than consumers” (Wade Rowland, Globe and Mail, June 26, 2014)

CBC was created with the aim of uniting Canadians from one ocean to the other, and to serve all regions and all minority groups. For decades, CBC/Radio Canada has contributed to a national awareness of the different facets of our national “tissue” by representing our cultural diversity through a capacity to create and support this diversity. We believe that with the most recent cuts, the mandate of the CBC is in peril. To suggest that replacing a capacity to produce with social media is dodging the issue; to eliminate the creative potential of the CBC is to sacrifice one of its *raisons d’être*.

With a sense of great urgency, we, the undersigned, call upon you and all members of the Board, to consider the inevitable consequence of this most recent funding cut in particular, and, in accordance with your responsibility as Board members, to clearly and publicly inform the Government that these cuts will effectively eviscerate CBC/Radio Canada and will ultimately bring about the demise of this important and valued national public service.

Yours sincerely,

John Kim Bell, Toronto, ON
Clarence LeBreton, Caraquet, N.B.
Alain Paris, Montreal, Que
Robert Rabinovitch, Montreal, Que.
Thomas Wilson, Toronto, ON

Michel Doyon, Quebec City, Que.
Richard O’Hagan, Toronto, ON
Brian Peckford, Qualicum Beach, B.C.
Guylaine Saucier, Montreal, Que