

PAP

TVN

October 12th, 2004

Mr. Charles Dalfen  
Chairperson  
CRTC  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0N2

CRTC 2004-10-12 10:34

Dear Mr. Dalfen,

I write this note as a plea...a plea for fairness and understanding.

Within one week's time, it will be a full year since we filed with you our completed, fully funded and regionally supported application for a television undertaking in the Niagara region. We had hoped that this application would have been announced and maybe even heard by now. But unfortunately, neither has occurred.

We had some assurance back in the spring that an announcement of our application filing would be forthcoming in late April or early May. That did not happen. Along came the Toronto One problem that clearly diverted attention from our application. Then came the summer, and the fast-tracking of the Toronto One solution. By the end of the first week in September, it was indicated to us that 2-3 weeks would be the time frame for the announcement. That period came and went last week, accompanied by the horrible news that because of backup problems, priority settings, CRTC staffing issues and potentials strike conditions that no assurance of any kind could be made to us.

While we fully understand these internal issues, and sympathize with your problems, you must understand that we too are facing the tremendous burden in trying to explain this to the hundreds of local citizens who have supported us with letters and help, to the support staff who we have had to lay off pending announcement, to our anxious, newly minted shareholders who have become more and more restless, and uneasy as the months pass without even an announcement, and finally to management who do not have the luxury of other broadcast operations to support the administrative costs during this extraordinarily long and costly waiting period. Encouraging new entities, people and fresh thinking into the Canadian broadcasting system is difficult enough, to have such bureaucratic barriers placed before it, is tough, problematical and easier said than done at the best of times.

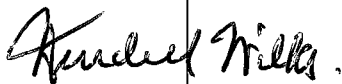
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During the past year, while we waited, two regional southern Ontario television operations celebrated anniversaries: CHEX in Peterborough-50 years on air, CKWS Kingston, also 50 years on air – both these stations combined will not have the regional population of our seriously underserved citizens.

What we wish to have happen is obvious. If, in the face of CRTC internal problems, there is a “prioritization” process, we ask only to be moved, as soon as, and as quickly as possible, to near the top, so as to relieve the rather drastic and debilitating pressures mentioned above, and to get on with the long CRTC process to hearing and decision.

A plea, sir...only for fairness..

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wendell Wilks".

Wendell G. Wilks  
President & CEO  
/jm