

TO: HONOURABLE SHEILA COPPS

FROM: THE NETWORK OF REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

DATE: SEPTEMBER 26, 1996

OPEN LETTER - REGARDING PROPOSED CBC CUTBACKS

It is our understanding that the cuts to CBC will decimate the English-language community radio network through the province of Quebec.

Many of the communities outside the larger metropolitan centers have only received CBC coverage in Quebec during the last decade. Prior to that, regions such as the Lower North Shore and the Gaspé knew more about what was happening in the Maritimes than in their own province. The CBC fosters a sense of community, uniting a population which is widely dispersed across the province. The English-language community of Quebec has come to look forward to and depend on programs such as Quebec-AM, Radio-Noon and Breakway. Not only do such programs bring English and French-speaking Quebecers closer, they have also been important partners in the development of our minority communities.

Over the years our sense of community has been preserved through our ability to communicate and disseminate information through regional CBC programming. No other radio station exists off the island of Montreal, which covers the entire province as does CBC. In many regions it is the only English-language radio available.

Given the need for English-language community radio and the fact that it is one of the last threads which ties our community together, we ask that you direct the council to rethink its proposals regarding cutbacks to CBC radio in the province of Quebec.

Lynden Bechervaise, Chairperson
Network of Regional Associations

On behalf of,

Committee for Anglophone Social Action - Gaspé
Voice of English Quebec - Quebec City Area
Outaouais Alliance - Western Quebec Coasters Association - Lower North Coast

Townshippers' Association - Eastern Townships
Alliance Quebec - Montreal Regions