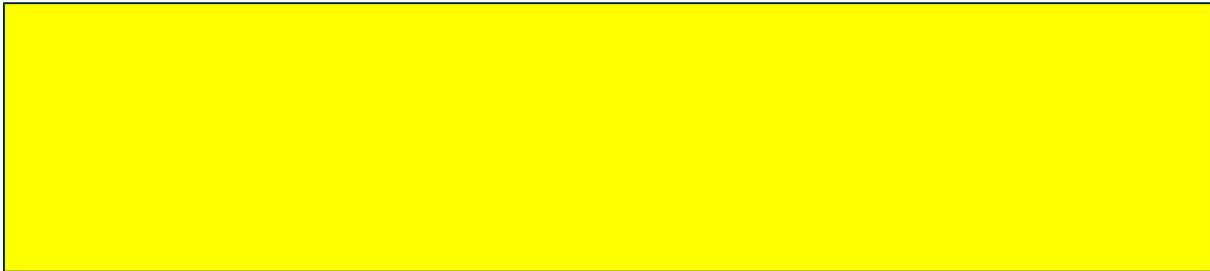


From: [Andrew Simon](#)
To: [Public Hearing/Audience publique](#)
Subject: My Script for Tomorrow's Presentation
Date: 19 janvier 2021 11:51:43



CRTC Hearing - 2021-01-20

Disclosure: I spent some 30 years with CBC, as a radio producer, TV producer, programming executive and head of Radio Canada International.

My first reason for asking to appear here is to counter the Conservative Party's platform to eliminate the entire CBC. On being pushed, Leader Erin O'Toole modified their stand, to close only English Television, as he could tolerate the continued operation of French TV and Radio in both languages.

I trust the Commission will remind him that the country **needs CBC no less now than in 1936**; and also how could you ever **deprive English Canada from a service French Canada would continue to receive?**

My second subject today is the Corporation's incredible 30-year campaign to abandon its obligation to run Canada's voice to the world.

In 1990, when I was Executive Director of Radio Canada International, when we broadcast in 14 languages 7 days a week, **CBC tried to shut us down**, got \$12 million from then-External Affairs to operate a much-reduced service. **In 2012**, it stopped broadcasting on shortwave and later demolished its Sackville transmitters. RCI continued on the Internet in only 5 languages.

Now in December, CBC has decided to transform RCI into a service for ethnic communities in Canada. They need to be reminded that the word "international" means "to another country."

As well, they added two new languages, Tagalog and Punjabi, to serve immigrants in Canada, **thus taking away RCI's core mandate to serve listeners in foreign countries**. I am positive this was in no way based on advice from Global Affairs that the Philippines and the Indian region of Punjab are new priorities for information about Canada.

The Broadcasting Act requires CBC (and I quote) “to operate an international service which produces and distributes programming targeted at international audiences to increase awareness of Canada, its values and its social, economic and cultural activities.”

When former CBC president Gérard Veilleux moved RCI and its budget from being a corporate entity and put it under the French Radio component (likely for administrative reasons since it was located in Montreal), he eliminated a leadership and staff with an international purview, and this is the result.

This needs further examination by the Commission. And we certainly require an immediate ruling on CBC’s latest policy announcement I just mentioned.

I think Parliament, and not the Corporation, should decide if Canada has a voice to the world, and how well such a service should be funded.

Everyone says, **“The World Needs More Canada!”**