

Hello / Bonjour

My name is Geoff Tebbutt, and I wish to intervene against the Renewal of Licences for CBC Television and CBC's on-line offerings, unless certain conditions that would benefit Over-The-Air Antenna Users in Canada are met.

I am the Owner of The Antenna Guys – we sell and install HD TV Antennas, and I have personally installed well over 1000 HD TV Antennas in the Greater Toronto Area since 2010. For those of you who are not aware – you can receive FREE HD TV Broadcasts in almost every corner of Canada – depending on your proximity to Broadcast Towers in Canada and neighbouring United States border towns. Absolutely free; no monthly Cable or Satellite bill and no need for expensive Hi-Speed Internet just to watch the news or Wheel of Fortune or Jeopardy.

Those of us old enough remember the 70's know what TV was like – you watched your favourite TV show and then every 15 minutes you watched a commercial from a sponsor who paid for the program to be aired – that's when you made a dash for the bathroom, or put on the kettle for Tea. Then cable companies and eventually Satellite Dish Providers intercepted those over the air broadcasts and sent them to your TV via a co-ax cable and charged you money every month to your TV from other cities and countries.

I was 12 years old at the time our neighbourhood in Toronto was wired for cable, and we were suddenly able to get 15 channels that were much clearer to watch. Even though Cable and Satellite Companies kept raising the prices over the next fifty years, our only other option was to watch with a giant 10-foot long antenna with a rotor to turn it on towers in the country and suburbs or a set of rabbit ears in an apartment, or eventually via the Internet - which costs money.

You may notice my testimony today coming back to the point of money many times – because I am trying to represent the lowest of the low - not the richest of the rich.

- I am the single parent in Northern Ontario with two kids and no money to pay for cable or satellite to keep my kids happy. We can only watch the few TV channels we get with an antenna.
- I am the 19 year old kid – out on his own for the first time – with only a mattress and an old TV set – trying to get by in school or at their first job – but not with a lot of money – no way to afford cable or satellite.
- I am the senior citizen who, after many years contributing to Canada, is now receiving only enough money in their old-age to barely survive – there isn't enough left at the end of the month to watch Wheel of Fortune or Jeopardy.
- I am one of hundreds of thousands of Canadians, who, through no fault of our own, find ourselves trapped at home, out of work, out of money, and needing desperately to be entertained while we are locked down. But not with cable

or satellite or on-line – remember, we’re all out of work now. No work = no money = no Cable

When I was young, growing up in Northern Alberta, we had one TV channel – CBC. Unless it was Friendly Giant, or the hockey game on Saturday night or Walt Disney on Sunday after dinner – we were outside playing. Still today 50 years later – in many remote areas of Canada, there are only a handful of TV channels available over the air with CBC in the mix. (Did you know – you still cannot receive a Broadcast of CBC in London Over the Air?)

This is where implementing a very simple concept could forever change the amount of FREE programming available to Canadians, and at the same time allow the CBC to spread it’s wings further than ever before. You’ll have to follow along my logic path for a couple of minutes to get there:

Most of the transmissions from U.S. Broadcasters over the air have what are referred to as ‘sub-channels’ – extra ‘streams’ of additional programming not available elsewhere. Out of the 30 or so channels I receive in Toronto - I have:

- Movie channels
- Sports channels
- Old TV shows
- Westerns and War Movies
- Shopping Channels
- Court TV
- ‘Discovery – type’ channels
- Murder Mystery Movies
- Classic Movies
- Afrocentric Programming
- Sci-Fi
- And many Kids Channels

Most of the American Broadcasters have 2-3 sub-channels, along with their main Network Channel with all of their current hit shows, news and live sports. NBC, CBS, FOX, ION, ABC, MyTV, PBS – they all have many sub-channels, and as a result the parent companies make more advertising revenue on programming that is much cheaper to obtain than their normal Prime-Time shows. More profits due to larger market share and more advertising revenue.

I’m glad I live in Canada. Where we have a National Broadcaster that is owned by the Citizens. One who is directed by the needs of Canadians.

What if – and this is the crux of my whole appearance here - what if the CBC were to start broadcasting on sub-channels over the air everything that it currently charges

Canadians to watch – either through cable, satellite or internet fees. Why is money still being demanded of Canadians in order to watch things like:

- CBC Newsworld
- CBC Docs
- CBC Kids
- CBC Sports
- CBC Gem
- CBC Radio One

It gets even better! Since the main broadcast of CBC in HD will still be commercial free, fulfilling it's mandate on commercialism, the CRTC might – in it's infinite wisdom allow these sub-channels to carry advertising to help pay for the conversions that will be needed, and allow a steady stream of income into the CBC to help it grow and obtain more and better programming.

I can foresee many Canadians living in remote areas receiving enough quality Television programming to make life possible without a monthly cable or satellite bill – saving from \$500 - \$1000 per year.

And one other satisfying possible outcome of this simple decision, would be the big Satellite and Cable Conglomerates – who control most of the Networks and Programming in Canada would be forced to offer more sub-channels or lose market share and revenue to the CBC. They do not want to give anything for free, and actually tried to shut down Digital Transmitters in 2014. But, if in 2021 they found they were losing market share – in a big way, to CBC, they might be forced to make some of the programming they own or control available over the air, just so as not to lose face and their shirts!!

I came to Ottawa to testify on behalf of antenna users in Canada before the CRTC in 2014 when Rogers and Bell and friends wanted to shut down OTA TV – and we won!! I REALLY knew we had won when the President of the CRTC himself – Jean Pierre Blais called me to ask to borrow a few antennas for the backdrop of his announcement on the outcome of the hearings. I took that to mean that the CRTC put a lot of value in what I had to say. I hope the Commissionaires all remember me and still value my words – even with this crazy COVID haircut, and realize this is a well thought out plan prepared by an expert in the subject – please give it careful consideration.

Thank you for you time and your attention