



Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture

October 20, 2017

Mr. Scott Hutton
Secretary General (Acting)
Canadian Radio-television and
Telecommunications Commission
Ottawa Ontario K1A 0N2

Dear Mr. Hutton,

Re: Broadcasting Notice of Consultation CRTC 2017-365

(1) I am writing to indicate my organization's support for the application by Pelmorex Communications Inc. for the licence renewal of The Weather Network and the continued distribution of these services on the basic TV service so they can continue their essential safety role.

(2) Since 1895 the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture has represented the interests of Nova Scotia's agricultural community. With an organizational structure that includes representation from 13 county and regional federations and 24 recognized agricultural commodity groups, the Federation brings together over 2500 individual farm businesses representing all aspects of primary agriculture in this province.

(3) One of the key variables in agricultural production is the weather. Our organization believes that access to the latest weather information is a basic public service which should be supplied to all cable and satellite package users at no extra fee. This Network also provides the general public with information about how unusual weather patterns in some areas may impact over a much wider area and may impact on other facets of their life, such as, the increase in price of food items in stores which are primarily grown in an area that is currently experiencing a drought, etc.

(4) The Federation has found that The Weather Network staff is generally cognizant of the impact of weather conditions on a wide variety of circumstances and events. Many of our members have assisted The Weather Network by providing comments in regard to how specific weather conditions will impact on their farm's agricultural production. Our organization is pleased by the local content available through this group.

(5) The NSFA supports The Weather Network application because it is an essential public service which keeps communities informed and safe. Their distribution of Environment Canada warnings, air quality, and road conditions are vital to many Nova Scotians who rely on this information for their work and for safe travel around their communities and province. The Weather Network's distribution of Environment Canada's weather warnings and advisories, its distribution of provincial warnings, as well as its additional undertakings to support public alerting across Canada are essential contributions to public safety.

(6) It is important that Nova Scotians continue to be able to access The Weather Network in an affordable and convenient manner as part of the basic service.

(7) Our organization believes that the above comments are adequate expression of our views and do not wish to request an appearance at the CRTC's public hearing.

Yours truly,

Henry Vissers
Executive Director

60 Research Drive, Perennia Innovation Park, Bible Hill, NS B6L 2R2

Telephone: (902) 893-2293 • Fax: (902) 893-7063

www.nsfa-fane.ca

Our office is located in the Annapolis Building