

October 19, 2017

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

Dear Mr. Hutton:

**Re: CRTC Application #2017-0586-5 by Pelmorex Weather Networks Inc.
Broadcasting Notice of Consultation CRTC number 2017-365**

The New Brunswick Lung Association Board of Directors is pleased to submit this intervention on behalf of itself and the one in five New Brunswickers who suffer from respiratory diseases. Please accept this letter as evidence of our complete support for The Weather Network's licence renewal for seven years as part of the basic cable package. The New Brunswick Lung Association works at the national, provincial and community level to improve and promote lung health. We focus on chronic lung disease like asthma and COPD, infectious diseases like TB, flu, and pneumonia, and breathing disorders like sleep apnea. We provide reliable and trusted information to both citizens and governments, and we advocate for improvements when lung disease patients are receiving inadequate care.

Recognizing that many lung diseases can be prevented, we inform people about the health effects of air pollution, indoors and out. This includes helping smokers who are trying to quit, providing educational material and programs to ensure fewer people take up smoking, and encouraging governments at every level to create laws and policies that promote clean air.

Our mission is to "lead lung health initiatives, prevent lung disease, help people manage lung disease and promote lung health." Access to information delivered by The Weather Network is an important tool in achieving this mission, and is therefore essential to all Canadians. Canadians who live with respiratory conditions in particular rely on The Weather Network to inform them about pollen counts, air quality index reports, humidex readings and other vital health information.

While respiratory conditions can affect all Canadians, seniors are particularly vulnerable. If The Weather Network is removed from the basic cable package, seniors would be among those most negatively affected. Seniors rely on The Weather Network on TV for their information more so than younger Canadians who will also access this information online. Additionally, seniors are generally on a fixed income and can less afford to upgrade their television service to a more expensive package.

The Weather Network provides what we consider an essential service to our country and must continue to be readily available and affordable on the basic cable package for all Canadians. We strongly endorse The Weather Network's application to continue to be distributed on the basic television service, which is what Canadians have come to expect and depend on. We cannot express strongly enough that The Weather Network and its invaluable information continue to be accessible to All Canadians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "B MacKinnon", followed by a horizontal flourish.

Barbara M. MacKinnon, PhD
President and CEO
Cc. regulatory@pelmorex.com