

Ottawa
Room 230, Confederation Bldg
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6
Tel.: 613-996-1161
Fax.: 613-996-1759



Hon. Robert D. Nault, P.C.
Member of Parliament
Kenora Riding

Kenora
Bannister Centre
Suite 202 - 301 First Avenue S.
Kenora, Ontario
P9N 1T4
Tel.: 807-468-2170
Fax.: 807-468-4896

Dryden
PACE Office
Unit 2 - 66 Keith Avenue
Dryden, Ontario
P8N 3K8
Tel. : 807-407-4758

Sioux Lookout
Centennial Building
Suite 1A - 54 Front Street
Sioux Lookout, Ontario
P8T 1A1
Tel. : 807-737-4934

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; CRTC Application #2017-0586-5 by Pelmorex Weather Networks (Television) Inc.

I am pleased to write in my capacity as the Member of Parliament for Kenora to indicate my support for the application by Pelmorex for the continued and permanent distribution of The Weather Network and MétéoMédia on the basic TV service.

The constituency of Kenora is among the largest electoral districts in the country, with one of the most broadly dispersed populations. It runs from Kenora and Dryden in the south, and encompasses nearly the entire Ontario-Manitoba border, reaching to James Bay in the North. As one might expect, the varied and extreme weather experienced across the riding plays an active role in the life of my constituents.

Pelmorex's The Weather Network and MétéoMédia services are therefore an important planning and safety resource that must continue to remain as available and affordable as possible. Many of my constituents must drive long distances to travel to work, visit family or run daily errands, making the weather and road reports provided by the Weather Network a daily necessity. Further, many of the communities in my riding are not served by a local broadcaster and do not have reliable broadband service. The Weather Network's local forecasts, and availability on the basic service help address both of these information access issues. In recent years, Pelmorex's operation and funding of the national emergency alerting system has added to its already essential contribution to public safety.

However, I am particularly pleased to see that The Weather Network has committed to helping address the underrepresentation of Canada's northern and Indigenous communities in the media. As residents of my riding, particularly in the rural areas, are not served by local broadcasters, they rarely see themselves or their communities reflected positively in any television programming. Similarly, the rest of Canada, particularly the urban populations, are not exposed on a regular basis to any content from Canada's most northern and rural areas.

bob.nault@parl.gc.ca
Toll-Free: 1-866-710-0008

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Pelmorex's proposal to add daily programming from Canada's North will help change this. Canada's northern and Indigenous communities play an important role in our society and regular exposure via daily reporting by The Weather Network and MétéoMédia will help educate Canadians about these communities, their unique relationship with the weather and how they are being impacted by climate change. Of course, constituents of my riding will appreciate the opportunity to see their communities, and communities like theirs, featured in regular news reporting.

To the best of my knowledge, no television channel with a national reach comparable to The Weather Network's features news and information content on a regular basis. This initiative will therefore make a unique cultural impact in Canada.

In closing, given Pelmorex's essential contribution to public safety, its necessity as a daily planning tool for which there is no substitute, and its commitment to uniquely increasing the representation of Canada's northern and Indigenous communities, I strongly encourage the CRTC to renew Pelmorex's broadcasting licence The Weather Network and MétéoMédia and ensure these services continue to be distributed on the basic television service.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert D. Nault'.

The Honourable Robert D. Nault, P.C.
Member of Parliament for the Kenora Riding

Copy sent to:
regulatory@pelmorex.com
Fax: 905-829-5800 Attn. Regulatory Affairs

bob.nault@parl.gc.ca
Toll-Free: 1-866-710-0008