Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission

Independent Auditor's Report on the Impact of the *Online News Act* 2025-2026

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Table of Contents

Introduction *1*

Background *1*

Administration of the Act **2**

Google-CJC Agreement **2**

Funding Distribution Requirements and Limits **2**

Independent Review *3*

Year 1 (2025) *4*

Distribution of Funds **4**

Appeals 5

Recoveries 6

Annual Report by CBC/SRC **7**

Impacts *7*

Survey – General Information **7**

News Outlets 8

Primary Region Served 9

Official Language Minority Community and Indigenous Outlets 10

Primary Language 10

Survey – Impact Analysis **11**

Summary Overview 12

Detailed Analysis *14*

Year 2 (2026) *23*

Distribution of Funds **23**

Appeals 24

Next Steps *25*

Introduction

The annual independent auditor's report is a key requirement of the *Online News Act* (the Act), with the purpose of providing an analysis of the impact of the Act on the Canadian digital news marketplace, as outlined in Section 86.

News business - an individual or entity that operates a news outlet in Canada.

News outlet - an undertaking or any distinct part of an undertaking whose primary purpose is to produce news content and includes an Indigenous news outlet or an official language minority community news outlet.

In October 2025, when the first annual independent auditor's report was tabled, certain elements of the Act were still being implemented, as outlined in that report. As a result, the initial report was a Status Report on the Implementation of the *Online News Act* 2024-2025, as it was premature to conduct an extensive analysis of the impacts of the Act. The report included data on funding disbursements by the Canadian Journalism Collective (CJC) up to July 21, 2025, key milestones since the legislation came into force, and a comprehensive view of progress to date.

This second annual independent auditor's report provides an analysis of the impacts of the Act on news businesses, as outlined below.

Background

The Act came into force in June 2023 to regulate certain online communication platforms, including search engines and social media services, referenced in the Act as digital news intermediaries (DNIs), and compensate news businesses when their content is made available on these search engines or social media services.

Digital News Intermediary (DNI) - an online communications platform, including a search engine or social media service, that is subject to the legislative authority of Parliament and that makes news content produced by news outlets available to persons in Canada. It does not include an online communications platform that is a messaging service, the primary purpose of which is to allow persons to communicate with each other privately.

The Act introduced a new legislative and regulatory framework to address the growing imbalance in the Canadian digital news marketplace and to contribute to the sustainability of Canadian news businesses, including those that are independent, in both the non-profit and for-profit sectors.

To ensure fair compensation to Canadian news businesses for their news content distributed by DNIs, the Act sets out a framework for mandatory bargaining between eligible news businesses, as defined in the Act, and the operators of the largest online platforms.

The *Online News Act Application and Exemption Regulations* (the Regulations), which came into force in December 2023, supplements the Act. It provides specific details and directions on the implementation of the Act, including clarifying the application criteria of the Act so online platforms can determine if the Act applies to them.

The Regulations also outline conditions for online platforms to meet to receive an exemption from mandatory bargaining under the Act. Specifically, a platform may reach a single, fair, commercial agreement with a single collective of news businesses that would distribute the funding equitably among its members.

Administration of the Act

The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (the Commission) is responsible for implementing and administering the Act. The Commission is an independent quasi-judicial tribunal that regulates the Canadian communications sector in the public interest and reports to Parliament through the Minister of Canadian Heritage. The Commission holds public consultations and makes decisions based on the public record.

Google-CJC Agreement

Under the Act and the Regulations, online platforms must notify the Commission if the Act applies to them. The only online platform to notify the Commission that the Act applied to it was Google Search (Google).

In November 2023, Google reached an initial agreement with the Government of Canada to contribute $100 million to Canadian news businesses.

In June 2024, Google notified the Commission that the Act applied to it, requested a blanket exemption from the Act, and filed an exemption application with the Commission. Google reached an agreement with the CJC (Google-CJC agreement), a single collective representing Canadian news businesses, to distribute these funds. This paved the way for the Commission to grant Google an exemption in October 2024, but only from the mandatory bargaining process.

Canadian Journalism Collective - an independent, federally incorporated, not-for-profit corporation, founded in May 2024 by a diverse group of news publishers and broadcasters. It was created for the principal purpose of distributing Google's funds to news businesses.

Under the Google-CJC agreement, Google contributes $100 million annually (adjusted to inflation) to Canadian news businesses as compensation. This will continue for up to five years from the date of exemption, provided the exemption order also remains in effect.

In December 2024, Google made its first funding payment to the CJC. The CJC began distributing these funds in March 2025 (Year 1) to funding recipients.

Funding Distribution Requirements and Limits

The Google-CJC agreement committed the CJC to equitably distribute the compensation received from Google among funding recipients, based on the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) employees who, in the previous calendar year, were engaged in the production of original news content intended to be made available online.

Funding Recipients – for the purposes of this report, these are news businesses who receive funding under the Google-CJC agreement, which is distributed by the CJC.

The Regulations establish limits for certain funding recipients as outlined in subsection 10(3):

- For broadcasters, other than the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC/SRC), compensation is capped at 30% of the total agreement value; and
- The CBC/SRC's compensation is capped at 7%.

Furthermore, under the Google exemption order, the CJC may deduct up to 2% of the total amount of funding for reasonable administrative expenses and may not charge fees to news businesses to become members of the CJC.

The remainder of the funding contributions are to be distributed to other funding recipients.

Independent Review

The purpose of this annual report is to fulfill the requirement set out in Section 86 of the Act, which is to analyze the impact of the agreements entered under the Act on the Canadian digital news marketplace. The Google-CJC agreement is the only agreement that was entered under the Act and is therefore the only agreement covered in this report. Given this, the report analyzes the impact of the Google funds distributed by the CJC on news businesses and the overall news marketplace in Canada. The report must include the following:

- The total value of the Google-CJC agreement under the Act;
- How the funds Google provided were distributed by the CJC to funding recipients, including relative to the expenditures of those businesses on their newsrooms;
- Information relating to the effect of the funding provided by Google, including:
    - the impact on news outlets that produce news content primarily for diverse populations, including local and regional markets in every province and territory, anglophone and francophone communities and Black and other racialized communities;
    - the total number of Indigenous news outlets that received funding and the amount of funding that these news outlets received;
    - the total number of official language minority community (OLMC) news outlets that received funding and the amount of funding that these news outlets received;
    - if the CBC/SRC provided an annual report prior to the independent auditor's report; information related to the CBC/SRC's annual report; and
- any other element that, in the opinion of the auditor, supports the transparency of the impact of the Act on the Canadian digital news marketplace.

Year 1 (2025)

As noted above, the first annual report provided a status update on the progress up to that point on the implementation of the Act. As the Google-CJC agreement has been implemented for a full funding cycle, this year's report provides details on the distribution and impact of that funding.

Distribution of Funds

For Year 1 (2025), the total amount available to be distributed to funding recipients was $100 million. The CJC distributed these funds in two payouts, with the first beginning in March on a rolling basis, and in October 2025.

Under the exemption order, the CJC is permitted to deduct up to 2% for reasonable administrative expenses; however, the exemption order does not stipulate what constitutes a reasonable administrative expense. As a self-governing body, the CJC has mechanisms in place to hold itself to account. Administrative expenses are monitored and evaluated by voting members on an ongoing basis. For example, at the CJC's annual general meeting in November 2025, resolutions were passed to clarify the types of expenditures that could be spent by the CJC, following a motion brought forward by members. For 2025, the CJC deducted less than the allowable 2%.

The chart below includes data as of June 30, 2026. For updated information, refer to the CJC's List of Funding Recipients - Year 1.

Allocation of the Distribution of Funds (as of June 30, 2026)			
Total Payout/ Number of Funding Recipients	**Publishers**	**Broadcasters** (30%)	**CBC/SRC** (7%)
$96,732,819 [1]	$60,672,528	$29,200,291	$6,860,000
445	269	175	1

According to the funding distribution requirements and limits outlined above, the CJC is obligated to disburse the balance of any unspent contributions to Canadian news businesses in an equitable manner. At the January 2026 CJC Board Meeting, a motion was passed to transfer any interest earned and all unspent amounts from the CJC's allocation from the previous year's administrative expenses to the following year for distribution to funding recipients, proportionate to their compensation entitlements for that year.

[1] The difference between the $100 million that was available for distribution to new businesses and the amount paid out as of June 30, 2026 can be accounted for as follows: (i) deduction of the CJC's 2% administrative expenses for Year 1; and (ii) adjustments following the newsroom employee verification process (see the next section on Appeals for more information regarding the process).

Unspent amounts from the CJC's administrative expenses, adjustments made in Year 1, and interest earned on the funds prior to payout in October 2025, were carried over and added to the funds available to be distributed in Year 2.

Appeals

The CJC has a formal dispute resolution process for applicants who wish to appeal the CJC's funding decisions. A news business could pursue the appeals process if the CJC has determined that:

- the news business could not share in compensation;
- some or all of its declared employee hours were not accepted; or
- the news business' journalists were deemed to be freelance journalists and not employees of the news business.

The CJC's Publishing and Broadcasting Councils' responsibilities, for their respective members, include:

- Review the ability of news businesses to receive funding;
- Oversee policies; and
- Ensure fair distribution of funding.

Responsibility for reviewing each appeal rests with either the Publishers Council or the Broadcasters Council, depending on the respective applicant. The Publishers Council consists of eight (8) Publisher Directors, and the Broadcasters Council consists of eight (8) Broadcaster Directors[2]. All 16 Directors are voted in by the CJC's respective publisher or broadcaster members.

For Year 1, the CJC sent a Determination Letter to 41 applicants who were deemed not able to share in compensation and invited them to provide supporting documentation to demonstrate that they met the requirements. As news businesses submitted documentation for review, the CJC's Publishers Council and Broadcasters Council assessed the files that fell under their mandate and made decisions based on the information provided. The outcome of each decision was then communicated to the applicant.

The reasons news businesses could not share in the compensation (according to the CJC) included the following:

- Focus is primarily on industry/other specific content and not general information. (6 instances)
- Does not meet the requirement to have employed at least two full-time employees. (5 instances)
- Unable to verify that original news content or reporting is being produced. (5 instances)
- Insufficient evidence of news content being indexed on Google. (2 instances)
- News business was not the owner of the news content, as it was operating under another organization, which was the owner. (1 instance)

Of the 41 appeals received in Year 1:

- 22 (54%) were deemed able to share in compensation
- 19 (46%) were deemed not able to share in compensation

[2] Refer to the Canadian Journalism Collective website for their governance model.

Recoveries

To prioritize timely disbursement of funds for Year 1, the CJC began issuing an initial payment to news businesses in March 2025 that represented a partial payment of 60% of the estimated total payout for Year 1.

The amount of the initial payment was calculated based on the information provided in the news business' application on the total number of hours paid to newsroom employees for tasks dedicated to the production of original news. The remaining 40% was distributed once the CJC had completed the verification of the documentation to support the employee hours submitted in each application.

To conduct the newsroom verification, the CJC established a process to identify, assess and, if necessary, recover funds due to overpayments. This included engaging an external accounting firm to assess each application. Based on the documentation submitted by the news business, the external firm verified if the news business met the requirements to receive funding under the Google-CJC agreement; specifically, the number of hours and number of FTE staff. If the assessment found that the news business did not have sufficient FTEs, this impacted the funding paid out to the news business, resulting in recoveries of funds from those news businesses.

A news business could only claim a journalist's hours if the journalist was an actual employee of the news business and not a freelancer operating as an independent contractor. The external assessment revealed that some news businesses had received funding but did not meet these requirements. In 2025, amounts to be recovered were due to overpayments resulting from the following:

- the news business' assessed number of hours or FTEs was lower than what the news business had submitted in its application;
- the news business, after multiple requests, had not provided documents to support that it had met the requirements as outlined in its application; or
- The news business was no longer able to share in compensation, as it did not have the required number of FTEs.

If the news business was deemed able to share in compensation in Year 2, then the recovery amount was deducted from any Year 2 funding that was distributed to that news business; however, if the news business did not apply to the CJC in Year 2 or was assessed and deemed not able to share in compensation in Year 2, then the CJC requested recovery of the funds directly from the news business.

Recovery actions have been undertaken, recoveries have been received, and any amounts deemed unrecoverable are being written off per the CJC Council's decision. To protect the confidentiality of the news businesses and sensitivity of financial information, recovery and write-off amounts are not disclosed in this report.

Annual Report by CBC/SRC

The CBC/SRC did not prepare an annual report for 2025. Preparation of a report is applicable only if the CBC /Radio-Canada was a direct party to an agreement with an online platform, which it was not[3].

Impacts

To satisfy the requirements of Section 86 of the Act and analyze the impact on news businesses, a survey was developed to capture this information. The independent auditor sent out the survey to respondents in May 2026, based on the CJC's list of Year 1 funding recipients. While participation was voluntary, it was encouraged so that respondents could provide feedback and share their experiences.

The data presented in this report expresses the respondent's self-reported perspectives. While the survey results provide useful insights into the respondent's views, they may not reflect the experiences or opinions of all news businesses. No attempt has been made to validate the data obtained.

The information gathered is confidential and has been aggregated to ensure that individual news businesses cannot be identified.

Survey Participation		Publishers	Broadcasters (include CBC/SRC)
Number of Funding Recipients Surveyed	445	269	176
Total Respondents	165[4]	97 (59%)	68 (41%)
Response Rate	37%	36%	39%

While 165 respondents completed the survey, not all respondents provided answers to all questions.

Survey – General Information

The survey was divided into two parts.

The first part requested general information about the news business, including the following:

- name, number of news outlets operated, primary region served, and primary language;
- whether the news business was a publisher or a broadcaster;
- language of operations and if it operates in an OLMC;

[3] The CBC/Radio-Canada has a membership agreement with the CJC and received funding in Year 1 (2025).
[4] 167 respondents accessed the survey; however, 2 did not provide any details.

- if it produces news content for a specific local or regional market or primarily for a Black or other racialized community; and
- if it operates one or more Indigenous news outlets.

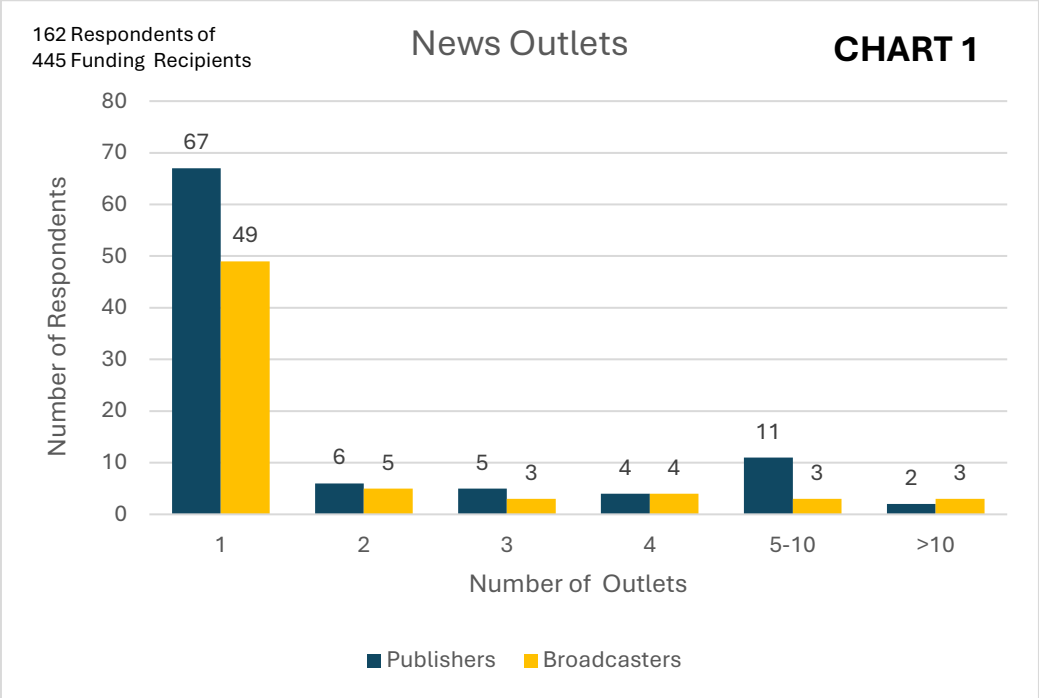
The second part of the survey requested information on the impact of the funding. Details can be found in the next section on the impact analysis of the responses received.

The following charts and graphs highlight the results of the general information requested.

News Outlets

The following chart (Chart 1) illustrates the number of outlets a news business operates. The majority of news businesses operate just one (1) outlet with publishers operating more news outlets than broadcasters. An analysis of the information provided by 162 respondents found the following:

- 27 (17%) produce content primarily for Black or racialized communities.
- 35 (22%) operate in an OLMC.
- 11 (7%) operate one (1) or more Indigenous news outlets.
- 154 (95%) produce content for a specific local or regional market.



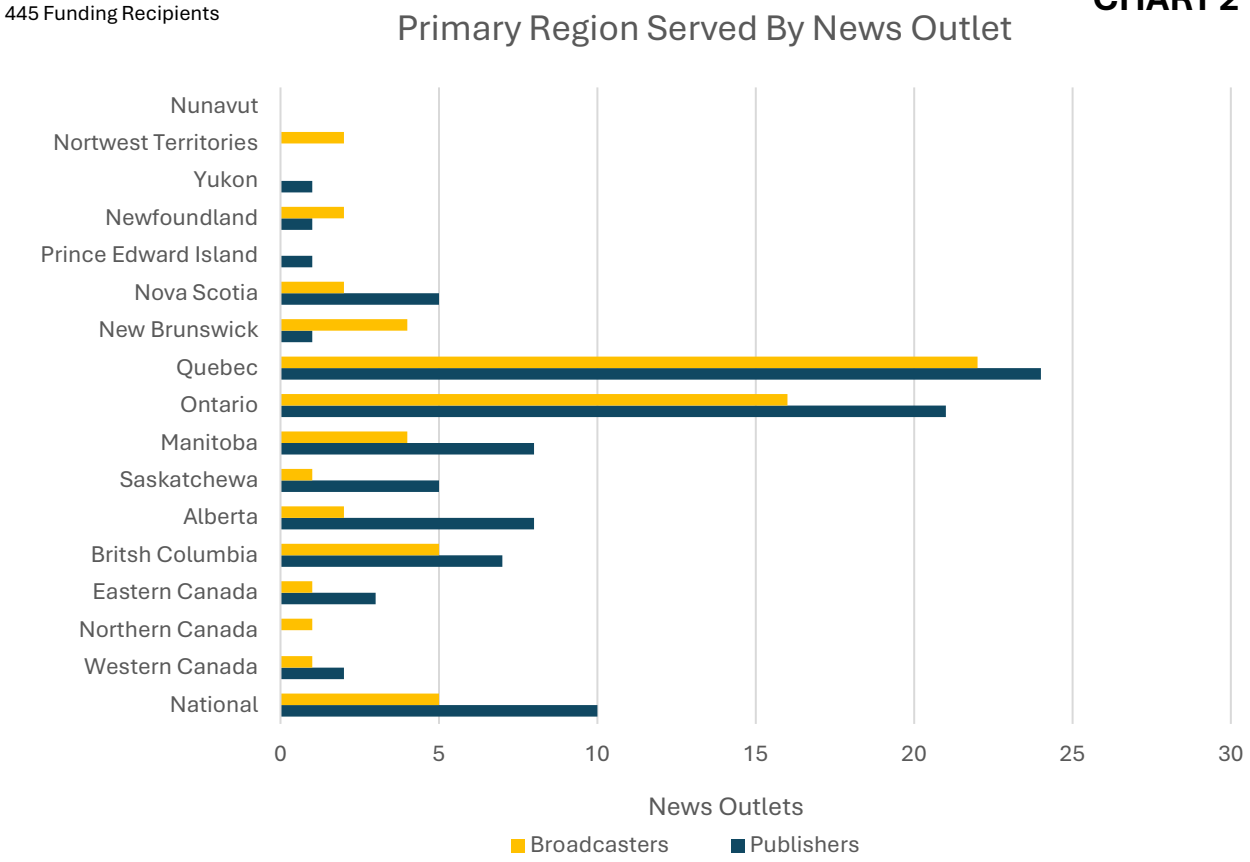
Primary Region Served

The following chart (Chart 2) illustrates the primary region served by the news outlet. While a news outlet may serve multiple regions, respondents were asked to select the primary region served. An analysis of the information provided by 165 respondents found the following:

- No respondents to the survey identified Nunavut as the primary region served by their news outlet.
- No publishers who responded to the survey identified northern Canada or the Northwest Territories as the primary region served by their news outlet.
- No broadcasters who responded to the survey identified Prince Edward Island or the Yukon as the primary region served by their news outlet.
- The majority of respondents to the survey identified Quebec (22 broadcasters and 24 publishers and Ontario (16 broadcasters and 21 publishers) as the primary region served by their news outlet.

165 Respondents of
445 Funding Recipients

CHART 2



Official Language Minority Community and Indigenous Outlets

Respondents were asked to identify the following:

- if their news business operates in an OLMC; and/or
- if their news business operates one or more Indigenous news outlets.

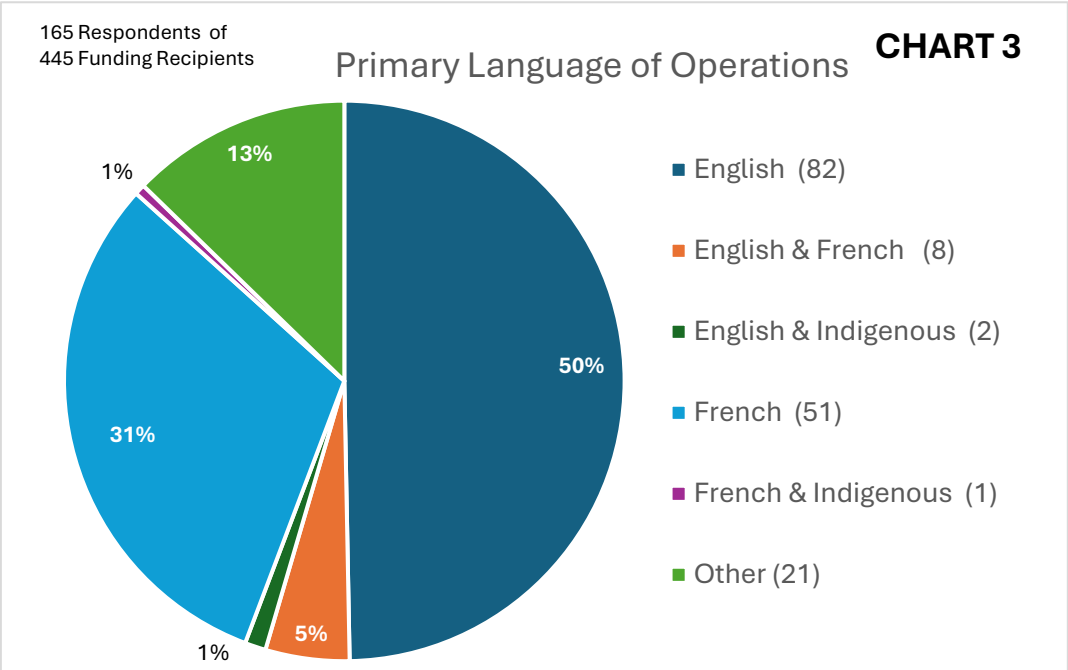
An analysis of the information provided by 164 respondents found the following:

	Operates in an OLMC		Operates One or More Indigenous News Outlets	
Number of Respondents	164			
	Yes	**No**	**Yes**	**No**
Publishers	18	78	4	92
Broadcasters	17	51	7	61
Totals	35 (21%)	129 (79%)	11 (7%)	153 (93%)

Primary Language

Respondents were offered six (6) selections, as noted in the chart below (Chart 3), and asked to identify the primary language in which their news outlet operates. They were further asked to identify any other language(s) in which their news outlet operates and specifically identified 28 other languages, which included nine (9) Indigenous languages. An analysis of the information provided by 165 respondents found the following:

- 50% identified English as the primary language in which they operate.
- The 19 languages identified were: Amharic, Bangal, Bengali, Cantonese, Croatian, Estonian, Farsi, German, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Persian, Portuguese, Punjabi, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, Tigrinya, and Ukrainian.
- The nine (9) Indigenous languages identified were: Dehcho Dene Yati, Dëne Sųłiné (Chipewyan), Eastern Cree, Gwich'in, Inuktitut, Inuvialuktun, Mohawk, Sahtu Got'ine Godi (North Dene), and Tłı̨chǫ (Tlicho).



Survey – Impact Analysis

The second part of the survey requested information on the impact of the funding on six (6) categories of newsroom expenditures, as identified in the Commission's decision in Online News Regulatory Policy 2024-327. These expenditures are categorized below:

- people engaged in the production of news;
- production of news;
- technology, equipment, and other technical changes;
- sales and promotion;
- general administration; and
- other impacts (added to capture other impacts on the news business that may not be reflected in the categories identified above)

Some examples of each category were provided in the survey to assist respondents with identifying their experiences.

All data and information captured were reviewed, analyzed, and summarized to report on how the funding was utilized, as disclosed by the respondent. In many cases, respondents identified more than one area where the funding supported their news business.

Where respondents noted no impact for a given expenditure category, this has been interpreted as the funding had not been utilized or directed for that purpose. This is different than cases where respondents noted that the funds were limited, insufficient, or negligible for a given category.

Summary Overview

Overall, the analysis found that the majority of respondents were grateful for the funding received and that the distribution of the funds stemming from the Google-CJC Agreement allowed their news businesses to continue operations and "keep the lights on." In addition to respondents providing constructive feedback on the funding process, some noted that the funds were insufficient and identified other issues, as noted in the report sections below.

The survey revealed that the majority of news businesses directed the funds to people engaged in the production of news to support their workforce, including increasing salaries, retaining staff, hiring and training for volunteers and staff, which has strengthened the overall quality of their news production. Salaries and wages were the key expenditure.

Many noted that funding was primarily used to support human resources and, as a result, little remained to support other areas. For news businesses that directed funds to other expenditure categories, the analysis found that there was consistent investment in the areas of the production of news and the general administration of the news business.

Respondents also noted that basing funding on paid staff hours (when many staff are volunteers) does not provide sufficient compensation. Still, others noted that it was not possible to augment other areas of their operations beyond their workforce (which was deemed critical in some cases), citing examples such as the production of news, technology, or sales and promotion, as funds received were negligible.

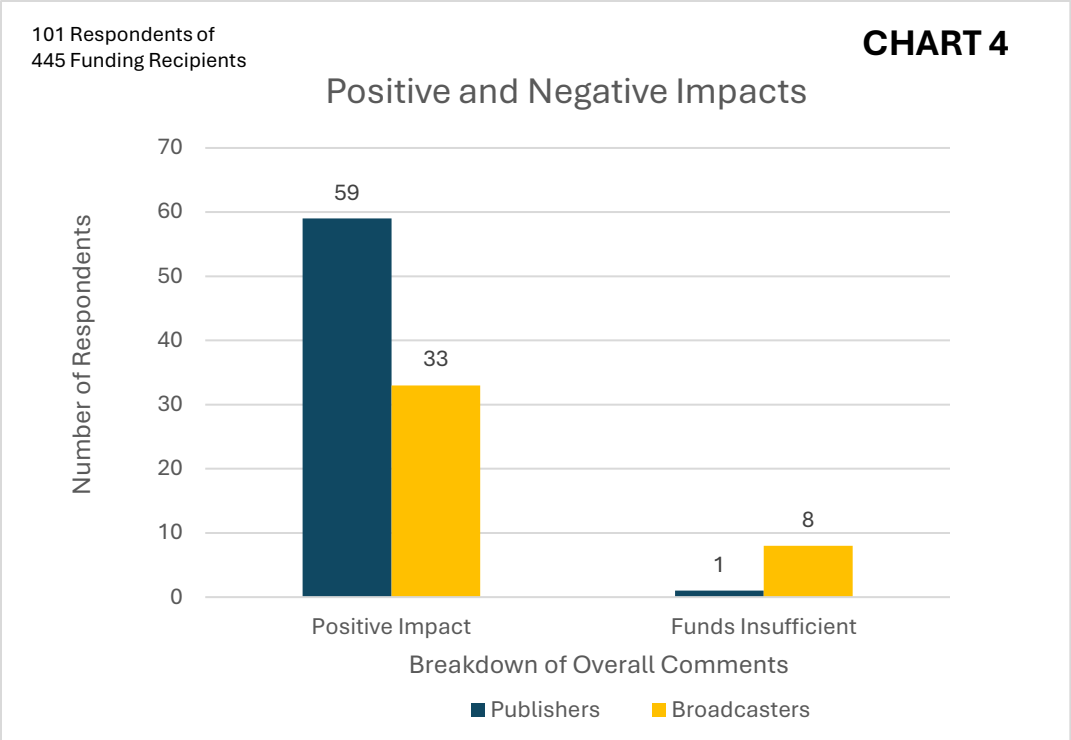
They also noted that with the new legislation, respondents continued to face challenges and a decline in revenues. Some noted that the reduction in revenues was due to less visibility on social media, adding that the funding amount received was negligible and that news businesses made more money before the removal of news on some social media platforms.

However, there were also positive comments, noting that, with the rise of social media and the decline in advertising and newspaper sales revenue, the financial assistance received was most welcome. It provided supplementary support to maintain and strengthen news coverage, despite the erosion of traditional revenue streams. It was further noted that the funding, though modest relative to overall operating expenses, is allowing news businesses to continue their mission to inform the public, while gradually adapting their business models to consumption changes in the media market.

The chart below (and those that follow) summarizes the analysis of the information as provided by the respondents.

Overall Positive and Negative Impacts

Other impacts captured any additional comments from respondents. Based on the information provided by 136 respondents, analysis found that there were 34 instances in which respondents indicated that there was no impact, with one (1) respondent noting it was too early to determine. Most of the remaining comments were positive, with news businesses expressing the following (Chart 4):



- *"Able to print our publication as opposed to keeping it online and TV only. That means a lot to people in rural Canada."*
- *"More funding = team stability, which means better content and better mental health for the team, as they don't have to worry about being laid off due to financial constraints, etc."*
- *"Provided modest additional support for ongoing news and spoken word programming and helped reinforce the importance of sustaining local, community-based journalism within the organization."*
- *"Overall, has had broad, systemic positive impacts. Preservation of local news coverage - funding has prevented the loss of local journalism capacity in many communities and helped avoid "news deserts." Improved emergency communication - stable and adequately staffed newsrooms have enhanced the ability to deliver timely, accurate information during emergencies. Support for democratic accountability - continued coverage."*
- *"Helped increase the number of stories covered and published."*
- *"Without this funding, we would have had to eliminate a position."*
- *"Extremely appreciated allowing the news business to pursue content of interest to the younger generations (more visuals and videos - which are expensive)."*
- *"Greatly appreciated. With the rise of social media and the decline in advertising and newspaper sales revenue, this financial assistance is most welcome."*

A few respondents also communicated that the funds were insufficient and provided more details regarding the funding received:

- *"While the funding received, as a percentage, may seem significant, for a tiny newsroom, it is too little money to make a meaningful impact on our operations."*
- *"Bill C-18 effectively destroyed our digital strategy, resulting in a loss of revenue and visibility."*
- *"The downside to this strategy is the uncertainty of funding beyond five years. We will need to grow revenues and create new revenue streams to support the increased salaries and that is proving very difficult for community news publishers who lack the scale of national or international news operations."*

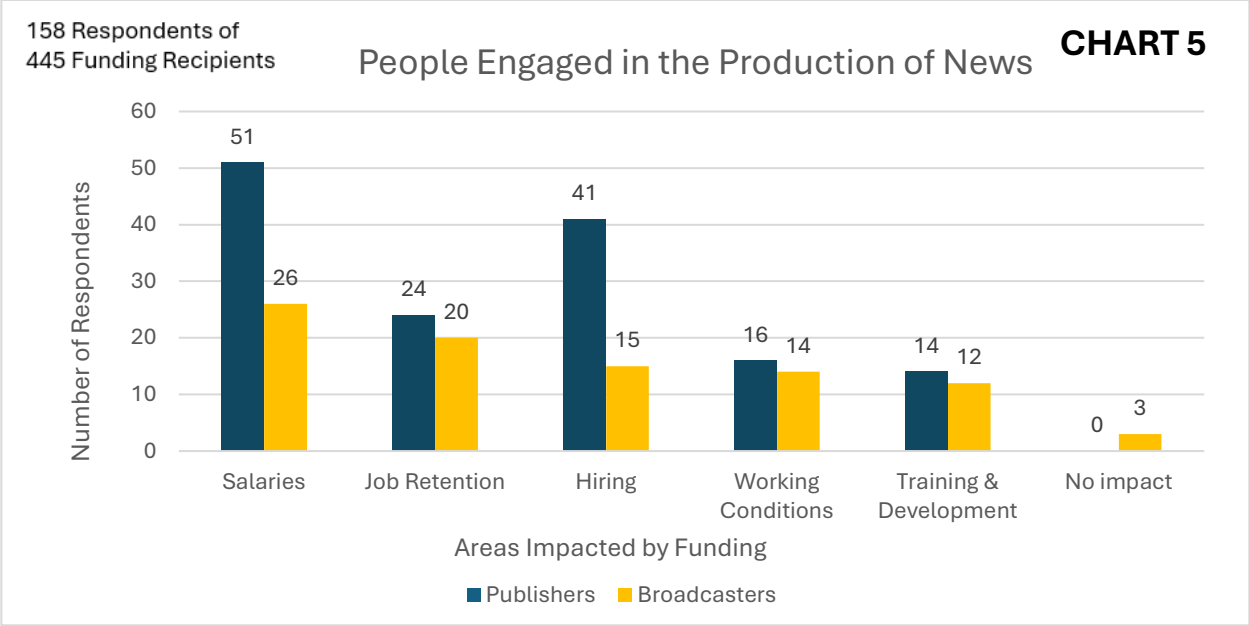
Detailed Analysis

The following provides an analysis of the impact of the funding for each of the six (6) categories of newsroom expenditures.

1. *People Engaged in the Production of News*

Based on the information provided by 158 respondents[5] (Chart 5), analysis found that funds received were spent on the following five (5) key areas, with related topics and/or information noted:

- salaries (increased working hours);
- job retention (job security, maintaining and sustainability of staff, avoiding layoffs);
- hiring (various staff and student positions, flexibility);
- working conditions (improved/maintained, supporting staff); and
- training and development (staff, volunteers, interns, mentorship).



[5] While 165 respondents completed the survey, not all respondents provided answers to all questions. Therefore, the number of respondents identified in the charts below is not consistent and varies from question to question.

Comments from four (4) respondents noted that the amount received is negligible and insufficient to increase salaries, retain staff, or hire additional staff.

Other impacts:

- Increased community engagement
- Engaging freelance journalists
- Stability and a meaningful impact
- Funding helped when other revenue streams were lost

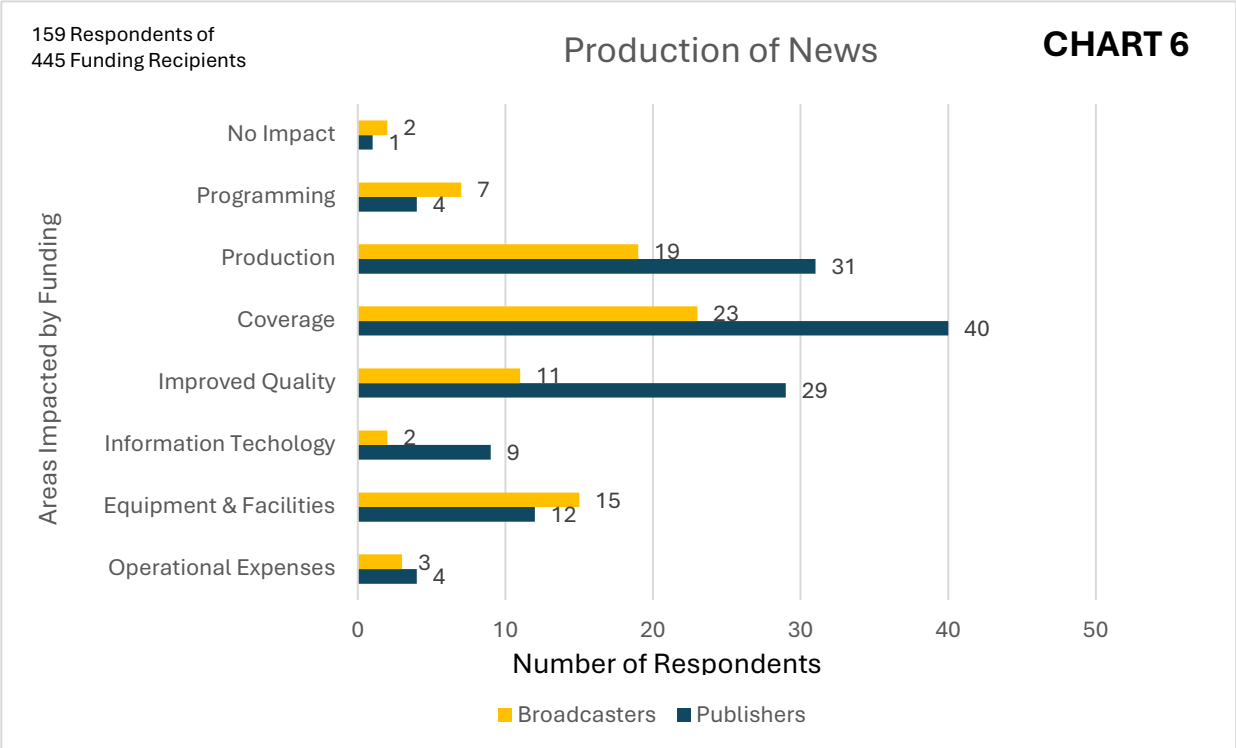
While the chart above provides an overall analysis of the impacts identified by respondents, the Act also requires an analysis of the impacts of the funding received by specific equity-deserving groups that produce news or operate specified outlets as identified in Section 86. The results noted below provide comparative results.

Analysis of Areas Impacted		
Outlet Type	**Areas Funded**	**Respondents' Comments - Impact of Funding Received**
Specific local or regional market	Consistent with the information noted in the chart above, funds were mainly spent on salaries, followed by hiring and retention.	*"Strengthened the newsroom workforce by supporting journalists, reporters, editors, videographers, and production staff. Expanded work opportunities, and improved operational stability in news production."* *"Unable to produce local news without this funding."* *"Insufficient to sustain either capacity building with existing staff and volunteers or hiring of new staff."*
Primarily for Black or racialized communities		*"Supported newsroom operations, strengthened our capacity to produce timely and reliable journalism."* *"Funding is based on paid staff hours; however, the news business is primarily volunteer-driven, and therefore funding is insufficient as it just barely allows them to maintain this staff position."*
Official Language Minority Community (OLMC)	Salaries followed by retention and working conditions	*"Continued to pay moderate rates for freelance contributions."*
Indigenous	Salaries followed by working conditions, retention, and hiring	*"Positive and practical impact on people engaged in the production of news."* *"Ability to maintain wages in place of lost revenue."*
None of the four (4) news outlets identified in this table noted that they were not impacted by the funding.		

2. Production of News

Based on the information provided by 159 respondents (Chart 6), analysis found that funds received were spent on the following seven (7) key areas, with related topics and/or information noted:

- operational expenses;
- equipment and facilities (vehicle maintenance, modernization, upgrades);
- information technology (explore/experiment with new technology);
- improved quality;
- coverage (content and area);
- production (capacity and capability); and
- programming.



Comments from four (4) respondents noted that the amount was insufficient, indicating that more equity in funding for community media is needed and that the legislation has led to a decline in revenue.

Other impacts:

- Supported newsroom to keep producing quality journalism
- Helped pay for printing
- Improved operational efficiency

The chart above provided an overall analysis of the impacts identified by respondents. The Act also requires an analysis of the impacts of the funding received by specific equity deserving groups that produce news or operate specified outlets as identified in Section 86. The results noted below provide comparative results.

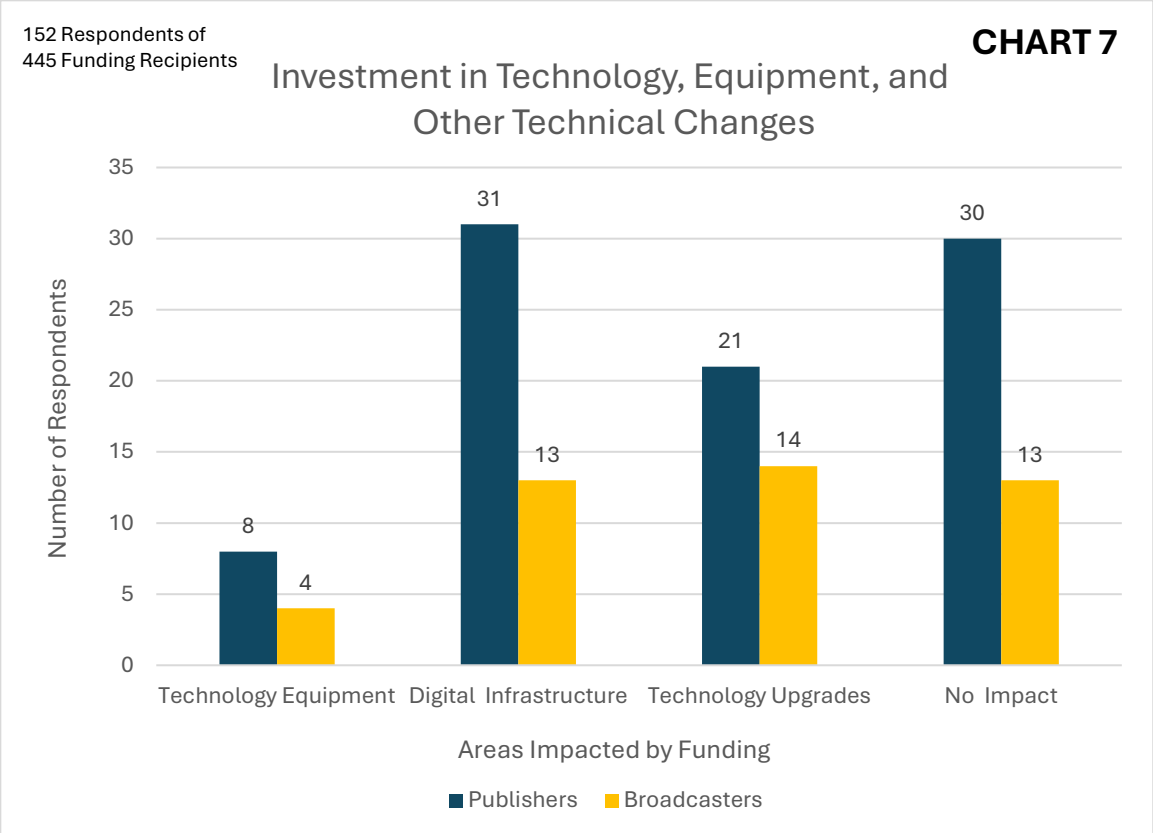
Analysis of Areas Impacted		
Outlet Type	**Areas Funded**	**Respondents' Comments - Impact of Funding Received**
Specific local or regional market	Consistent with the information noted in the chart above, funds were mainly spent on coverage, followed by production and improved quality.	*"It also helped offset rising operational, printing, distribution, and digital publishing costs associated with producing regular news coverage."* *"New news outlet launched."* *"Supported multilingual and community-focused storytelling and improved production equipment."* *"If there was more equity in funding community media, suspect we would be able to do more with CJC funding."* *"The funding we received makes up less than 2% of our overall budget. The broadcaster rates are extremely low. It is not enough to provide increases in programming, just maintenance."* Three (3) respondents noted that they were not impacted by funding.
Primarily for Black or racialized communities	Production, followed by coverage and improved quality	*"Improved operational efficiency."* *"Expanded research on potential article ideas, better support for the journalists."* One (1) respondent noted that they were not impacted by funding.
Official Language Minority Community (OLMC)	Coverage, followed by production and improved quality	*"Supported operational stability within the newsroom."* *"Annual page views increased by 12%."* No instances in which the respondents indicated that they were not impacted by the funding.
Indigenous	Equally on all areas identified in the chart above	*"Allowed us to do some special projects involving travel we would not have otherwise done."* *"It has allowed for staff being dedicated to news."* No instances in which the respondents indicated that they were not impacted by the funding.

3. Investment in Technology, Equipment, and Other Technical Changes

Based on the information provided by 152 respondents (Chart 7), analysis found that funds received were spent on the following three (3) key areas, with related topics and/or information noted:

- technology equipment (drones, mics, cameras, recording equipment, maintenance);

- digital infrastructure (streaming and mobile apps, cyber, back-up); and
- technology upgrades.



Comments from eleven (11) respondents noted that the amount of funding received was limited and insufficient to upgrade equipment, to make investments in technology or to extend beyond news content.

The chart above provides an overall analysis of the impacts identified by respondents. The Act also requires an analysis of the impacts of the funding received by specific equity-deserving groups that produce news or operate specified outlets as identified in Section 86. The results noted below provide comparative results.

Other impacts:
- Upgraded ability to support increased coverage in community
- Allowed for better service continuity
- Positively impacted the use of technology, equipment, and technical capacity

Analysis of Areas Impacted		
Outlet Type	**Areas Funded**	**Respondents' Comments - Impact of Funding Received**
Specific local or regional market	Consistent with the information noted in the chart above, funds were mainly spent on	*"Reach increased."* *"Increased time spent on web broadcasting."* *"Allowed for broadcasting on a national level."*

Analysis of Areas Impacted		
Outlet Type	**Areas Funded**	**Respondents' Comments - Impact of Funding Received**
	digital infrastructure, followed by technology upgrades and technology equipment.	*"Since funding was limited it had no impact on technology."* Forty-one (41) respondents noted that they were not impacted by funding.
Primarily for Black or racialized communities		"*Helps to keep our media outlet running."* *"We did not receive enough funding to have it impact our technology or infrastructure. "* Five (5) respondents noted that they were not impacted by funding.
Official Language Minority Community (OLMC)		*"Measurement tools and analytics have helped demonstrate audience growth to advertisers and support revenue generation."* *"The funds received were not sufficient to allow us to do all of this."* Six (6) respondents noted that they were not impacted by funding.
Indigenous	Technology upgrades, followed by digital infrastructure and technology equipment	*"High-quality production."* Two (2) respondents noted that they were not impacted by funding.

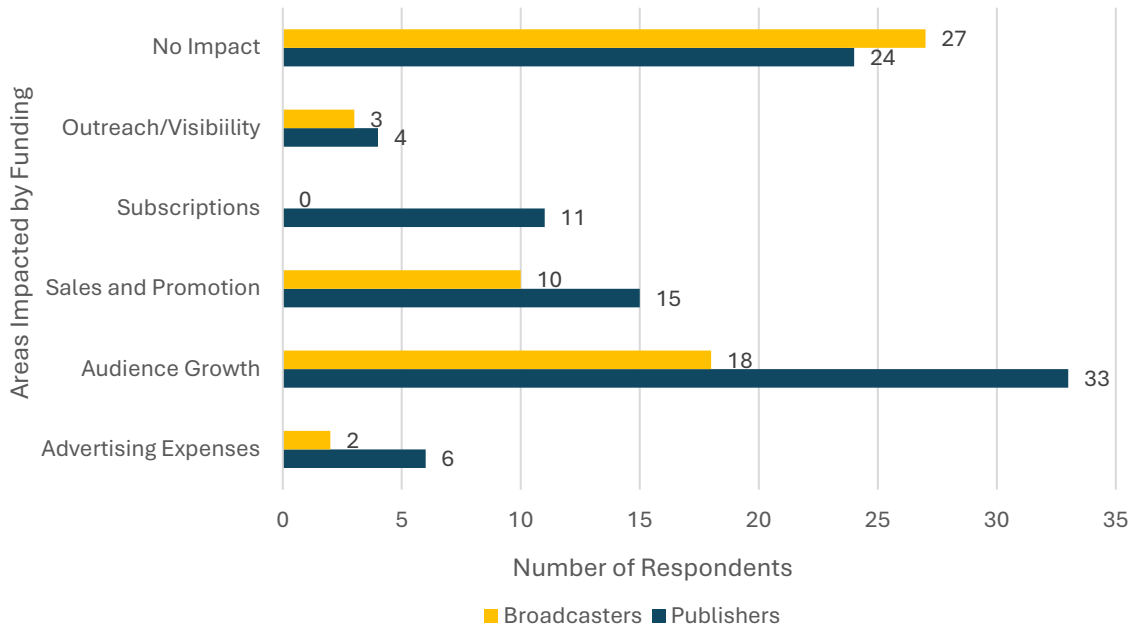
4. Sales and Promotion

Based on the information provided by 155 respondents (Chart 8), analysis found that funds received were spent on the following five (5) key areas, with related topics and/or information noted:

- advertising expenses;
- audience growth;
- sales and promotion (sales commissions);
- subscriptions; and
- outreach/visibility.

155 Respondents of
445 Funding Recipients

CHART 8



Comments from nine (9) respondents noted that funding was insufficient and limited, indicating that not enough funding was received to impact sales and promotion, as it only went so far and was used to support salaries.

The chart above provides an overall analysis of the impacts identified by respondents. The Act also requires an analysis of the impacts of the funding received by specific equity-deserving groups that produce news or operate specified outlets as identified in Section 86. The results noted below provide comparative results.

Other impacts

- Improved credibility
- Increased advertising revenue
- Allowed sponsorship of local events

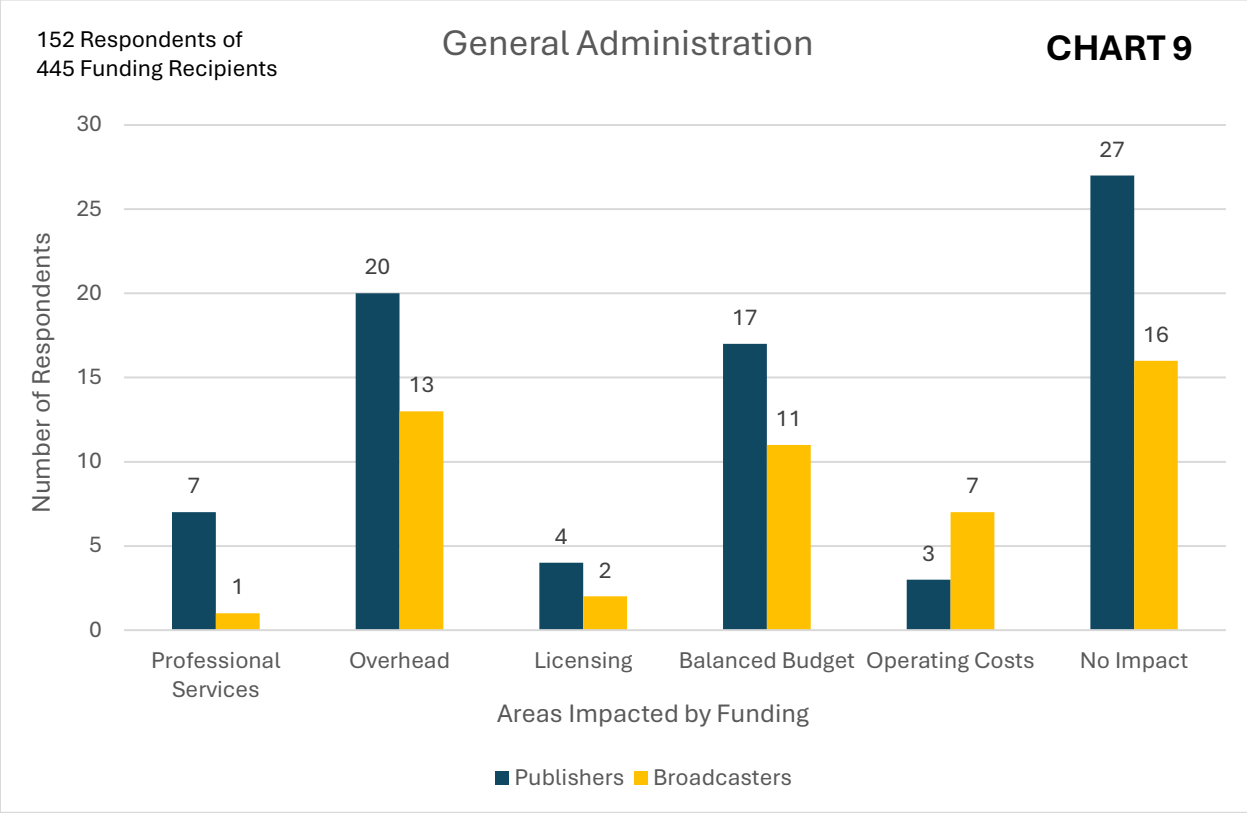
Analysis of Areas Impacted		
Outlet Type	**Areas Funded**	**Respondents' Comments - Impact of Funding Received**
Specific local or regional market	Consistent with the information noted in the chart above, funds were mainly spent on audience growth, followed by sales and promotion, and subscriptions.	*"Increased online sales."* *"Higher-quality products help drive sales."* *"No impact, because the funding offset part of the FNLI* (Fonds pour les nouvelles locales indépendantes or Independent Local News Fund [ILNF]) *loss."* *"The money only goes so far, so if using it toward staff wages it's definitely gone before we consider anything else."*

Analysis of Areas Impacted		
Outlet Type	**Areas Funded**	**Respondents' Comments - Impact of Funding Received**
		"Increase in charity giving." Forty-eight (48) respondents noted that they were not impacted by funding.
Primarily for Black or racialized communities		*"While the primary purpose of the funding was to support news production, the increased operational stability indirectly strengthened our ability to promote news content, maintain audience engagement, and reinforce public awareness of our programming and services."* Six (6) respondents noted that they were not impacted by funding
Official Language Minority Community (OLMC)	Audience growth, followed by sales and promotion, and outreach/visibility	*"We have also been able to invest in a new order entry system and Customer Management System."* *"The sales team felt an increase in energy when the news team was supported by the funding and when we did the distribution by Canada Post - the general public really responded positively, and that energized everyone at the papers."* 10 respondents noted that they were not impacted by funding.
Indigenous	Sales, followed by audience growth and advertising expenses	*"Quality of news keeps up the status quo."* Five (5) respondents noted that they were not impacted by funding.

5. General Administration

Based on the information provided by 152 respondents (Chart 9), analysis found that funds received were spent on the following five (5) key areas:

- professional services (freelance journalism);
- overhead expenses;
- licensing;
- balanced budget; and
- operating costs.



Feedback from eight (8) respondents noted that funding was insufficient, limited, and not enough to support administration expenses.

Other impacts

- Stabilized revenues
- Decreased stress
- Improved cash flow
- Allowed more financial flexibility

The chart above provides an overall analysis of the impacts identified by respondents. The Act also requires an analysis of the impacts of the funding received by specific equity deserving groups that produce news or operate specified outlets as identified in Section 86. The results noted below provide comparative results.

Analysis of Areas Impacted		
Outlet Type	**Areas Funded**	**Respondents' Comments - Impact of Funding Received**
Specific local or regional market	Consistent with the information noted in the chart above. Overhead, followed by balancing the budget and operating costs	*"The funding is sustaining our print product capability: we've reduced from weekly to bi-weekly in the past 1.5 years. Without this funding, we may cease to print."* *"More professional, better structure."* *"It would have a significant impact if there was more funding, but the amount was not enough to boost the general administration of our news business."*

Analysis of Areas Impacted		
Outlet Type	**Areas Funded**	**Respondents' Comments - Impact of Funding Received**
		Thirty-nine (39) respondents noted that they were not impacted by funding.
Primarily for Black or racialized communities	Balanced budget, followed by overhead and licensing	*"Administrative efficiency."* *"It has allowed news to be available."* Four (4) respondents noted that they were not impacted by funding.
Official Language Minority Community (OLMC)	Overhead, followed by balancing the budget and operating costs	*"Allowed us to cover more events on the ground."* *"Primarily went to salaries, the largest single expense."* *"The additional funding allowed us to find additional streams of funding that were lost due to the administration of the ONA."* Nine (9) respondents noted that they were not impacted by funding.
Indigenous	Licensing, followed by overhead and balancing the budget	*"Maintained our workforce despite having to find economies in other areas."* No instances in which the respondents indicated that they were not impacted by the funding.

Year 2 (2026)

This report provides details on the distribution of funding as noted below.

Distribution of Funds

For Year 2 (2026), the total available amount to be distributed to funding recipients was $102.5 million ($100 million adjusted for annual inflation of 2.5%). Unlike 2025, the CJC distributed the majority of the funds in a single payout which occurred during March and April 2026.

The chart below includes data as of August 19, 2026. At the time of drafting this report, the CJC has distributed a significant amount of the funds and is finalizing the distribution of the remaining funds. For updated information, please refer to CJC's list of news businesses that received funding in Year 2.

It should be noted that interest has been earned on the funds received from Google while awaiting distribution. It is expected that interest earned in Year 2 will be less than Year 1, given that in Year 2, the funds were distributed in a timelier manner; whereas in Year 1, funds were distributed in two (2) payouts beginning on a rolling basis in March and then in October 2025.

Allocation of the Distribution of Funds (as of August 19, 2026)			
Total Payout/ Number of Funding Recipients	**Publishers**	**Broadcasters** (30%)	**CBC/Radio Canada** (7%)
$102,544,410 [6]	$65,014,448	$30,504,029	$7,025,933
425	255	169	1

Appeals

The CJC changed its appeals process for Year 2 to be timelier and more transparent and established a framework to standardize the process. The CJC sent a Determination Letter in January 2026 to the applicants who were to receive compensation. Those who were deemed not able to share in the compensation were provided with a rationale for this outcome. Applicants were then given access to the portal on the CJC's website to apply for an appeal and invited to provide the necessary documents to support their appeal.

Appeals Outcome				
	Year 2		Year 1	
Deemed able to share in compensation	10	40%	22	54%
Deemed not able to share in compensation	15	60%	19	46%
Total	**25**	**100%**	**41**	**100%**

The CJC Council reviewed the supporting documents and met in March 2026 for the final determination and advised all applicants of its decisions.

[6] This includes the following: (i) $102.5 million that was available for distribution to news businesses, (ii) deduction of the CJC's 2% administrative expenses for Year 2; (iii) the carry-over of unspent amounts of the CJC's administrative expenses for Year 1 and any interest earned; and (iv) final adjustments following the newsroom employee verification process from Year 1.

If an adjustment resulted in a recovery of funds following the newsroom employee verification process, the funds were appropriately disbursed to either the Broadcaster or Publisher recipient group, depending on the source of the recovered amount.

Next Steps

The Commission will continue to administer the Act and respond as necessary, when appropriate.

The next annual independent auditor's report will be published in fall 2027. It will report on the 2026-2027 fiscal year, including the impact on news businesses from the funding received in Year 2 (2026). It will also include information on the CJC's ongoing efforts to standardize and improve its processes and update the program's framework based on feedback from news businesses.