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JUNE 2026

LOCAL NEWS MATTERS

Rethinking CBC/Radio-Canada's Role
in a Changing Media Landscape

Report of the Standing Senate Committee
on Transport and Communications

The Honourable David M. Wells, Chair
The Honourable Donna Dasko, Deputy Chair



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Acknowledgements

The committee would like to thank witnesses who shared their expertise with us. We would also like to acknowledge the contribution of the senators who were members of this committee in the previous Parliament and who were actively engaged in this study.

Summary

In 2024 and 2025, the Standing Senate Committee on Transport and Communications (the committee) examined the local services provided by CBC/Radio-Canada. Over 60 witnesses appeared at the committee's public hearings.

Witnesses shared their points of view on the current state of local services provided by CBC/Radio-Canada. They drew the committee's attention to the issues and challenges facing the Corporation, including:

- the challenge of reflecting local realities in a changing media ecosystem;
- the role of CBC/Radio-Canada's traditional and digital platforms in broadcasting local programming that reflects the communities they serve; and
- financial pressures.

The committee noted that CBC/Radio-Canada's legislative mandate does not mention that local audiences must be specifically targeted. Given the importance of local programming, and more specifically local news, the committee believes that CBC/Radio-Canada's mandate should explicitly mention it. Stable, multi-year funding should also be provided to the Corporation to strengthen local programming.

The committee noted that financial data of the local services provided by CBC/Radio-Canada are not publicly disclosed. After finding that the data is lacking in this area, the committee believes that more information is needed to identify where the needs are most urgent.

In addition, representatives from both community and private media outlets expressed their willingness to collaborate more with the national public broadcaster. The committee believes that this is a promising avenue that warrants further exploration.

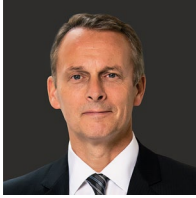
During the committee's public hearings, organizations representing official language minority communities (OLMC) sent a clear message about the essential role that CBC/Radio-Canada's regional and local stations play in the vitality of the communities they represent. Moreover, the committee recommends that the Corporation ensure that its investments in television production for OLMC clearly and equitably respect the principle of substantive equality.¹

¹ According to [Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat](#), substantive equality is achieved when one takes into account, where necessary, the differences in characteristics and circumstances of minority communities and provides services with distinct content or using a different method of delivery to

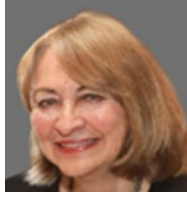
Lastly, the committee recommends that CBC/Radio-Canada's journalism operations be subject to regular oversight to ensure impartiality and balanced reporting.

ensure that the minority receives services of the same quality as the majority. This approach is the norm in Canadian law.

The Committee Membership



The Honourable
David M. Wells
Chair



The Honourable
Donna Dasko
Deputy Chair

The Honourable Senators



Dawn Arnold



Réjean Aucoin



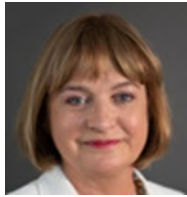
René Cormier



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Paula Simons



Duncan Wilson

Ex officio members of the committee:

The Honourable Pierre Moreau, P.C., or the Honourable Patti LaBoucane-Benson
The Honourable Leo Housakos or the Honourable Yonah Martin
The Honourable Raymonde Saint-Germain or the Honourable Bernadette Clement
(until December 31, 2025)
The Honourable Lucie Moncion or the Honourable Joan Kingston *(since
January 1, 2026)*
The Honourable Scott Tannas or the Honourable Rebecca Patterson *(until
January 4, 2026)*
The Honourable Flordeliz (Gigi) Osler or the Honourable Robert Black *(since
January 5, 2026)*
The Honourable Brian Francis or the Honourable Judy A. White

Other senators who have participated in the study:

The Honourable Andrew Cardozo
The Honourable Bernadette Clement
The Honourable Rodger Cuzner
The Honourable Percy E. Downe
The Honourable Daryl S. Fridhandler
The Honourable Clément Gignac
The Honourable Katherine Hay
The Honourable Leo Housakos
The Honourable Tracy Muggli
The Honourable Flordeliz (Gigi) Osler
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Peniel Negre, Administrative Assistant

Senate Communications Directorate:

Chelsea DeFazio, Communications Officer

Orders of Reference

First Session of the Forty-fifth Parliament

Extract from the *Journals of the Senate* of Wednesday, September 24, 2025:

The Honourable Senator Smith moved, seconded by the Honourable Senator Martin:

That the Standing Senate Committee on Transport and Communications be authorized to examine and report on the local services provided by the CBC/Radio-Canada;

That the papers and evidence received and taken and work accomplished by the Standing Senate Committee on Transport and Communications during the First Session of the Forty-fourth Parliament as part of its study of issues related to transport and communications generally be referred to the committee;

That the committee submit its final report to the Senate no later than June 26, 2026, and that the committee retain all powers necessary to publicize its findings for 180 days after the tabling of the final report; and

That the committee be permitted, notwithstanding usual practices, to deposit its reports on this study with the Clerk of the Senate if the Senate is not then sitting, and that the reports be deemed to have been tabled in the Senate.

The question being put on the motion, it was adopted.

Shaila Anwar

Clerk of the Senate

Orders of Reference

First Session of the Forty-fourth Parliament

Extract from the *Journals of the Senate* of Thursday, February 10, 2022:

The Honourable Senator Miville-Dechéne moved, for the Honourable Senator Housakos, seconded by the Honourable Senator Dean:

That the Standing Senate Committee on Transport and Communications be authorized to examine and report on matters relating to transport and communications generally, including:

- a) transport and communications by any means;
- b) tourist traffic;
- c) common carriers; and
- d) navigation, shipping and navigable waters; and

That the committee submit its final report no later than September 30, 2025, and that the committee retain all powers necessary to publicize its findings for 180 days after the tabling of the final report.

The question being put on the motion, it was adopted.

Gérald Lafrenière

Interim Clerk of the Senate

Background

The Standing Senate Committee on Transport and Communications (the committee or TRCM) is publishing this report on the local services provided by CBC/Radio-Canada (the Corporation). This study took place during the 1st Session of the 44th Parliament. The committee heard approximately 60 witnesses over the course of 10 meetings held between October 22 and December 11, 2024. The committee did not submit a final report due to the dissolution of Parliament in March 2025. On September 24, 2025, a [motion](#) was adopted by the Senate of Canada authorizing the committee to examine and report on the local services provided by the CBC/Radio-Canada.

On October 21, 2025, the committee concluded its study with testimony from Marie-Philippe Bouchard, President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Corporation. In addition, 30 briefs were submitted to the committee.

In this document, the terms “CBC/Radio-Canada,” “Corporation,” “Canadian Broadcasting Corporation,” CBC/SRC and “national public broadcaster” refer to the entire organization. The term “CBC” refers to the English-language arm of the Corporation and “Radio-Canada” refers to its French-language arm.

Local Media in a Changing Media Ecosystem

Local media is an important source of information for communities across Canada. It includes television and radio services, as well as newspapers that reflect local realities through conventional and digital platforms.

Local media is at the forefront of major transformations reshaping Canada’s news sector. The decline in print newspaper subscriptions and the shift of advertising revenue toward online platforms have contributed to the progressive collapse of the business model of traditional media (television, radio and print newspapers). The assessment shared by the vast majority of witnesses who participated in this study is clear: Canada’s media industry is experiencing a major crisis.

According to Marla Boltman, Executive Director of Friends of Canadian Media, “[local news] is in crisis.”² This view was echoed by representatives from World

² TRCM, Marla Boltman, Executive Director, Friends of Canadian Media, [October 30, 2024](#). Unless otherwise specified, all testimony is drawn from the meetings held by the Standing Senate Committee on Transport and Communications.

Press Freedom Canada,³ the Syndicat des travailleuses et travailleurs de Radio-Canada,⁴ and government officials.

During her testimony, April Lindgren, journalism professor at Toronto Metropolitan University School of Journalism, used concrete examples to explain the impacts of the media crisis at the local level. According to data collected by the [Local News Research Project](#) led by Professor Lindgren, numerous local media outlets have closed their doors or reduced their services since 2008:

... 521 local news outlets have closed in 347 communities across Canada since 2008. Now, three quarters of those were community newspapers that published fewer than five times a week, but in the last 18 months or so, broadcast news is also taking a hit. We've had CBC and Global cancelling local newscasts and shutting down radio stations. When I checked recently, 37 local radio stations have closed since 2008, but fully a third, about 11 of them, have happened in just the last 18 months, to that earlier point I was making. Now, of course, local news outlets have also opened since 2008, but only about half as many have opened as have closed, so there's been a net loss.⁵

According to Professor Lindgren, small communities are the most affected by the decline in media covering local news. This media crisis is creating “news deserts,” Professor Lindgren explained. News deserts are defined as follows:

Communities where citizens do not have access to journalistic information about community issues and institutions because there are no daily or community newspapers and other media (for example, community radio or television).⁶

In response to this crisis, the government has taken measures to support local, independent and reliable news. These measures include fiscal support such as the

³ TRCM, Heather Bakken, President, World Press Freedom Canada, As an individual, [November 19, 2024](#).

⁴ TRCM, Pierre Tousignant, President, Syndicat des travailleuses et travailleurs de Radio-Canada. [November 6, 2024](#).

⁵ TRCM, April Lindgren, Professor, School of Journalism, Toronto Metropolitan University, As an individual, [October 30, 2024](#).

⁶ Department of Canadian Heritage, [Glossary of terms—Local Journalism Initiative](#).

Canadian journalism labour tax credit, the digital news subscription tax credit and the Local Journalism Initiative.

Over the course of her career, Jen Gerson, an independent journalist with The Line, has observed an increase in these news deserts and a shrinking of “coverage areas.”⁷ For its part, the Syndicat des travailleuses et travailleurs de Radio-Canada is working with other organizations to fight “against the information deserts.”⁸

This media crisis and the emergence of news deserts are contributing to a decline in the diversity of voices essential to the proper functioning of democratic institutions at the municipal level. According to Richard Stursberg, former Executive Vice President of CBC’s English Services, inadequate coverage of municipal politics causes “participation in municipal elections”⁹ to fall and corruption to increase. Kim Trynacity, a journalism instructor at MacEwan University and former CBC Edmonton journalist, is also of the view that “there’s no oversight”¹⁰ with municipal politics if there is no local media.

Witnesses stated that CBC/Radio-Canada’s services were vital to supporting the democratic life of Canadians. According to former CBC/Radio-Canada broadcast journalist Terry Seguin, the Corporation has an important role to play in ensuring the proper functioning of democracy at the municipal level:

Maybe, when we’re giving money to the CBC, we say, “What’s really important is your local news production; you need to cover local news, local politics and provincial politics,” because that, I think, is quite important to our democracy.¹¹

It is within this context that the majority of witnesses stressed the importance of CBC/Radio-Canada maintaining and strengthening a local and regional presence. The closure and downsizing of numerous local media outlets requires a strong presence from the national public broadcaster. According to Joëlle Montminy, Senior Assistant Deputy Minister of Cultural Affairs at the Department of Canadian

⁷ TRCM, Jen Gerson, Independent Journalist, The Line, As an individual, [November 26, 2024](#).

⁸ TRCM, Pierre Tousignant, President, Syndicat des travailleuses et travailleurs de Radio-Canada. [November 6, 2024](#).

⁹ TRCM, Richard Stursberg, Chief Executive Officer, Aljess, As an individual, [December 3, 2024](#).

¹⁰ TRCM, Kim Trynacity, journalism instructor, MacEwan University, As an individual, [December 3, 2024](#).

¹¹ TRCM, Terry Seguin, former CBC senior broadcast journalist, As an individual, [November 5, 2024](#).

Heritage, CBC/Radio-Canada's presence in certain regions has become vital as "many of these markets would become news deserts."¹²

CBC/Radio-Canada's Mandate: General Considerations

CBC/Radio-Canada was created as a corporation in 1936 to counter the cultural influence of foreign programming as United States-based radio networks expanded rapidly into Canada. Former CBC executive Sue Gardner explained that other democracies around the world have established public service media, highlighting Canada's unique position in North America:

Almost every democratic country has a public media organization, and they were all created in the 20th century, in the 30s, 40s and 50s, with the same motivation. The idea was that the market would not provide everything that was needed, especially in a country like Canada, with a tiny population and two languages, spread thinly across the country. The idea was that you needed to have somebody whose mandate was to tell the stories and reflect people to each other. Otherwise, it wasn't going to happen. In this country, we would just drown in American content. That's why the thing was made.¹³

CBC/Radio-Canada's 2025-2030 Strategy explicitly states that "CBC/Radio-Canada is an essential national public service media organization that serves and listens to the people across Canada." During her testimony, CBC/Radio-Canada President and CEO Marie-Philippe Bouchard stated that the Corporation must act "as an essential public service" while remaining independent from government. However, in response to a question, Ms. Bouchard was evasive about the need to formally designate CBC/Radio-Canada as an essential service:

¹² TRCM, Joëlle Montminy, Senior Assistant Deputy Minister, Cultural Affairs, Canadian Heritage, [October 23, 2024](#).

¹³ TRCM, Sue Gardner, former CBC executive, As an individual, [November 19, 2024](#).

I have to give some thought to it. I have always felt that the way the Broadcasting Act was drafted, our responsibility among a diversified broadcasting system set a very special place for us, with a very special responsibility. It ensures our independence from government, which is important for our credibility and our relationship with Canadians.¹⁴

CBC/Radio-Canada's mandate is to provide "radio and television services incorporating a wide range of programming that informs, enlightens and entertains."¹⁵ Paragraph 3(1)(m) of the *Broadcasting Act* sets out more specific objectives that are reflected in the conditions of licence that the CRTC imposes when renewing the Corporation's licences.

Representatives of the Department of Canadian Heritage¹⁶ and CBC/Radio-Canada acknowledge that the Corporation's mandate is "very broad"¹⁷ and that in carrying it out, the Corporation must serve the needs and interests of a diverse population spread over a vast country.

For example, Ms. Montminy of the Department of Canadian Heritage mentioned the "key role"¹⁸ the Corporation plays "in promoting cultural expression, bilingualism and national identity."¹⁹ For Friends of Canadian Media, it is clear that the national public broadcaster must be designated as an essential service, "especially in areas where other local media have disappeared."²⁰

In January 2020, the Broadcasting and Telecommunications Legislative Review Panel (Yale Report) recommended amending the Corporation's mandate to add the following elements: reflecting local communities and audiences, and providing national, regional, and local news.²¹

¹⁴ TRCM, Marie-Philippe Bouchard, President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, [October 21, 2025](#).

¹⁵ [Broadcasting Act](#), S.C. 1991, c. 11, para. 3(1)(l).

¹⁶ TRCM, Joëlle Montminy, Senior Assistant Deputy Minister, Cultural Affairs, Canadian Heritage, [October 23, 2024](#).

¹⁷ TRCM, Bev Kirshenblatt, Executive Director, Corporate and Regulatory Affairs, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, [October 21, 2024](#).

¹⁸ TRCM, Joëlle Montminy, Senior Assistant Deputy Minister, Cultural Affairs, Canadian Heritage, [October 23, 2024](#).

¹⁹ *Ibid.*

²⁰ TRCM, Marla Boltman, Executive Director, Friends of Canadian Media, [October 30, 2024](#).

²¹ Broadcasting and Telecommunications Legislative Review Panel, [Canada's communications future: Time to act](#), January 2020. See recommendation 80.

During this study, some witnesses stressed that a revision of CBC/Radio-Canada’s mandate was necessary.

For Sue Gardner, former CBC executive, CBC/Radio-Canada’s digital services are not adequately reflected in the current mandate. According to Ms. Gardner, the Corporation “is drowning in unfunded mandates.”²² Mr. Stursberg of Aljess made a similar point. The former Executive Vice President of CBC’s English services argued that the Corporation is expected to deliver a multitude of services without being given clear direction on “how to focus its efforts.”²³ To address the situation, Mr. Stursberg proposed negotiating a new contract with CBC/Radio-Canada, modelled on the BBC in the United Kingdom:

In Britain, the BBC is subjected to a Royal Charter that defines its role over 10 years and the financing to discharge it. It is a contract negotiated between the government and the BBC to provide it with clear direction and stable funding. At the end of the seventh year of the 10-year contract, a process begins to define the next Royal Charter. It involves submissions by interested parties and public hearings. On the basis of these, the government and the BBC agree the next 10 years.²⁴

Professor Christopher Waddell of Carleton University is also of the view that “today’s media environment,” in which public service media operates, requires “a radical rethink”²⁵ of the Corporation’s mandate. David Clinton, Publisher of The Audit, shares this view:

The CBC should and perhaps could step back and take a look at everything they do and decide to focus on what they do well and what is successful. Parts of the CBC’s Broadcasting Act mandate are very old.²⁶

Friends of Canadian Media expressed concern that the Corporation’s mandate “mentions regions only, not local broadcasting.”²⁷ Its representatives made the

²² TRCM, Sue Gardner, former CBC executive, As an individual, [November 19, 2024](#).

²³ TRCM, Richard Stursberg, Chief Executive Officer, Aljess, As an individual, [December 3, 2024](#).

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ TRCM, Christopher Waddell, Professor Emeritus, School of Journalism and Communication, Carleton University, As an individual, [November 6, 2024](#).

²⁶ TRCM, David Clinton, Publisher, The Audit, [November 19, 2024](#).

²⁷ TRCM, Sarah Andrews, Director, Government and Media Relations, Friends of Canadian Media, [October 30, 2024](#).

following recommendation: “the CBC/Radio-Canada mandate must be updated to ensure that local news is correctly prioritized.”²⁸

According to Ms. Gerson of The Line, the number of CBC/Radio-Canada journalists assigned to local news should be determined based on the number of people the Corporation serves:

*If we’re expecting the CBC to cover local news, well, okay, do you need one reporter per 100,000 people, per 25,000 people? Put that into the mandate. Make it explicit, make it unavoidable, and then build a budget up from that mandate.*²⁹

The Canadian Association of Broadcasters is of the opinion that the role assigned to CBC/Radio-Canada in the *Broadcasting Act* is broadly recognized. According to the president Kevin Desjardins, the Corporation should instead play a complementary role to private broadcasters.

CBC/Radio-Canada’s Mandate and Its Local and Regional Services

The *Broadcasting Act* states that CBC/Radio-Canada must provide programming in both official languages that reflects “Canada and its regions to national and regional audiences, while serving the special needs of those regions.”³⁰ Nowhere does it state, however, that local audiences should be specifically targeted, nor does it insist that there be particular levels of programming provided at a regional or local level. In short, the Corporation’s mandate for local and regional audiences is left open for interpretation.

CBC/Radio-Canada fulfills this responsibility through its 27 television stations, its 88 radio stations and its digital platforms. It should be noted that the licensing conditions imposed by the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (the CRTC or the Commission) set out specific obligations regarding local programming.

On June 22, 2022, the CRTC renewed CBC/Radio-Canada’s programming licences for five years, from September 1, 2022, to August 31, 2027. In summary, the CRTC maintained “certain requirements relating to minimum thresholds for local programming in Canada’s non-metropolitan areas” and eliminated “such

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ TRCM, Jen Gerson, Independent Journalist, The Line, As an individual, [November 26, 2024](#).

³⁰ [Broadcasting Act](#), S.C. 1991, c. 11, subpara. 3(1)(m)(ii).

requirements in metropolitan markets.”³¹ The summary of the requirements for local audio and audiovisual programming are provided in Appendix A of this report.

After the CRTC issued its decision, the Governor in Council received 16 petitions calling for the decision to be set aside or referred back to the CRTC for reconsideration and hearing. The majority of the petitions were submitted by associations, unions and guilds from within the production sector and creative community.³² The main issues raised in these petitions revolve around several main areas of concern, namely, the elimination of many exhibition-based conditions of licence in favour of expenditure requirements, expectations, the monitoring obligations for different categories of programming and the flexibility for the Corporation to allocate resources between its traditional and online services. On September 16, 2022, the Government of Canada issued an [Order in Council](#) directing the CRTC to reconsider its June 2022 decision, particularly with respect to “the creation, presentation, and dissemination of local news.”³³ The CRTC has not issued a decision to date.

CBC/Radio-Canada Funding

CBC/Radio-Canada receives funding through appropriations approved annually by the Parliament of Canada, as well as commercial revenues from three sources: advertising revenue, subscriber fees and other income.³⁴ In 2024-2025, these financial resources were distributed as follows:

- Government appropriations for operating and capital expenditures and working capital (\$1,407.4 million).
- Advertising revenue (\$343.9 million).
- Subscriber fees and other income (\$244.8 million).

³¹ Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC), [Broadcasting Decision CRTC 2022-165 and Broadcasting Orders CRTC 2022-166 and 2022-167](#), June 22, 2022, Introduction. Metropolitan television markets are those television markets in which the population with a knowledge of the official language of the station (i.e., English or French) is one million or more. Non-metropolitan markets are those television markets in which the population with a knowledge of the official language of the station is less than one million.

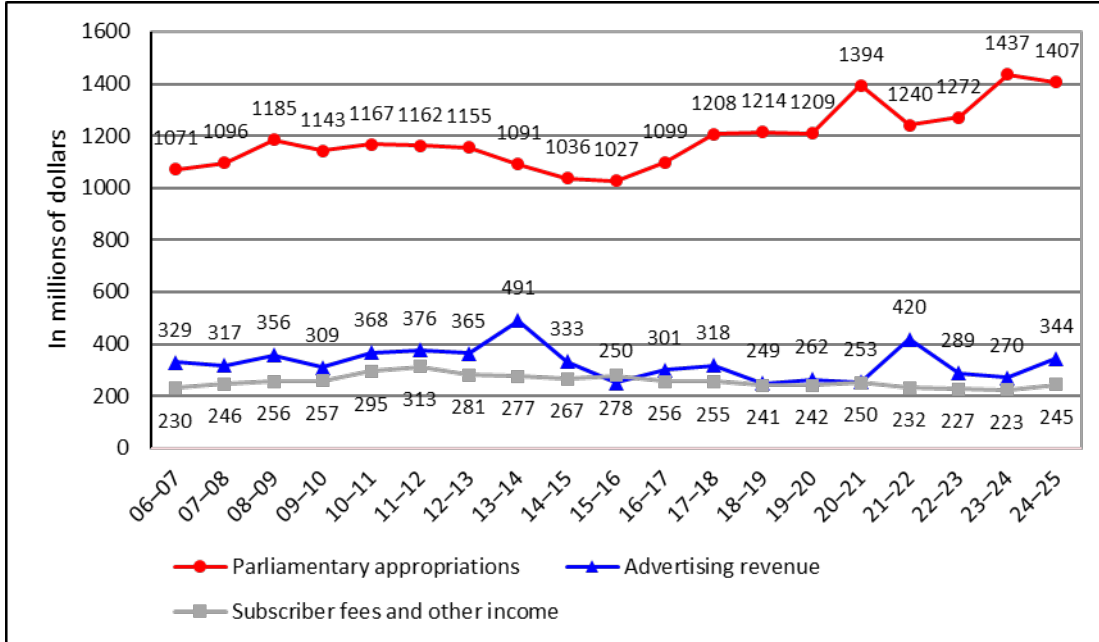
³² These include the Canadian Media Producers Association, the Canadian Association of Broadcasters, the Public Interest Advocacy Centre, the National Pensioners Federation, the Black Screen Office, the Directors Guild of Canada, the Friends of Canadian Media, the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications du Québec and the Association québécoise de la production médiatique.

³³ Privy Council Office, [Order in Council 2022-0995](#), September 16, 2022.

³⁴ Other income from the rental of real estate assets, programming sales and leasing of space at transmission sites.

Figure 1 shows the change in these financial resources since fiscal year 2006-2007.

Figure 1 — Parliamentary appropriations, advertising revenue and other income including subscriber fees, CBC/Radio-Canada, 2006-2007 to 2024-2025 (in \$ millions)



Source: CBC/Radio-Canada, Annual Reports (corresponding years). Figure prepared by the Library of Parliament.

Government funding for CBC/Radio-Canada has fluctuated over the past 15 years. Federal Budget 2012 reduced the Corporation’s annual parliamentary appropriation by \$115 million over three years. Between 2016 and 2021, the Government of Canada invested \$675 million over five years “to disseminate and support world-class Canadian content and to provide Canadians with better access to programs and services in the digital era.”³⁵ More recently, in November 2025, [Budget 2025](#) announced the federal government’s intention to allocate \$150 million in new funding to CBC/Radio-Canada “to strengthen its mandate to serve the public and to better reflect the needs of Canadians.”³⁶

Financial information on the main categories of CBC/Radio-Canada revenues and expenditures can be examined in the Corporation’s annual reports. It is difficult, however, to subdivide broad categories into more precise subcategories such as revenues and expenditures of local services and digital platforms. This point was raised by David Clinton, publisher of *The Audit*, as part of this study: “the data that

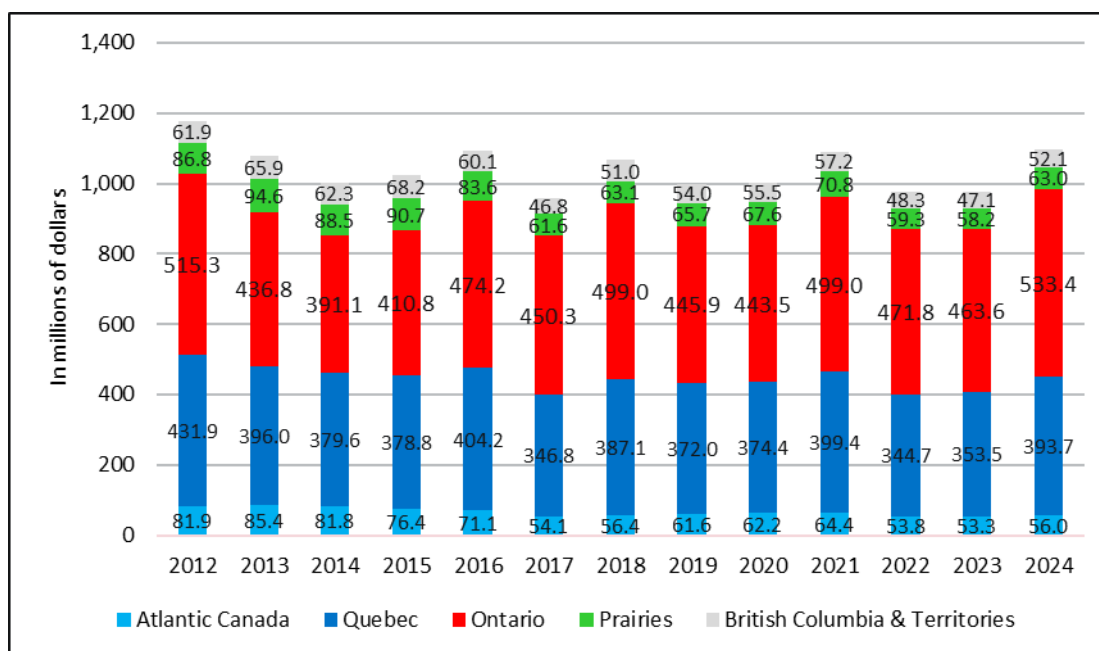
³⁵ Government of Canada, *Growing the Middle Class*, Budget 2016, p. 185.

³⁶ Government of Canada, *Canada Strong. Budget 2025*, p. 172.

the CBC and the CRTC provide about their spending don't break out local and national line items all that well.”³⁷

The CRTC’s Statistical and Financial Summaries and Annual Aggregate Returns provide partial data on CBC/Radio-Canada’s revenues and spending for five regions: Atlantic Canada, Quebec, Ontario, British Columbia and Territories and the Prairies. Figure 2 shows that Quebec and Ontario accounted for more than 75% of parliamentary appropriations for CBC/Radio-Canada’s conventional television and radio services between 2012 and 2024. The Atlantic and Prairie regions, as well as the British Columbia and Territories region, share between 16% and 23% of public funding for the same period. The higher proportion of parliamentary appropriations in Quebec and Ontario can be explained by the fact that the Corporation’s head office is located in Ottawa and the two main networks are based in Toronto (English) and Montreal (French). Note that Figure 2 does not include financial data for CBC/Radio-Canada's digital services.

Figure 2 — Parliamentary appropriation for conventional television and radio services of CBC/SRC, per region, 2012 to 2024 (in \$ millions)



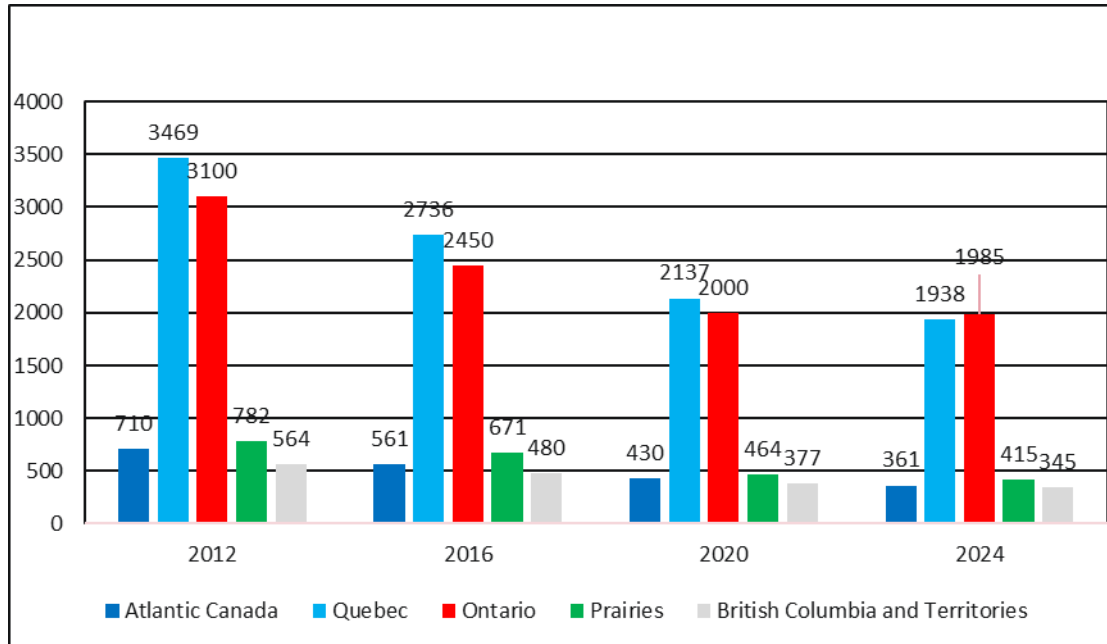
Note: The data provided by CBC/Radio-Canada to the CRTC is based on the broadcast fiscal year, which runs from September 1 to August 31, and not on the government’s fiscal year, April 1 to March 31.

Source: Figure prepared by the Library of Parliament using data obtained from Government of Canada, Statistical and Financial Summaries, [radio](#) and [conventional television](#) (corresponding years).

³⁷ TRCM, David Clinton, Publisher, The Audit, [November 19, 2024](#).

Several witnesses stated that the lack of funding and successive cutbacks at CBC/Radio-Canada have had a greater impact on its local and regional services. These cuts have forced the Corporation to reduce its workforce and regional programming. Figure 3 below shows the decrease in the number of employees of CBC/Radio-Canada in five regions in 2012, 2016, 2020 and 2024. Between 2012 and 2024, there was a substantial decrease of 3,581 employees.

Figure 3 — Number of employees of CBC/Radio-Canada per region, 2012, 2016, 2020 and 2024 (Conventional television and radio services of CBC/SRC)



Source: Figure prepared by the Library of Parliament using data obtained from Government of Canada, Statistical and Financial Summaries, [radio](#) and [conventional television](#), (corresponding years).

Friends of Canadian Media recommended that CBC/Radio-Canada’s local news production and distribution “be properly funded”³⁸ and that the Corporation’s mandate be “updated”³⁹ to ensure that local news is prioritized. Representatives of this organization also recommended establishing “a minimum expenditure”⁴⁰ on local news as part of CBC/Radio-Canada’s licence conditions:

³⁸ TRCM, Sarah Andrews, Director, Government and Media Relations, Friends of Canadian Media, [October 30, 2024](#).

³⁹ Ibid.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

*The problem we're raising as an organization is that the current conditions do not require a minimum expenditure from CBC/Radio-Canada on local news. This was newly included by the CRTC in the latest licences, and it's the reason we appealed to cabinet for the CRTC to review the decision.*⁴¹

Pierre Tousignant, President of the Syndicat des travailleuses et travailleurs de Radio-Canada, agreed that the CRTC must review the licence conditions for Radio-Canada's French-language services "to force a more equitable distribution of budgets to the benefit of the regions."⁴²

Kevin Desjardins of the Canadian Association of Broadcasters said that CBC/Radio-Canada should direct its parliamentary appropriations "towards local news"⁴³ and less toward variety programming that generates advertising revenue. According to Mr. Desjardins, "You get them out of the advertising game, and they can then focus on their mandate."⁴⁴

Annick R. Forest, President of the Canadian Media Guild, argued that the Corporation requires stable, long-term funding that would allow it to "put more journalists and the equipment they need in more communities across the country."⁴⁵

According to former CBC broadcast journalist Terry Seguin, "there is an imbalance in the resources in the bigger centres versus the resources available in the regions, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island."⁴⁶

Representatives of organizations representing OLMC unanimously called on CBC/Radio-Canada to increase the budgets allocated to its local and regional services. As Marie-Nicole Dubois, Chair of the Fédération des francophones de la Colombie-Britannique, stated:

⁴¹ Ibid.

⁴² TRCM, Pierre Tousignant, President, Syndicat des travailleuses et travailleurs de Radio-Canada, [November 6, 2024](#).

⁴³ TRCM, Kevin Desjardins, President, Canadian Association of Broadcasters, [October 30, 2024](#).

⁴⁴ Ibid.

⁴⁵ TRCM, Annick R. Forest, President, Canadian Media Guild, [November 19, 2024](#).

⁴⁶ TRCM, Terry Seguin, former CBC senior broadcast journalist, As an individual, [November 5, 2024](#).

The Crown corporation is one of the pillars underpinning Canada's official languages policy. It is important that it be given the resources required to fulfill its mandate and reflect the various regions.⁴⁷

It should be noted that opinions differ regarding allocating more financial resources to CBC/Radio-Canada. According to David Clinton, publisher of The Audit, “some big systemic problems ... some external, can't be solved by more funding.”⁴⁸ Former CBC executive Sue Gardner also urged the committee to exercise caution before recommending that more money be invested in local services. According to Ms. Gardner, the Corporation must first consider the relevance of offering certain services:

A lot of people have come here — I think pretty much unanimously — and said that the CBC should invest in local; local is important. My instinct is to agree with that ... But I want to also urge some caution. The reason for that is because everybody is always very happy to add to the CBC's task list, but nobody ever wants to take anything away, so the CBC is drowning in unfunded mandates.⁴⁹

CBC/Radio-Canada Commercial Revenue

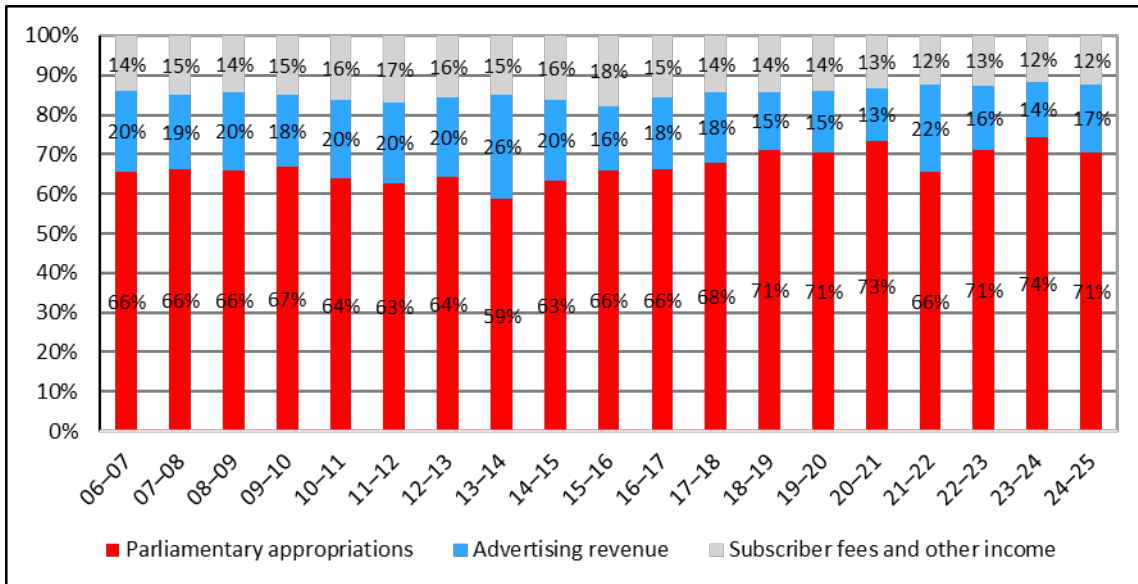
CBC/Radio-Canada generates commercial revenue through ongoing sales of advertising, subscriptions to its specialty services and other income (rental of real estate assets, content sales, leasing of space at transmission sites, etc.) Figure 4 shows that the proportion of advertising revenue generated by the Corporation has varied between 13% and 26% over the past 19 years.

⁴⁷ TRCM, Marie-Nicole Dubois, Chair of the Board of Directors, Fédération des francophones de la Colombie-Britannique, [November 20, 2024](#).

⁴⁸ TRCM, David Clinton, Publisher, The Audit, [November 19, 2024](#).

⁴⁹ TRCM, Sue Gardner, former CBC executive, As an individual, [November 19, 2024](#).

Figure 4 — Percentage of CBC/Radio-Canada’s parliamentary appropriations, advertising revenue and other income, 2006-2007 to 2024-2025 (in \$ millions)



Source: Figure prepared by the Library of Parliament using data obtained from CBC/Radio-Canada annual reports (corresponding years).

The fact that CBC/Radio-Canada generates revenue from the sale of advertising on its various platforms is viewed as a problem by some witnesses. For example, according to the Canadian Association of Broadcasters, CBC/Radio-Canada’s presence creates unfair competition for other private broadcasters by having:

A significant entrant for whom advertising dollars are a secondary revenue stream. Advertising dollars are the lifeblood for private broadcasters, and any ad dollars intended for broadcasting platforms that go to the CBC/Radio-Canada only serve to squeeze the shrinking TV and radio portion of the larger advertising pie.⁵⁰

The Canadian Association of Broadcasters is of the opinion that CBC/Radio-Canada competes with private broadcasters not only for advertising revenue, but also for “programming rights and for talent.”⁵¹ According to its President, Kevin Desjardins, the public broadcaster’s presence in these three areas “only serves to distract the CBC from their public service mandate.”⁵² The Canadian Media Guild agrees that

⁵⁰ TRCM, Kevin Desjardins, President, Canadian Association of Broadcasters, [October 30, 2024](#).

⁵¹ Ibid.

⁵² Ibid.

CBC/Radio-Canada should not be “in competition with the privates”⁵³ for advertising revenue.

For former CBC executive Sue Gardner, CBC/Radio-Canada’s presence in the advertising market pulls it away from “its public service mission.”⁵⁴ Similarly, Heather Bakken of World Press Freedom Canada believes that CBC/Radio-Canada must “get out of advertising”⁵⁵ in order to return to its mandate as a public broadcaster. For his part, Professor Waddell of Carleton University stated that “chasing advertising revenue distorts”⁵⁶ the Corporation’s programming and editorial philosophy decisions.

Other witnesses took a more nuanced position on the issue. Chris Pearson, President of the Acadia Broadcasting Corporation, does not believe that his company is competing with CBC/Radio-Canada “for advertising revenues”⁵⁷ on its conventional platforms. In Mr. Pearson’s view, the fact that the Government of Canada spends “more than 71% of its advertising budget on digital advertising”⁵⁸ on foreign platforms is more problematic.

For context, a recent study published by Nordicity Group estimates that the loss of all of the Corporation’s commercial revenues “would create an annual funding gap of \$200–300 million.”⁵⁹ Specifically, eliminating advertising on CBC/Radio-Canada would result in a \$204.9 million annual drop in Canadian programming expenditures and would require additional costs “of filling on-air ad time.”⁶⁰

According to CBC/Radio-Canada President and CEO Marie-Philippe Bouchard, a potential withdrawal of CBC/Radio-Canada from the advertising market “may not translate”⁶¹ into more advertising sold by other Canadian media outlets. Eliminating advertising from CBC/Radio-Canada could result in an exodus of advertising spending to digital platforms and websites controlled by foreign interests, according to the study by Nordicity Group.

⁵³ TRCM, Annick R. Forest, President, Canadian Media Guild, [November 19, 2024](#).

⁵⁴ TRCM, Sue Gardner, former CBC executive, As an individual, [November 19, 2024](#).

⁵⁵ TRCM, Heather Bakken, President, World Press Freedom Canada, As an individual, [November 19, 2024](#).

⁵⁶ TRCM, Christopher Waddell, Professor Emeritus, School of Journalism and Communication, Carleton University, As an individual, [November 6, 2024](#).

⁵⁷ TRCM, Chris Pearson, President, Acadia Broadcasting Corporation, [November 5, 2024](#).

⁵⁸ Ibid.

⁵⁹ CBC/Radio-Canada, [Public Purpose in a Digital Future](#), October 2, 2024, p. 95.

⁶⁰ Nordicity Group, [The Case for Advertising on CBC/Radio-Canada](#), July 2024, p. 38.

⁶¹ TRCM, Marie-Philippe Bouchard, President and CEO, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, [October 21, 2025](#).

Defunding CBC's English Services

Some witnesses commented on the possible elimination of CBC's English services. They echoed the hearings of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage, which, in the fall of 2024, conducted a study on the potential consequences of eliminating funding for CBC and Radio-Canada. That study was in response to an [order of reference](#) adopted by the House of Commons on October 29, 2024. The possibility that funding for one of CBC/Radio-Canada's two services might be eliminated prompted strong reactions from some witnesses during the TRCM study.

Two separate divisions are responsible for CBC/Radio-Canada's programming activities: Société Radio-Canada's French services (SRC's French services) and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's English services (CBC's English services). The two entities share human, technical and real estate resources. CBC/Radio-Canada President and CEO, Marie-Philippe Bouchard, confirmed to the committee that the two services were highly integrated:

If you go to Moncton, Vancouver or Edmonton, you will find that teams are working on assignments together, and they share information about what stories are being covered. They all have different objectives, because they have different audiences to whom they are speaking. However, often, especially in French-language minority communities, it's a blend because people watch both the CBC and Radio-Canada. We try to complement between the two services the variety and diversity of news content they will get.⁶²

For Mr. Tousignant of the Syndicat des travailleuses et travailleurs de Radio-Canada, defunding CBC's English service would "undermine the French-language network, especially in minority communities outside Quebec."⁶³ This view was shared by the mayor of Gaspé, Daniel Côté,⁶⁴ as well as representatives of the Fédération des télévisions communautaires autonomes du Québec⁶⁵ and the Canadian Media Guild.⁶⁶

⁶² Ibid.

⁶³ TRCM, Pierre Tousignant, President, Syndicat des travailleuses et travailleurs de Radio-Canada, [November 6, 2024](#).

⁶⁴ TRCM, Daniel Côté, Mayor, City of Gaspé, [November 6, 2024](#).

⁶⁵ TRCM, Amélie Hinse, Executive Director, Fédération des télévisions communautaires autonomes du Québec, [November 6, 2024](#).

⁶⁶ TRCM, Annick R. Forest, President, Canadian Media Guild, [November 19, 2024](#).

Organizations representing OLMC also expressed concerns about the possible elimination of CBC’s English services. Representatives from the Fédération des francophones de la Colombie-Britannique,⁶⁷ the Assemblée communautaire fransaskoise,⁶⁸ the Société Nationale de l’Acadie,⁶⁹ the Alliance des producteurs francophones du Canada,⁷⁰ the Société de la francophonie manitobaine⁷¹, the Quebec Community Groups Network⁷² and the English Language Arts Network⁷³ pointed out that the two services are integrated and that shutting down CBC’s English service would have lasting negative impacts on OLMC.

Other witnesses questioned the legality of such a decision. Representatives of the Assemblée de la francophonie de l’Ontario,⁷⁴ the Association franco-yukonnaise⁷⁵ and the Quebec English-Language Production Council⁷⁶ argued that eliminating CBC’s English services could contravene the *Broadcasting Act* and the *Official Languages Act*.

Local Information and News

Canadians place a great deal of importance on local information. In recent years, surveys have shown that Canadians want access to information that reflects the realities of their immediate communities. Figure 5 shows that approximately three out of four respondents (73%) were interested in local news in 2024.

⁶⁷ TRCM, Marie-Nicole Dubois, Chair of the Board of Directors, Fédération des francophones de la Colombie-Britannique, [November 20, 2024](#).

⁶⁸ TRCM, Denis Simard, President, Assemblée communautaire fransaskoise, [November 20, 2024](#).

⁶⁹ TRCM, Martin Théberge, President, Société Nationale de l’Acadie, [November 27, 2024](#).

⁷⁰ TRCM, Carol Ann Pilon, Executive Director, Alliance des producteurs francophones du Canada, [December 3, 2024](#).

⁷¹ TRCM, Jean-Michel Beaudry, Executive Director, Société de la francophonie manitobaine, [December 3, 2024](#).

⁷² TRCM, Eva Ludvig, President, Quebec Community Groups Network, [November 27, 2024](#).

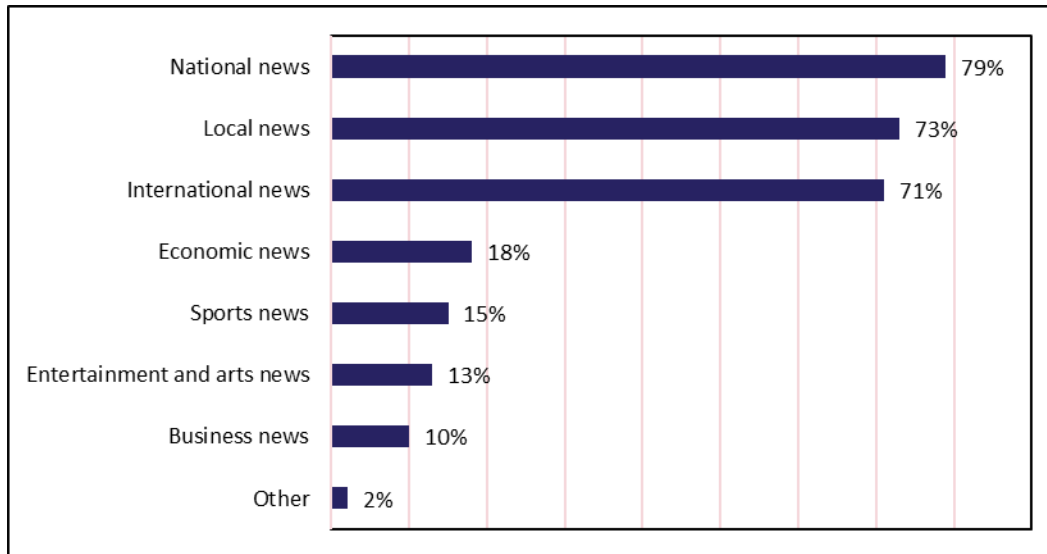
⁷³ TRCM, Miranda Castravelli, Executive Director, English Language Arts Network, [November 27, 2024](#).

⁷⁴ TRCM, Peter Hominuk, Executive Director, Assemblée de la francophonie de l’Ontario, [December 3, 2024](#).

⁷⁵ TRCM, Isabelle Salesse, Executive Director, Association franco-yukonnaise, [December 3, 2024](#).

⁷⁶ TRCM, Arnie Gelbart, Co-chair of the Board of Directors, Quebec English-Language Production Council, [November 27, 2024](#).

Figure 5 — Types of news or news subjects Canadians are most interested in (2024)



Source: CRTC, [Perceptions of Canadian Programming and News](#). Final Report, 2025 p. 27.

In 2024, another poll conducted by [Ipsos](#) showed that 77% of respondents felt that it was important for them to have access to a trusted source of local news.

It is important to note that local news “is expensive to produce.”⁷⁷ According to the CRTC, news funding is “one of the most pressing issues”⁷⁸ the regulatory body has to resolve.

The importance that Canadians place on local news was reflected in the evidence heard by the committee. By operating in “over 60 communities across Canada,”⁷⁹ CBC/Radio-Canada plays a vital role in this regard. Ms. Montminy from the Department of Canadian Heritage said that CBC/Radio-Canada can play a key role in some small communities by serving “Canadians wherever they are across the country.”⁸⁰ The CRTC echoed that view:

⁷⁷ CRTC, [Broadcasting Decision CRTC 2025-13. Review of the Independent Local News Fund](#), June 9, 2025.

⁷⁸ TRCM, Scott Shortliffe, Executive Director, Broadcasting, CRTC, [October 29, 2024](#).

⁷⁹ TRCM, Joëlle Montminy, Senior Assistant Deputy Minister, Cultural Affairs, Canadian Heritage, [October 23, 2024](#).

⁸⁰ Ibid.

[T]here are major concerns regarding the need to have more local information, not just because it is important to CBC/Radio-Canada's mandate, but because there has been a decline in local newspapers and radio stations.⁸¹

According to Sarah Andrews, Director of Government Relations at Friends of Canadian Media, "it's CBC/Radio-Canada that people turn to for information and news."⁸² The organization recommended that CBC/Radio-Canada's local news be "properly funded"⁸³ and that the Corporation make it a priority in carrying out its mandate.

Daniel Côté, the Mayor of Gaspé, noted an improvement in the Corporation's coverage over the last 7 years.⁸⁴ However, coverage of city council meetings in Gaspé remained inadequate:

For example, at our city council meetings in Gaspé, the biggest city in the region, we rarely see a Radio-Canada journalist. Reporters from other media outlets show up pretty regularly. Is the reason that city councils deal with local issues and Radio-Canada has a broader, regional or national, mandate?⁸⁵

Pierre Tousignant of the Syndicat des travailleuses et travailleurs de Radio-Canada agreed with the mayor of Gaspé. According to Mr. Tousignant, there are "fewer journalists covering the regions of Quebec."⁸⁶

Some francophones from OLMC must turn to local services offered in other provinces. Unfortunately, these services do not cover the news relevant to their immediate community. This is particularly the case in Newfoundland and Labrador, according to Martin Théberge, president of the Société Nationale de l'Acadie:

⁸¹ TRCM, Scott Shortliffe, Executive Director, Broadcasting, CRTC, [October 29, 2024](#).

⁸² TRCM, Sarah Andrews, Director, Government and Media Relations, Friends of Canadian Media, [October 30, 2024](#).

⁸³ Ibid.

⁸⁴ TRCM, Daniel Côté, Mayor, City of Gaspé, [November 6, 2024](#).

⁸⁵ Ibid.

⁸⁶ TRCM, Pierre Tousignant, President, Syndicat des travailleuses et travailleurs de Radio-Canada, [November 6, 2024](#).

Another shortcoming is that francophones on the island of Newfoundland receive their news and regional programming from stations in Moncton and Halifax, while those in Labrador get this service from Quebec. This situation is unique in the country, and it deprives the provincial francophone community of a common platform for exchange.⁸⁷

In addition to municipal politics, local news produced and broadcast by CBC/Radio-Canada's local services sheds light on specific issues of particular interest to certain audiences. However, this coverage could be improved in Alberta, according to Ms. Gerson of The Line:

When you get into a lot of the rural areas outside of Calgary and Edmonton, you have people talking about housing issues, the latest crop issues and drama in the farming community. People are talking about these day-to-day problems. And they are increasingly not seeing those values reflected in CBC Calgary. They are not seeing CBC Calgary present that.⁸⁸

Amélie Hinse, Executive Director of the Fédération des télévisions communautaires autonomes du Québec, and Angelica Carrero, Executive Director of the Association des radiodiffuseurs communautaires du Québec, noted that there is a clear consensus on the "crucial role"⁸⁹ CBC/Radio-Canada must play in producing and broadcasting local news. Ms. Hinse is of the view that Radio-Canada is "fulfilling its role well at the regional level,"⁹⁰ but that coverage at the local level is inadequate.

Some witnesses are of the view that CBC/Radio-Canada should focus its programming on news or related issues. Professor Waddell of Carleton University believes that CBC English television programming should focus on eight themes: "urban life in Canada; business and the economy; public policy at the federal, provincial and municipal levels; health, science and technology, and; Canadians who are making a difference."⁹¹ For Ms. Gerson at The Line, the Corporation must

⁸⁷ TRCM, Martin Théberge, President, Société Nationale de l'Acadie, [November 27, 2024](#).

⁸⁸ TRCM, Jen Gerson, Independent Journalist, The Line, As an individual, [November 26, 2024](#).

⁸⁹ TRCM, Amélie Hinse, Executive Director, Fédération des télévisions communautaires autonomes du Québec, [November 6, 2024](#), and Angelica Carrero, Executive Director, Association des radiodiffuseurs communautaires du Québec, [November 6, 2024](#).

⁹⁰ Ibid.

⁹¹ TRCM, Christopher Waddell, Professor Emeritus, School of Journalism and Communication, Carleton University, As an individual, [November 6, 2024](#).

“[focus] on news and news coverage, particularly outside of the major cities” in order to provide services “[in] places that are currently news deserts.”⁹²

Arts and culture

Subparagraph 3(1)(m)(iii) of the *Broadcasting Act* states that the programming provided by CBC/Radio-Canada should actively contribute to the flow and exchange of cultural expression. CBC/Radio-Canada plays a leading role in promoting, supporting and advancing the arts, as well as in exploring and shaping identity at the local, regional and national levels.

In short, various witnesses stressed the importance of CBC/Radio-Canada fulfilling its cultural and artistic mandate by promoting Canadian artists and local cultural events. However, some pointed out that it is becoming increasingly difficult for the Corporation to fulfill this role when it has limited financial resources.

Miranda Castravelli of the English Language Arts Network, underlined the importance of CBC/Radio-Canada in “the arts ecology”⁹³ and “the economy of Canada.”⁹⁴ For the vast majority of Canadian artists, “CBC represents a method of publicity, a channel of distribution and a source of serving communities, big and small, where no other broadcaster would or could go.”⁹⁵

The President of Fentunes Media, Richard Fenton, said that “music, arts and culture are woven into [CBC/Radio-Canada’s] mandate.”⁹⁶ For the Quebec Community Groups Network, the public broadcaster should be focused on “local news, stories, arts and culture.”⁹⁷

Mr. Fenton, who worked as an arts producer during his 18 years at CBC, pointed out that CBC/Radio-Canada’s contribution to arts and culture can be seen in income generated through publishing, touring, ticket sales and jobs. However, he said that, as cultural income and ownership are continuously eroded in the digital world, it is critically important for CBC/Radio-Canada to remain “a central bastion of Canadian arts and music.”⁹⁸

⁹² TRCM, Jen Gerson, Independent Journalist, The Line, As an individual, [November 26, 2024](#).

⁹³ TRCM, Miranda Castravelli, Executive Director, English Language Arts Network, [November 27, 2024](#).

⁹⁴ Ibid.

⁹⁵ Ibid.

⁹⁶ TRCM, Richard Fenton, Founder and President, Fentunes Media, [November 20, 2024](#).

⁹⁷ Quebec Community Groups Network, [Brief to the Senate Standing Committee on Transport and Communications Study on Matters Relating to Transport and Communications Generally: Local Services Provided by CBC](#), November 27, 2024, p. 3.

⁹⁸ TRCM, Richard Fenton, Founder and President, Fentunes Media, [November 20, 2024](#).

CBC/Radio-Canada is also a key partner in broadcasting and promoting local cultural events, including concerts, symphony performances, festivals and local theatre productions. According to Mr. Fenton, the Corporation’s involvement in local cultural events has yielded benefits that last for years:

The CBC’s involvement helped these events stretch their artistic budget and contributed to their marketing and ticket sales, helping them achieve long-term feasibility. This worked both ways with those demographics and audiences becoming a loyal part of the listenership.⁹⁹

For Arnie Gelbart of the Quebec English-Language Production Council, CBC/Radio-Canada has many problems, “especially in English television.”¹⁰⁰ He explained that most problems are caused by “chronic underfunding.”¹⁰¹ The Quebec English-Language Production Council wants CBC/Radio-Canada to do more to support local production in various regions in Quebec.

One of the witnesses heard by the committee, Havoc Franklin, is a Board Member of the Canadian Journalists for Free Expression. Mr. Franklin has spent more than three decades dedicated to journalism, content development, and programming for CBC’s television and radio at the national and local level. He emphasized the role of local CBC/Radio-Canada radio stations in broadcasting culture, particularly when it comes to music:

All the local stations meet and exceed the 50% Canadian music content requirements. No other local stations do this in Western Canada.¹⁰²

Mr. Franklin explained that CBC/Radio-Canada is under “financial constraints”¹⁰³ and that increased production costs are a factor to consider when assessing whether the Corporation is fulfilling its cultural mandate. For example, in music production, it is “not the resource of the people [that has been cut], but the expense of doing a recording [that has increased].”¹⁰⁴ In addition, Mr. Franklin emphasized the

⁹⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰⁰ TRCM, Arnie Gelbart, Co-chair of the Board of Directors, Quebec English-Language Production Council, [November 27, 2024](#).

¹⁰¹ Ibid.

¹⁰² Havoc Franklin, [Brief](#), November 20, 2024, p. 2.

¹⁰³ TRCM, Havoc Franklin, Board Member, Canadian Journalists for Free Expression, As an individual, [November 20, 2024](#).

¹⁰⁴ Ibid.

importance for CBC/Radio-Canada to support “emerging music”¹⁰⁵ even if it has limited financial resources.

In his brief, Mr. Franklin recommended including “a richer and more relevant array of local cultural content,”¹⁰⁶ reflecting the diverse fabric of Canadian life. According to Mr. Franklin, new ways need to be initiated to let Canadians know what is being offered.

The Importance of Building Relationships with Local Communities

Subparagraph 3(1)(m)(vi) of the *Broadcasting Act* states that the Corporation must “contribute to shared national consciousness and identity.”¹⁰⁷ CBC/Radio-Canada’s presence in all regions of the country allows Canadians to get to know one another and to discover their differences and commonalities. Witnesses shared their views on this point.

Former CBC executive Sue Gardner pointed out the lack of “shared, common experiences”¹⁰⁸ and the loss of “a shared sense of ourselves”¹⁰⁹ among Canadians. She added that CBC/Radio-Canada struggles to reflect the stories of the country and to explain them from “regions to other regions.”¹¹⁰ Terry Seguin, a former CBC journalist, agreed, noting: “I think we can certainly use more programming vehicles to explain Atlantic Canada to the rest of the country.”¹¹¹ Mr. Tousignant of the Syndicat des travailleuses et travailleurs de Radio-Canada made comments similar to those of Mr. Seguin:

¹⁰⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁰⁶ Havoc Franklin, *Brief*, November 20, 2024, p. 3.

¹⁰⁷ *Broadcasting Act*, S.C. 1991, c. 11, subpara. 3(1)(m)(vi).

¹⁰⁸ TRCM, Sue Gardner, former CBC executive, As an individual, [November 19, 2024](#).

¹⁰⁹ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹¹ TRCM, Terry Seguin, former CBC senior broadcast journalist, As an individual, [November 5, 2024](#).

*The beauty of CBC/Radio-Canada is that it can connect communities with each other. Even if the news is very local or regional, you have to be able to make it transnational or Canadian, which other media can't do.*¹¹²

Professor Waddell of Carleton University wondered why “there are large parts of the country that we never see in news and current affairs on television.”¹¹³ According to Mr. Waddell, CBC/Radio-Canada could compare the different public policies of the provinces:

*We have 10 provinces and how often do you see stories in any media, let alone the CBC, that compares the British Columbia health care system with the Ontario health care system or the Saskatchewan health care system.*¹¹⁴

Mr. Waddell believes that there are stories that “can relate to these areas in all communities across the country.”¹¹⁵

For Kirk LaPointe, journalist and former ombudsman of CBC, the critical issue is that CBC/Radio-Canada has not been able to create “a palpable, tangible connection to [the] audience.”¹¹⁶ Ms. Bakken of World Press Freedom Canada also stated that the Corporation must “get back to the local level”¹¹⁷ by reallocating funds to support municipal reporters.

For Jean-Michel Beaudry, Executive Director of the Société de la francophonie manitobaine, “the disinvestment in regions across Canada, at both Radio-Canada and the CBC” has eroded “the proximity link to local stations.”¹¹⁸

¹¹² TRCM, Pierre Tousignant, President, Syndicat des travailleuses et travailleurs de Radio-Canada, [November 6, 2024](#).

¹¹³ TRCM, Christopher Waddell, Professor Emeritus, School of Journalism and Communication, Carleton University, As an individual, [November 6, 2024](#).

¹¹⁴ Ibid.

¹¹⁵ Ibid.

¹¹⁶ TRCM, Kirk LaPointe, Journalist, Adjunct Journalism Professor, University of British Columbia, As an individual, [October 30, 2024](#).

¹¹⁷ TRCM, Heather Bakken, President, World Press Freedom Canada, As an individual, [November 19, 2024](#).

¹¹⁸ TRCM, Jean-Michel Beaudry, Executive Director, Société de la francophonie manitobaine, [December 3, 2024](#).

Ms. Forest of the Canadian Media Guild explained that some segments of the Canadian population do not see themselves reflected in the Corporation’s programming:

Why are people abandoning CBC/Radio-Canada? Why aren’t they listening and watching? It’s because they aren’t hearing themselves. Why is that? Because CBC/Radio-Canada isn’t present in the region and doesn’t have a foothold in Prince George or Yarmouth.¹¹⁹

During their appearance in October 2025, CBC/Radio-Canada executives stated that they take very seriously the importance of bringing locally relevant issues to national audiences. Brodie Fenlon, the current General Manager and Editor-in-Chief of CBC News, explained that the Corporation will expand its regional coverage in the coming years:

It’s about being in more places and then using the network that we have the privilege of running to elevate those stories to better reflect the people and the times that we’re in.¹²⁰

Marie-Philippe Bouchard, President and CEO of CBC/Radio-Canada, acknowledged that there is a “lack of connection in some areas with the public,”¹²¹ due in part to limited resources. The Corporation plans to implement the following initiatives by 2030 to ensure that different segments of the Canadian population feel represented:

- More resources for news coverage in the regions: The aim is to fund additional coverage and hire sufficient journalists to cover 15–20 communities with a population greater than 50,000 that currently have little to no local CBC/Radio-Canada presence.
- Local media support: Resource sharing and training partnerships with other media and partners to strengthen local news ecosystems.
- More cultural, music and amateur sports programming: Coverage across the country, with a special focus on OLMC and francophones. This will also help

¹¹⁹ TRCM, Annick R. Forest, President, Canadian Media Guild, [November 19, 2024](#).

¹²⁰ TRCM, Brodie Fenlon, General Manager and Editor-in-Chief, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, [October 21, 2025](#).

¹²¹ TRCM, Marie-Philippe Bouchard, President and CEO, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, [October 21, 2025](#).

organizations with sponsorships and exposure across the country and internationally.

- Investments in Northern Canada: Increased capacity and resilience to improve service across the North, including partnerships with civil society, public and community media, and educational institutions.

Recently, on January 16, 2026, CBC/Radio-Canada [announced](#) the creation of 11 new local bureaus and the recruitment of 33 journalists across Canada. The list reads as follows from West to East:

- Richmond (British Columbia);
- Haines Junction (Yukon);
- Dawson City (Yukon);
- Swift Current (Saskatchewan);
- Yorkton (Saskatchewan);
- Moose Jaw (Saskatchewan);
- Selkirk/Interlake Region (Manitoba);
- Flin Flon (Manitoba);
- Peel Region (Ontario);
- Sept-Îles/North and Lower North Shore (Quebec); and
- Châteauguay/Montérégie (Quebec).

Official Language Minority Communities

Under the *Broadcasting Act*, programming provided by CBC/Radio-Canada must be in English and French, reflecting the different needs and circumstances of each official language community, including the specific needs and interests of OLMC.¹²² In addition, in accordance with section 42.1 of the *Official Languages Act*, the federal government recognizes that CBC/Radio-Canada contributes through its activities “to enhancing the vitality of the English and French linguistic minority

¹²² [Broadcasting Act](#), S.C. 1991, c. 11, subpara. 3(1)(m)(iv).

communities in Canada and to the protection and promotion of both official languages.”¹²³

According to Mr. Tousignant of the Syndicat des travailleuses et travailleurs de Radio-Canada, the Corporation is “the main forum for expression and debate, reflecting the economic, social, cultural and sports vitality”¹²⁴ of OLMC.

The vast majority of representatives serving OLMC strongly emphasized the essential role that CBC/Radio-Canada plays in the development and vitality of linguistic minority communities. This view was echoed by leaders of the Association des francophones du Nunavut,¹²⁵ the Assemblée de la francophonie de l’Ontario¹²⁶ and the Association canadienne-française de l’Alberta.¹²⁷ As Audrey Fournier, Executive Director of the Fédération franco-ténoise, stated:

*In our opinion, Radio-Canada plays a crucial role in maintaining the vitality of our communities. By providing French-language content that captures our realities, it helps preserve our language and identity, especially among young people. Broadcasting local content also helps newcomers integrate into our communities by giving them a sense of belonging.*¹²⁸

For representatives of OLMC, CBC/Radio-Canada is seen as an essential service for the vitality of linguistic minority communities. According to Kirwan Cox, Executive Director of the Quebec English-Language Production Council, “CBC’s public service media is critical to the vitality and cultural survival of our community.”¹²⁹

For her part, Nathalie Lachance of the Association canadienne-française de l’Alberta highlighted the “essential role”¹³⁰ played by Radio-Canada’s French services in ensuring the vitality of Alberta’s francophone communities. Similarly, Christian

¹²³ *Official Languages Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. 31 (4th Supp.), s. 42.1.

¹²⁴ TRCM, Pierre Tousignant, President, Syndicat des travailleuses et travailleurs de Radio-Canada, [November 6, 2024](#).

¹²⁵ TRCM, Christian Ouaka, Executive Director, Association des francophones du Nunavut, [November 26, 2024](#).

¹²⁶ TRCM, Peter Hominuk, Executive Director, Assemblée de la francophonie de l’Ontario, [December 3, 2024](#).

¹²⁷ TRCM, Nathalie Lachance, President, Association canadienne-française de l’Alberta, [November 20, 2024](#).

¹²⁸ TRCM, Audrey Fournier, Executive Director, Fédération franco-ténoise, [November 26, 2024](#).

¹²⁹ TRCM, Kirwan Cox, Executive Director, Quebec English-Language Production Council, [November 27, 2024](#).

¹³⁰ TRCM, Nathalie Lachance, President, Association canadienne-française de l’Alberta, [November 20, 2024](#).

Ouaka of the Association des francophones du Nunavut is of the opinion that Radio-Canada “represents an essential tool for linking francophone communities across the country.”¹³¹ Representatives from the Société Nationale de l’Acadie,¹³² the Fédération des francophones de Terre-Neuve et du Labrador,¹³³ the Alliance des producteurs francophones du Canada,¹³⁴ the Assemblée de la Francophonie de l’Ontario¹³⁵ and the Association franco-yukonnaise¹³⁶ also noted the essential role played by Radio-Canada’s French services in strengthening ties among various francophone minority communities.

The main criticism expressed by associations representing francophone minority communities is that Radio-Canada’s French-language programming focuses primarily on Quebec and does not reflect their reality. These comments were made by leaders of the Fédération des francophones de la Colombie-Britannique,¹³⁷ the Fédération franco-ténoise,¹³⁸ the Société Nationale de l’Acadie,¹³⁹ the Assemblée de la francophonie de l’Ontario,¹⁴⁰ the Association franco-yukonnaise¹⁴¹ and the Alliance des producteurs francophones du Canada.¹⁴² Denis Simard of the Assemblée communautaire fransaskoise elaborated on how this absence in programming has had an impact on the young of the Fransaskois community:

¹³¹ TRCM, Christian Ouaka, Executive Director, Association des francophones du Nunavut, [November 26, 2024](#).

¹³² TRCM, Martin Théberge, President, Société Nationale de l’Acadie, [November 27, 2024](#).

¹³³ TRCM, Tony Cornect, President, Fédération des francophones de Terre-Neuve et du Labrador, [November 27, 2024](#).

¹³⁴ TRCM, Carol Ann Pilon, Executive Director, Alliance des producteurs francophones du Canada, [December 3, 2024](#).

¹³⁵ TRCM, Peter Hominuk, Executive Director, Assemblée de la francophonie de l’Ontario, [December 3, 2024](#).

¹³⁶ TRCM, Isabelle Salesse, Executive Director, Association franco-yukonnaise, [December 3, 2024](#).

¹³⁷ TRCM, Marie-Nicole Dubois, Chair of the Board of Directors, Fédération des francophones de la Colombie-Britannique, [November 20, 2024](#).

¹³⁸ TRCM, Audrey Fournier, Executive Director, Fédération franco-ténoise, [November 26, 2024](#).

¹³⁹ TRCM, Martin Théberge, President, Société Nationale de l’Acadie, [November 27, 2024](#).

¹⁴⁰ TRCM, Fabien Hébert, President, Assemblée de la francophonie de l’Ontario, [December 3, 2024](#).

¹⁴¹ TRCM, Isabelle Salesse, Executive Director, Association franco-yukonnaise, [December 3, 2024](#).

¹⁴² TRCM, Carol Ann Pilon, Executive Director, Alliance des producteurs francophones du Canada, [December 3, 2024](#).

When young people don't see themselves and don't see Fransaskois people anchoring Téléjournal and other programs, they think only Quebecers and Montrealers can get those jobs. If young people don't see themselves, they won't imagine a future in which they can become those people.¹⁴³

Eva Ludvig of the Quebec Community Groups Network also noted that the reality of English-speaking communities living in regions of Quebec is not adequately represented on CBC's airwaves:

... [Our] representation in CBC's non-news programming remains limited, leaving many English-speaking Quebecers feeling excluded from broader narratives.¹⁴⁴

Moreover, some regions of the country still do not have access to all of the Corporation's conventional radio and television services. According to Ms. Dubois of the Fédération des francophones de la Colombie-Britannique, there are areas in British Columbia "where the provincial Radio-Canada signal is unavailable."¹⁴⁵

Francophone Production in Official Language Minority Communities

Under its licence conditions, Radio-Canada allocates a portion of its expenditures to programming from independent producers within official language communities. For example, between 2019-2020 and 2021-2022, an average of 40% of "the original programs produced in the Canadian francophonie"¹⁴⁶ were broadcast on Radio-Canada.

Representatives of the Association canadienne-française de l'Alberta¹⁴⁷ and the Alliance des producteurs francophones du Canada¹⁴⁸ stated that increasing

¹⁴³ TRCM, Denis Simard, President, Assemblée communautaire fransaskoise, [November 20, 2024](#).

¹⁴⁴ TRCM, Eva Ludvig, President, Quebec Community Groups Network, [November 27, 2024](#).

¹⁴⁵ TRCM, Marie-Nicole Dubois, Chair of the Board of Directors, Fédération des francophones de la Colombie-Britannique, [November 20, 2024](#).

¹⁴⁶ TRCM, Carol Ann Pilon, Executive Director, Alliance des producteurs francophones du Canada, [December 3, 2024](#).

¹⁴⁷ TRCM, Nathalie Lachance, President, Association canadienne-française de l'Alberta, [November 20, 2024](#).

¹⁴⁸ TRCM, Carol Ann Pilon, Executive Director, Alliance des producteurs francophones du Canada, [December 3, 2024](#).

independent production in the regions would better reflect the particularities of francophone minority communities.

Witnesses called on the Corporation to establish a second French-language production centre outside Quebec. According to representatives of the Société Nationale de l'Acadie¹⁴⁹ and the Assemblée communautaire fransaskoise,¹⁵⁰ decentralizing francophone production outside Quebec would ensure that “Radio-Canada’s national programming is diverse.”¹⁵¹

The method used by CBC/Radio-Canada to calculate its French-language production expenditures in minority communities was also raised during the appearance of the Corporation’s senior executives. Currently, it appears that the production expenditures for programming created by OLMC producers, as reported by the Corporation to the CRTC, include the total licence fees paid to projects co-produced with non-OLMC producers.

CBC/Radio-Canada is well aware of this issue. In response to a question on the matter, CBC/Radio-Canada President and CEO Marie-Philippe Bouchard stated that it is a “system that was approved on both sides”¹⁵² over the years. While revising this calculation method is possible, Ms. Bouchard is of the view that the CRTC must be involved in the discussions.

Indigenous Peoples

At the time of the last renewal of the broadcasting licences for the CBC/Radio-Canada’s conventional services in 2022, the CRTC recognized that [Call to Action 84 of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission](#) and [article 16 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) tie into some of the objectives of the *Broadcasting Act* in that they refer to the reflection of Indigenous Peoples in the programming broadcast by CBC/Radio-Canada.

Specifically, the CRTC imposed spending and reporting requirements to ensure that the national public broadcaster supports and broadcasts programming that is relevant to and reflective of Indigenous Peoples living in Canada. The CRTC also required that the CBC/Radio-Canada hold formal consultations every two years with Indigenous Peoples.

CBC/Radio-Canada provides Indigenous content to Indigenous and non-Indigenous audiences in French, English and eight Indigenous languages. In 2024, the

¹⁴⁹ TRCM, Martin Théberge, President, Société Nationale de l'Acadie, [November 27, 2024](#).

¹⁵⁰ TRCM, Denis Simard, President, Assemblée communautaire fransaskoise, [November 20, 2024](#).

¹⁵¹ Ibid.

¹⁵² TRCM, Marie-Philippe Bouchard, President and CEO, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, [October 21, 2025](#).

Corporation launched its [2024-2027 National Indigenous Strategy](#). This plan was developed “in consultation with Indigenous communities, Indigenous leaders and Indigenous employee.”¹⁵³ According to Annick Munezero, Director of Cultural Affairs at the Department of Canadian Heritage, the Corporation has set itself a goal of improving “the services and content provided, in order to better represent Indigenous communities in their content.”¹⁵⁴ An annual report is produced each year to outline the results achieved and the lessons learned in order to improve services.

Some witnesses mentioned that CBC/Radio-Canada works well to support the production and promotion of content of Indigenous creators. As noted by Professor Lindgren of Toronto Metropolitan University, “CBC has quite a successful Indigenous service” and “a lot of programming.”¹⁵⁵

CBC North programming, which does include local Indigenous stories, enables the delivery of broadcasting content to many northern communities. According to Ms. Bakken of World Press Freedom Canada, this service plays a crucial role in certain regions as the sole source of news and information:

*CBC North delivers news to remote northern communities in eight Indigenous languages. As in the case of many other places we have heard about today, it is the sole source of news and information. During an emergency, it provides a lifeline.*¹⁵⁶

Tamara Voudrach, Executive Director of the Inuvialuit Communications Society, noted that broadcasting helps strengthen relationships among Inuit regions. Locally, organizations such as CBC/Radio-Canada North, Cabin Radio in Yellowknife and NNSL Media in the Northwest Territories “are very foundational to Northerners accessing news content and current events.”¹⁵⁷

Manitok Thompson, Executive Director of the Inuit Broadcasting Corporation, told the committee that the expansion of broadcasting in the 1970s was perceived as a

¹⁵³ TRCM, Annick Munezero, Director, Cultural Affairs, Canadian Heritage, [October 23, 2024](#).

¹⁵⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵⁵ TRCM, April Lindgren, Professor, School of Journalism, Toronto Metropolitan University, As an individual, [October 30, 2024](#).

¹⁵⁶ TRCM, Heather Bakken, President, World Press Freedom Canada, As an individual, [November 19, 2024](#).

¹⁵⁷ TRCM, Tamara Voudrach, Executive Director, Inuvialuit Communications Society, [November 26, 2024](#).

threat to Indigenous cultures. According to Ms. Thompson, today, resources have been allocated in the North:

I do know that, in each community, there is a CBC reporter. This person is a unilingual person a lot of times, and they just report on the community news. Each community has news or highlights or something, so they put this person on. They have a contact person in each community.¹⁵⁸

Ms. Thompson added that, for unilingual elders, CBC Radio in Inuktitut is the only source “to hear what the world is doing or what the politics are about.”¹⁵⁹

The President and CEO of the CBC/Radio-Canada, Marie-Philippe Bouchard, noted that the Corporation tries “as efficiently as possible”¹⁶⁰ to reflect the diversity and the original nature of culture in French, in English and in eight Indigenous languages.

Emergency Services

Witnesses highlighted the role played by conventional television and radio services during emergencies. According to Professor Lindgren of Toronto Metropolitan University, conventional radio remains a preferred medium for reaching the public:

Radio remains a very important part of notification and getting information to people in really difficult situations. It's no coincidence that the emergency kits that people are recommended to have if there's a wildfire or floods coming is a crank radio.¹⁶¹

According to Ms. Lachance of the Association canadienne-française de l'Alberta, Radio-Canada's services were “the only source of French-language information available”¹⁶² during the Calgary floods in 2013, the Fort McMurray forest fires in

¹⁵⁸ TRCM, Manito Thompson, Executive Director, Inuit Broadcasting Corporation, [November 26, 2024](#).

¹⁵⁹ Ibid.

¹⁶⁰ TRCM, Marie-Philippe Bouchard, President and CEO, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, [October 21, 2025](#).

¹⁶¹ TRCM, April Lindgren, Professor, School of Journalism, Toronto Metropolitan University, As an individual, [October 30, 2024](#).

¹⁶² TRCM, Nathalie Lachance, President, Association canadienne-française de l'Alberta, [November 20, 2024](#).

2016 and the fires in the Northwest Territories in 2023. Ms. Forest of the Canadian Media Guild made a similar comment:

When fires consumed Fort McMurray and Lytton, when southern Alberta was flooded, when hurricane Fiona hit the Atlantic, when Yellowknife was evacuated, the public broadcaster and its infrastructure were there to inform the victims and maintain their connection with the rest of the country.¹⁶³

Representatives from World Press Freedom Canada,¹⁶⁴ Canadian Journalists for Free Expression,¹⁶⁵ the Fédération franco-ténoise¹⁶⁶ and former CBC Edmonton journalist Kim Trynacity¹⁶⁷ also noted that the Corporation's services were crucial in emergencies.

The Honourable Senator Percy Downe drew the committee's attention to the impact of CBC/Radio-Canada's suspension of local news broadcasts in Prince Edward Island in March 2020. According to the Senator, the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated that the Corporation's services are essential.¹⁶⁸ However, Senator Downe was critical of CBC/Radio-Canada, which he said failed in "their duty and responsibilities"¹⁶⁹ by suspending these broadcasts. According to the Senator, the Corporation should have been penalized by the CRTC.

For context, Canada has a [National Public Alerting System](#) called [Alert Ready](#), which provides emergency management organizations with the capability to rapidly warn Canadians of hazards to life. CBC/Radio-Canada is an integral part of this system, using its transmission and distribution infrastructure across the country to alert Canadians to danger.

Conventional and Digital Platforms

For many years, broadcasters offered local programming through their traditional television and radio services. However, the Internet and advances in wireless

¹⁶³ TRCM, Annick R. Forest, President, Canadian Media Guild, [November 19, 2024](#).

¹⁶⁴ TRCM, Heather Bakken, President, World Press Freedom Canada, As an individual, [November 19, 2024](#).

¹⁶⁵ TRCM, Havoc Franklin, Board Member, Canadian Journalists for Free Expression, As an individual, [November 20, 2024](#).

¹⁶⁶ TRCM, Audrey Fournier, Executive Director, Fédération franco-ténoise, [November 26, 2024](#).

¹⁶⁷ TRCM, Kim Trynacity, journalism instructor, MacEwan University, As an individual, [December 3, 2024](#).

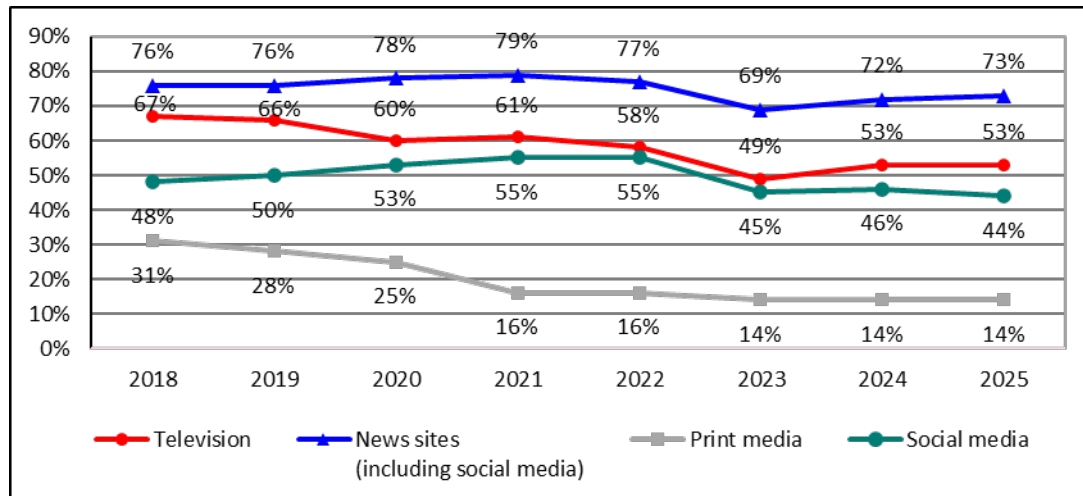
¹⁶⁸ TRCM, Hon. Percy E. Downe, [November 5, 2024](#).

¹⁶⁹ Ibid.

technologies and wired broadband networks have revolutionized the Canadian broadcasting system.

Online news sites, including social media, have become the primary source of information for 73% of Canadians (Figure 6). Conversely, the proportion of television and print media (newspapers and magazines) as primary news sources fell from 31% in 2018 to 14% between 2018 and 2025.

Figure 6 — Sources of information used by Canadians (2018 to 2025)



Source: Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, *Reuters Institute Digital News Reports: 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025*. Figure prepared by the Library of Parliament.

CBC/Radio-Canada has been well established in the digital sector over the past two decades. The Corporation uses a wide range of platforms to offer content that attracts a large audience. In 2024-2025, Radio-Canada’s digital services recorded an average of 5.4 million monthly unique visitors (3.8 million in 2017-2018), while CBC’s digital services drew an average of 16.2 million monthly unique visitors (14.8 million in 2017-2018).¹⁷⁰

CBC/Radio-Canada content is available on different digital platforms like YouTube, Snapchat and TikTok. Further, since 2022, CBC/Radio-Canada launched FAST channels (free ad-supported streaming television) that are broadcasted on virtual broadcast distribution undertakings and services like Samsung, Roku and LG.

As Marie-Philippe Bouchard, President and CEO of CBC/Radio-Canada, stated, the Corporation plans to continue using its digital services to offer a diversity of local content:

¹⁷⁰ CBC/Radio-Canada, *Annual Report 2024-2025*, p. 23.

We keep developing technologies so that we can be producing full content — not just news but also sports and culture — with very light equipment. Therefore, we can imagine a world where we can be in more places where communities live and where events — not just problems — important to them are occurring. That increases the sense of reflection and inclusion.¹⁷¹

Some witnesses agreed with CBC/Radio-Canada’s digital approach. For former CBC executive Sue Gardner, reinvesting in local news is desirable insofar as this programming is focused on “digital services, not on conventional, traditional radio and television.”¹⁷² Matthew Hatfield of OpenMedia also supports this strategic direction:

Maybe the CBC should be encouraged to have leaner, perhaps digital-first or audio-centred outfits in many Canadian communities and make sure they are in every Canadian community.¹⁷³

Broadband Internet access is required to access CBC/Radio-Canada’s digital platforms. Some witnesses stated that connectivity gaps still exist in rural and remote communities in Canada. For Ms. Forest of the Canadian Media Guild, access to broadband Internet services remains a problem in the North:

Do you know how often the line to Whitehorse gets cut off; how often they lose their phone services? They have one supplier, and sometimes it just doesn’t work. You lose connection.¹⁷⁴

Representatives of the Assemblée communautaire fransaskoise,¹⁷⁵ the Fédération des francophones de Terre-Neuve et du Labrador,¹⁷⁶ the Assemblée de la

¹⁷¹ TRCM, Marie-Philippe Bouchard, President and CEO, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, [October 21, 2025](#).

¹⁷² TRCM, Sue Gardner, former CBC executive, As an individual, [November 19, 2024](#).

¹⁷³ TRCM, Matthew Hatfield, Executive Director, OpenMedia, [October 30, 2024](#).

¹⁷⁴ TRCM, Annick R. Forest, President, Canadian Media Guild, [November 19, 2024](#).

¹⁷⁵ TRCM, Denis Simard, President, Assemblée communautaire fransaskoise, [November 20, 2024](#).

¹⁷⁶ TRCM, Tony Cornect, President, Fédération des francophones de Terre-Neuve et du Labrador, [November 27, 2024](#).

francophonie de l'Ontario¹⁷⁷ and the Inuit Broadcasting Corporation¹⁷⁸ also mentioned that there were still regional disparities in broadband Internet access in their areas. Ms. Bakken of World Press Freedom Canada said that it is necessary to make broadband a utility in order to ensure access to CBC/Radio-Canada's online content.

*We are now a digital provider. We need to get broadband covering this country. We need to be able to provide a digital service because most of the stuff you see, even on the nightly newscast, has been clipped from a phone.*¹⁷⁹

Collaboration with Other Media Organizations

Witnesses suggested strengthening collaboration between CBC/Radio-Canada and other media organizations to ensure better coverage of local and regional issues. Such partnerships would provide a diversity of voices and draw broader public attention to certain local issues.

Such partnerships already exist in various forms. For example, the Corporation's institutional website provides access to a [local news directory](#), allowing users to quickly find local news and information sources. This directory was developed by CBC/Radio-Canada in collaboration with 11 Canadian media associations and organizations.

Professor Lindgren of Toronto Metropolitan University said that CBC/Radio-Canada could do more in terms of broadcasting local news. The Corporation could work with local media in underserved communities:

¹⁷⁷ TRCM, Fabien Hébert, President, Assemblée de la francophonie de l'Ontario, [December 3, 2024](#).

¹⁷⁸ TRCM, Karen Prentice, Director of Content and Communications, Inuit Broadcasting Corporation, [November 26, 2024](#).

¹⁷⁹ TRCM, Heather Bakken, President, World Press Freedom Canada, As an individual, [November 19, 2024](#).

*In a community where there are one or two CBC reporters and a small radio station and a small newspaper, I think there's the potential to work together to do projects, to try and address the problems that are confronting a community and seek solutions and create a forum for conversation.*¹⁸⁰

For Mr. Tousignant of the Syndicat des travailleuses et travailleurs de Radio-Canada, collaboration between community broadcasters and the national public broadcaster is an “interesting avenue” to explore. The challenge, according to Mr. Tousignant, is to take local or regional news and make it “transnational or Canadian.”¹⁸¹

For his part, Mr. Hatfield of OpenMedia suggested ensuring that the journalistic content produced by CBC/Radio-Canada be made available to all media outlets through Creative Commons licensing:

*I think what is great about Creative Commons licensing is the CBC and CRTC don't have to decide. The content is out there, and within some pretty broad parameters. I'm sure local outlets would find some interesting and unique ways of showcasing CBC content and probably get it to audiences that it would never reach entirely on the CBC's own parameters.*¹⁸²

According to Professor Waddell of Carleton University, “[the] CBC should also make its foreign and domestic reporting available free to any Canadian news organization that wants to use it.”¹⁸³ Mr. Waddell suggested that *The Canadian Press* be responsible for distributing these reports. Conversely, CBC should feature stories produced by smaller news agencies:

¹⁸⁰ TRCM, April Lindgren, Professor, School of Journalism, Toronto Metropolitan University, As an individual, [October 30, 2024](#).

¹⁸¹ TRCM, Pierre Tousignant, President, Syndicat des travailleuses et travailleurs de Radio-Canada. [November 6, 2024](#).

¹⁸² TRCM, Matthew Hatfield, Executive Director, OpenMedia, [October 30, 2024](#).

¹⁸³ TRCM, Christopher Waddell, Professor Emeritus, School of Journalism and Communication, Carleton University, As an individual, [November 6, 2024](#).

*CBC online should feature stories from small news start-ups, helping give those organizations the visibility for their work among the broader audience they lost when Facebook stopped posting Canadian news on its site. That would include encouraging audiences to subscribe to those small media outlets, helping them grow.*¹⁸⁴

Mr. Pearson of the Acadia Broadcasting Corporation, is open to the idea of sharing journalistic content produced by his company with CBC/Radio-Canada. Such an exchange would help Acadia Broadcasting Corporation “to have more content on air for our listeners.”¹⁸⁵ Mr. Pearson said that, in return, the Corporation should share its own news stories.

Some witnesses also suggested that CBC/Radio-Canada could explore offering training opportunities for young people. According to former CBC executive Sue Gardner, part of the Corporation’s role is to train journalists to cover local news.¹⁸⁶

In the community sector, greater collaboration between CBC/Radio-Canada and community radio and television stations could also be considered. According to Ms. Hinse of the Fédération des télévisions communautaires autonomes du Québec:

*CBC/Radio-Canada could benefit from small community broadcasters in small communities by accessing their content. In return, community broadcasters could benefit from CBC/Radio-Canada’s journalistic leadership.*¹⁸⁷

According to Ms. Carrero of the Association des radiodiffuseurs communautaires du Québec, community radio stations could also be leveraged to strengthen “Radio-Canada’s mission.”¹⁸⁸

Organizations representing OLMC welcomed the creation of partnerships between CBC/Radio-Canada and community media. Representatives from the Association des

¹⁸⁴ TRCM, Christopher Waddell, Professor Emeritus, School of Journalism and Communication, Carleton University, As an individual, [November 6, 2024](#).

¹⁸⁵ TRCM, Chris Pearson, President, Acadia Broadcasting Corporation, [November 5, 2024](#).

¹⁸⁶ TRCM, Sue Gardner, former CBC executive, As an individual, [November 19, 2024](#).

¹⁸⁷ TRCM, Amélie Hinse, Executive Director, Fédération des télévisions communautaires autonomes du Québec, [November 6, 2024](#).

¹⁸⁸ TRCM, Angelica Carrero, Executive Director, Association des radiodiffuseurs communautaires du Québec, [November 6, 2024](#).

francophones du Nunavut,¹⁸⁹ the Assemblée de la francophonie de l'Ontario,¹⁹⁰ the Association canadienne-française de l'Alberta¹⁹¹ and the Quebec Community Groups Network¹⁹² stated that such collaboration would be beneficial for both parties.

Some witnesses, however, questioned whether such partnerships are feasible. Ms. Voudrach of the Inuvialuit Communications Society and Corey Larocque of Nunatsiaq News pointed to the competition that exists among media outlets in the North:

I don't know if there are possibilities for partnerships between CBC and private-sector news organizations. In the North, the landscape is very similar to what it would be in the urban South. CBC is in competition with the private-sector news organizations, including their broadcast competitors, CTV or Global, but also with the newspapers and radio stations. ... Similarly, I don't see a way to form partnerships between CBC and Nunatsiaq News. They're separate entities, and they obviously have separate budgets and different resources. They have their way of doing things, and other organizations have their ways of doing things. I don't know how you would find room for partnerships.¹⁹³

The committee supports CBC/Radio-Canada's increased presence in local communities and stronger collaboration with private and community media in all regions of the country. However, it is important that this increased presence not come at the expense of local media already established in certain markets. Competition for the recruitment of journalists was raised by representatives of the Inuit Broadcasting Corporation¹⁹⁴ and Nunatsiaq News:

¹⁸⁹ TRCM, Christian Ouaka, Executive Director, Association des francophones du Nunavut, [November 26, 2024](#).

¹⁹⁰ TRCM, Peter Hominuk, Executive Director, Assemblée de la francophonie de l'Ontario, [December 3, 2024](#).

¹⁹¹ TRCM, Nathalie Lachance, President, Association canadienne-française de l'Alberta, [November 20, 2024](#).

¹⁹² TRCM, Eva Ludvig, President, Quebec Community Groups Network, [November 27, 2024](#).

¹⁹³ TRCM, Corey Larocque, Managing Editor, Nunatsiaq News, [November 26, 2024](#).

¹⁹⁴ TRCM, Manitok Thompson, Executive Director, Inuit Broadcasting Corporation, [26 November 2024](#).

We also compete with CBC when it comes to recruiting and retaining journalists. With its massive federal government support, CBC can offer compensation that exceeds ours. It routinely poaches employees from private-sector news organizations, including ours.¹⁹⁵

This point was also raised by the Canadian Association of Broadcasters. CBC/Radio-Canada would be competing for talent with private broadcasters in some of the smaller or mid-size markets. According to its President, Kevin Desjardins, private broadcasters cannot compete with the Corporation when hiring journalists in some small and medium-size markets:

I do think it is in some of the smaller or mid-size markets that the competition for talent is a place that some smaller radio and TV stations don't necessarily have the ability to provide the same sort of competitive package that the CBC does when they decide to move into a territory. That certainly happened a few times where we have heard there is a great story about the CBC investing more in certain places, but when they go and invest in some of those places, it means the cost of hiring journalists in those places starts to go up.¹⁹⁶

The Canadian Association of Broadcasters further noted that, in the advertising sector, CBC/Radio-Canada's presence in certain markets also increases competition for "ad dollars on those nightly newscasts against a bunch of private players."¹⁹⁷

Trust in CBC/Radio-Canada News

Since 2016, the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism has conducted an annual international survey on news consumption and perceptions across various platforms. It is the most comprehensive comparative study on news consumption in the world.

Figure 7 shows a decline in Canadians' trust in the news. This trust fell from 55% to 39% between 2016 and 2025. Based on an analysis of 48 markets, Canada ranked just below the consolidated international result, which stood at 40% in 2025. In

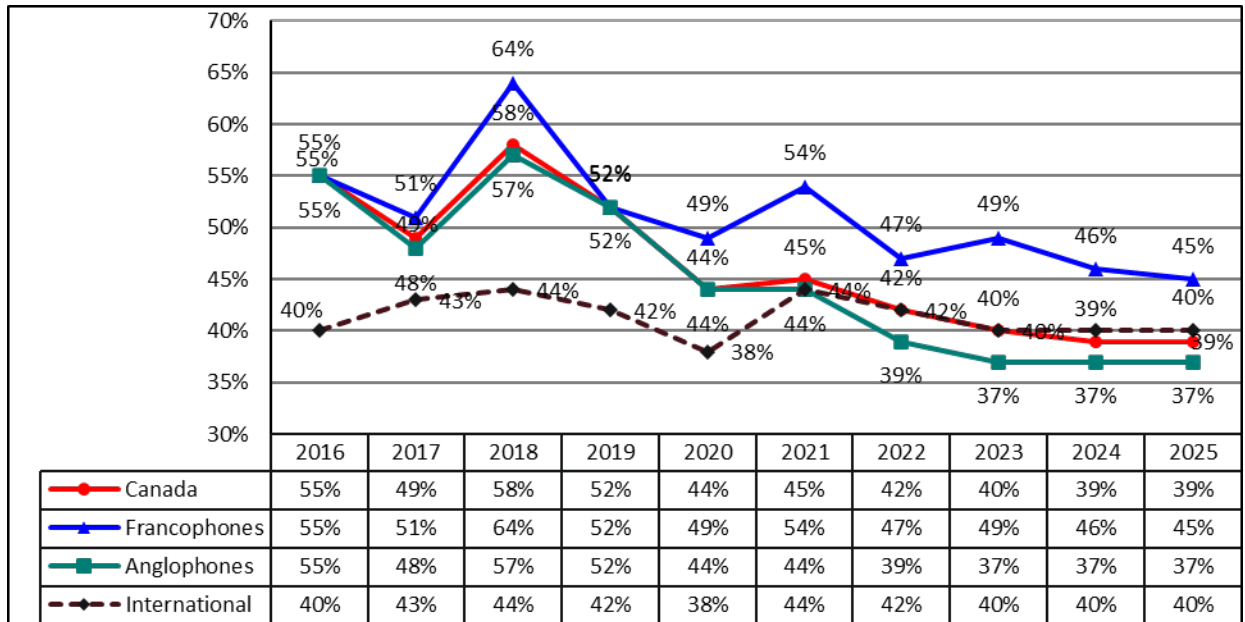
¹⁹⁵ TRCM, Corey Larocque, Managing Editor, Nunatsiq News, [November 26, 2024](#).

¹⁹⁶ TRCM, Kevin Desjardins, President, Canadian Association of Broadcasters, [October 30, 2024](#).

¹⁹⁷ Ibid.

terms of language, Figure 7 indicates anglophones (37% in 2025) are less likely than francophones to trust most news sources (45% in 2025).

Figure 7 — Canadians’ trust in the news: International, consolidated Canada and by language group in Canada (2016 to 2025)

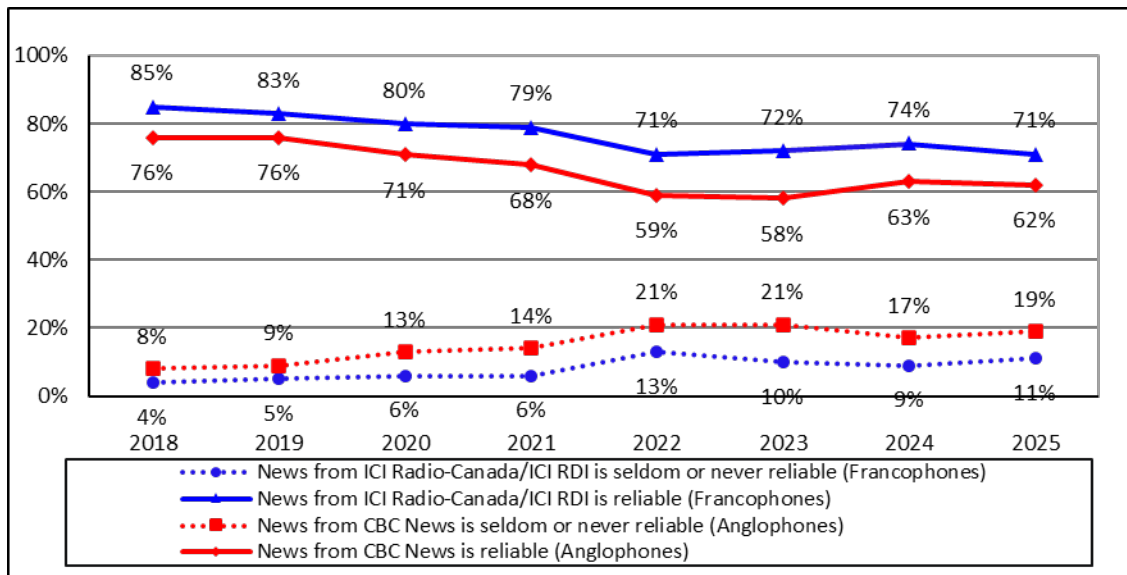


Source: Centre d’études sur les médias, *Digital News Report. 2024 Data: An Overview*, p. 44 (for 2016 to 2019) and Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, *Reuters Institute Digital News Reports: 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025*. Figure prepared by the Library of Parliament.

According to the same survey, CBC/Radio-Canada ranks at the top of the country’s most trusted news brands. However, this trust has been declining for the past seven years. Figure 8 shows that 62% of Anglophones in 2025 considered CBC News services to be trustworthy, compared with 76% in 2018 (Figure 8). Among francophones, 71% said in 2025 that ICI Radio-Canada/ICI RDI were trustworthy, a decrease of 14 percentage points since 2018.¹⁹⁸

¹⁹⁸ Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, *Reuters Institute Digital News Report 2025*, p. 11.

Figure 8 — Changes in estimated reliability of news from CBC/SRC brands (2018 to 2025)



Source: Centre d'études sur les médias, *Digital News Report 2023. Les nouvelles des diffuseurs publics canadiens. Consommation et perceptions*, [in French only] p. 44 (for 2018 to 2023) and Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, *Reuters Institute Digital News Reports (2024 and 2025)*. Figure prepared by the Library of Parliament.

The evidence heard by the committee reflects the results of this survey. The vast majority of witnesses consider the information and news provided by CBC/Radio-Canada to be reliable and trustworthy. According to Karim Bardeesy of Toronto Metropolitan University, CBC/Radio-Canada's brand image and strong reputation are reflected in various public opinion surveys:

Of all the organizations we survey, private and public, the CBC is now the most highly trusted organization we survey. These features of the CBC are really important and allow it to step into communities to create local news.¹⁹⁹

For Daniel Côté, mayor of the City of Gaspé, CBC/Radio-Canada is “the guardian of fair, equitable and effective information.”²⁰⁰ Former CBC journalist Terry Seguin emphasized the importance of being able to rely on CBC/Radio-Canada at a time when the media sector is going through a period of turbulence:

¹⁹⁹ TRCM, Karim Bardeesy, Executive Director, The Dais, Toronto Metropolitan University, As an individual, [November 19, 2024](#).

²⁰⁰ TRCM, Daniel Côté, Mayor, City of Gaspé, [November 6, 2024](#).

I think, given the media environment today — especially the online world — where the origins of journalism stories are suspect, having a credible source of journalism that deals with a high standard is more important now than ever.²⁰¹

Witnesses established a causal relationship between the level of trust in the media and the presence of local journalists. According to Professor Lindgren of Toronto Metropolitan University, the fact that local reporters “know the community, they know the issues”²⁰² increases public trust in the information they provide. In the case of CBC/Radio-Canada, its presence in many regions across Canada gives it an advantage over other media outlets, according to Ms. Forest of the Canadian Media Guild:

If we don't have people in those areas, we won't hear their ideas and opinions. They won't have the microphone. That's why we need to have CBC/Radio-Canada in as many communities as possible.²⁰³

Bias in CBC/Radio-Canada News

Witnesses testified that CBC/Radio-Canada's news content is sometimes perceived as having an ideological or partisan bias. According to Kirk LaPointe, journalist and former ombudsman of CBC, some Canadians complain that “the moderate conservative views of Canadians don't get reflected”²⁰⁴ by the CBC. For Ms. Thompson of the Inuit Broadcasting Corporation, “[t]he CBC has always been very liberal in their views, promoting liberal politicians” on the ideological level.²⁰⁵ According to Ms. Gardner, accusations of bias against the Corporation represent “a serious problem.”²⁰⁶

Richard Stursberg, former Executive Vice President of CBC's English Services, is of the view that this issue can be analysed by conducting an independent study of the

²⁰¹ TRCM, Terry Seguin, former CBC senior broadcast journalist, As an individual, [November 5, 2024](#).

²⁰² TRCM, April Lindgren, Professor, School of Journalism, Toronto Metropolitan University, As an individual, [October 30, 2024](#).

²⁰³ TRCM, Annick R. Forest, President, Canadian Media Guild, [November 19, 2024](#).

²⁰⁴ TRCM, Kirk LaPointe, Journalist, Adjunct Journalism Professor, University of British Columbia, As an individual, [October 30, 2024](#).

²⁰⁵ TRCM, Manitok Thompson, Executive Director, Inuit Broadcasting Corporation, [November 26, 2024](#).

²⁰⁶ TRCM, Sue Gardner, former CBC executive, As an individual, [November 19, 2024](#).

Corporation’s news content. Such an [analysis](#) was produced in 2010 when Mr. Stursberg was part of CBC’s executive team:

*There is no reason why this kind of study can’t be done systematically year in, year out, to ensure — and it should be the case — that the CBC’s coverage is fair, and it should be accurate.*²⁰⁷

According to Ms. Gerson of The Line, it would be possible to “address the CBC bias issue”²⁰⁸ by increasing the number of local journalists:

*You can’t have a healthy journalistic institution where the majority of your journalists are based in Toronto and then expect people in Lethbridge or the North to connect with that. They don’t see these people, they’re not in their communities, they’re not present in their communities and they’re not talking to people in the local communities about their local concerns.*²⁰⁹

CBC/Radio-Canada executives are well aware of the allegations of bias against the Corporation. The President and CEO of CBC/Radio-Canada, Marie-Philippe Bouchard, disagrees with the notion that the Corporation favours certain political directions. She pointed out that the Corporation’s news programming adheres to “strict journalistic standards, practices and guidelines that are, in fact, ensuring a pluralistic approach, a diversity of points of view and fairness in our coverage.”²¹⁰

The Committee’s Position

During this study, nearly every witness mentioned a wide range of concerns about the decline of local services and the need to enhance these services. The committee also heard much speculation about the root causes of this decline. Explanations included an absence of clear priorities in the mandate, insufficient funding and a lack of accountability.

On the topic of the Corporation’s legislative mandate, the *Broadcasting Act* does not state that local audiences should be specifically targeted, nor does it require that

²⁰⁷ TRCM, Richard Stursberg, Chief Executive Officer, Aljess, As an individual, [December 3, 2024](#).

²⁰⁸ TRCM, Jen Gerson, Independent Journalist, The Line, As an individual, [November 26, 2024](#).

²⁰⁹ Ibid.

²¹⁰ TRCM, Marie-Philippe Bouchard, President and CEO, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, [October 21, 2025](#).

particular programming services be provided at the local level. The committee notes that the Broadcasting and Telecommunications Legislative Review Panel (Yale Report) recommended in 2020 that the following elements be added to the Corporation's mandate: reflecting local communities and audiences; and providing national, regional and local news.²¹¹ The committee shares this view. For clarity, we recommend that the *Broadcasting Act* be amended to clarify CBC/Radio-Canada's role at the local level.

On the topic of funding, some witnesses were concerned that past budget cuts had diluted local content in many areas of Canada where there are few alternatives. Therefore, the committee recommends that CBC/Radio-Canada continue to invest to enhance and prioritize local programming.

Moreover, a comprehensive study of CBC/Radio-Canada's local services cannot be undertaken without access to certain disaggregated data, such as staffing levels, revenues and expenses broken down by local station. Currently, the Corporation's annual reports and the aggregate annual returns submitted to the CRTC do not provide this information. It would be useful to have more financial information about the Corporation's local stations to identify where needs are most urgent. The committee understands that CBC/Radio-Canada competes with other broadcasters for advertising revenue, the purchase of broadcast rights and ratings. Nevertheless, the committee believes that a balance must be struck between the need to keep certain information confidential for competitive reasons and the need to inform Canadians about the performance of the Corporation's local stations.

The committee noted that English and French minorities want to be seen and heard in CBC/Radio-Canada's local, regional and national programming. Several witnesses stated that CBC/Radio-Canada plays an important role in the development and vitality of official language minority communities. Efforts should be maintained to ensure that communities are better reflected on the Corporation's different platforms. Moreover, the committee recommends that the Corporation ensure that its investments in television production for OLMC clearly and equitably respect the principle of substantive equality.²¹²

In addition, based on the observations made by witnesses, CBC/Radio-Canada is collaborating with other media organizations to expand the availability of local news. In its [2025-2030 Strategy](#), the Corporation committed to “[c]hoosing

²¹¹ Broadcasting and Telecommunications Legislative Review Panel, *Canada's communications future: Time to act*, January 2020. See recommendation 80.

²¹² According to [Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat](#), substantive equality is achieved when one takes into account, where necessary, the differences in characteristics and circumstances of minority communities and provides services with distinct content or using a different method of delivery to ensure that the minority receives services of the same quality as the majority. This approach is the norm in Canadian law.

collaboration over competition in the industry, and seeking to spark and share innovation for a strong and vibrant media ecosystem.” As part of its commitment to collaboration, the Corporation intends to focus on “partnerships with private and community media.”²¹³ The committee expects CBC/Radio-Canada to continue developing such partnerships with private and community media in all regions across the country.

The issue of impartiality was raised by a few witnesses. These allegations of bias are serious and undermine trust in the public broadcaster. The committee is of the view that the Corporation could periodically conduct an analysis of the news content and current affairs by its news services in order to assess their impartiality and balance.

Lastly, regarding the recent CBC/Radio-Canada [announcement](#) about the creation of 11 new local bureaus and the recruitment of 33 journalists across Canada, the committee commends the Corporation’s efforts to strengthen its local services.

²¹³ CBC/Radio-Canada, [CBC, Here for Canada. 2025-2030 Strategy](#), October 14, 2025, p. 4.

List of Recommendations

Recommendation 1

That the Government of Canada amend the *Broadcasting Act* to add “the reflection of local communities and audiences” to CBC/Radio-Canada’s mandate.

Recommendation 2

That the Government of Canada provide stable, multi-year funding to CBC/Radio-Canada to enhance local programming and that CBC/Radio-Canada continue to invest to enhance and prioritize local programming.

Recommendation 3

That, at CBC/Radio-Canada's next licence renewal in 2027, the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission impose new reporting requirements on local services provided by the CBC/Radio-Canada on both its traditional and its digital platforms. These reports should be public and provide data on local programming and expenditures for these services.

Recommendation 4

That CBC/Radio-Canada implement new initiatives to collaborate at the local level with private and community media in all regions of the country.

Recommendation 5

That CBC/Radio-Canada periodically conduct analysis by outside experts of the news content and current affairs by CBC/Radio-Canada news services in order to assess its fairness and balance.

Recommendation 6

That CBC/Radio-Canada, in accordance with its obligations under the *Official Languages Act* and in the interest of transparency, ensure that its investments in

television production for official language minority communities clearly and equitably respect the principle of substantive equality.²¹⁴

Recommendation 7

That CBC/Radio-Canada examine the role the Corporation can play in emergency situations. In remote and isolated areas with limited alternative broadcasters, that CBC/Radio-Canada be capable of providing full coverage in the event of an emergency.

²¹⁴ According to [Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat](#), Substantive equality is achieved when one takes into account, where necessary, the differences in characteristics and circumstances of minority communities and provides services with distinct content or using a different method of delivery to ensure that the minority receives services of the same quality as the majority. This approach is the norm in Canadian law.

Appendix A – Requirements for local audio and audiovisual programming

Broadcasting Decision CRTC 2022-165 and Broadcasting Orders CRTC 2022-166 and 2022-167 set out the exhibition requirements relating to the local audio and audiovisual programming to which CBC/Radio-Canada is subject.

Broadcasting requirements for local audio and audiovisual programming

Local audiovisual programming

- The Corporation shall ensure that not less than seven hours of English-language audiovisual local programming is broadcast during each broadcast week on its English-language conventional television network and stations in English-language non-metropolitan markets.²¹⁵
- The Corporation shall ensure that not less than five hours of French-language audiovisual local programming is broadcast each broadcast week on its French-language conventional television network and stations in French-language non-metropolitan markets.
- For French-language stations serving OLMC in Vancouver, British Columbia; Edmonton, Alberta; Regina, Saskatchewan; Winnipeg, Manitoba; Ottawa and Toronto, Ontario; and Moncton, New Brunswick, the five hours of local programming that must be broadcast over the broadcast week may be averaged over the entire broadcast year.²¹⁶
- The Corporation shall ensure that each of its French-language television stations broadcasts local news seven days a week during each broadcast week, except holidays, as defined in the Interpretation Act, excluding Sundays as a holiday.²¹⁷
- The Corporation shall ensure that at least one-third of original programs and program segments broadcast by ICI RDI each broadcast year are produced in the regions of Atlantic Canada, Ontario, Western Canada, the North, and Quebec (excluding Montréal).²¹⁸

²¹⁵ CRTC, Broadcasting Decision CRTC 2022-165 and Broadcasting Orders CRTC 2022-166 and 2022-167, June 22, 2022, Appendix 3, para. 35.

²¹⁶ Ibid., Appendix 3, para. 36.

²¹⁷ Ibid., Appendix 3, para. 37.

²¹⁸ Ibid., Appendix 3, para. 44.

Local audio programming on Radio One and ICI Première stations

- In regard to local audio programming, the CBC does not have a requirement to broadcast a minimum number of hours of local programming or news in the regions, with the exception of its ICI Première radio station CBEF Windsor.²¹⁹
- The CRTC expects the Corporation to maintain the current minimum number of hours per week of local and regional programming on its Radio One and ICI Première stations, which are listed in Appendix 5 to Broadcasting Decision CRTC 2022-165.²²⁰
- The CBC is currently required to broadcast a minimum of 15 hours of local programming each broadcast week on the French-language Windsor radio station CBEF.²²¹

²¹⁹ Ibid., para. 467.

²²⁰ Ibid., para 477.

²²¹ Ibid., Appendix 3, para. 50.

Appendix B – Witnesses

First Session of the Forty-fourth Parliament

Wednesday, October 23, 2024

Joëlle Montminy, Senior Assistant Deputy Minister, Cultural Affairs, Canadian Heritage

Annick Munezero, Director, Cultural Affairs, Canadian Heritage

Michel Sabbagh, Director General, Cultural Affairs, Canadian Heritage

Tuesday, October 29, 2024

Michael Craig, Director, Audio-visual Programming and Distribution, Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission

Scott Shortliffe, Executive Director, Broadcasting, Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission

Wednesday, October 30, 2024

Sarah Andrews, Director, Government and Media Relations, Friends of Canadian Media

Marla Boltman, Executive Director, Friends of Canadian Media

Kevin Desjardins, President, Canadian Association of Broadcasters

Derrick Gray, Chief Research and Operations Officer, Numeris

Matthew Hatfield, Executive Director, OpenMedia

Kirk LaPointe, Journalist, Adjunct Journalism Professor, University of British Columbia, As an individual

April Lindgren, Professor, School of Journalism, Toronto Metropolitan University, As an individual

Tuesday, November 5, 2024

The Honourable Senator Percy E. Downe

Chris Pearson, President, Acadia Broadcasting Corporation

Terry Seguin, former CBC senior broadcast journalist, As an individual

Wednesday, November 6, 2024

Angelica Carrero, Executive Director, Association des radiodiffuseurs communautaires du Québec

Daniel Côté, Mayor, City of Gaspé

Amélie Hinse, Executive Director, Fédération des télévisions communautaires autonomes du Québec

Pierre Tousignant, President, Syndicat des travailleuses et travailleurs de Radio-Canada

Christopher Waddell, Professor Emeritus, School of Journalism and Communication, Carleton University, As an individual

Tuesday, November 19, 2024

Heather Bakken, President, World Press Freedom Canada, As an individual

Karim Bardeesy, Executive Director, The Dais, Toronto Metropolitan University, As an individual

David Clinton, Publisher, The Audit

Annick R. Forest, President, Canadian Media Guild

Sue Gardner, former CBC executive, As an individual

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Emmanuelle Corne Bertrand, Executive Director, Fédération des francophones de la Colombie-Britannique

Marie-Nicole Dubois, Chair of the Board of Directors, Fédération des francophones de la Colombie-Britannique

Richard Fenton, Founder and President, Fentunes Media

Havoc Franklin, Board Member, Canadian Journalists for Free Expression, As an individual

Nathalie Lachance, President, Association canadienne-française de l'Alberta

Isabelle Laurin, Executive Director, Association canadienne-française de l'Alberta

Marc Masson, Political Analyst and media contact, Assemblée communautaire fransaskoise

Denis Simard, President, Assemblée communautaire fransaskoise

Tuesday, November 26, 2024

Audrey Fournier, Executive Director, Fédération franco-ténoise

Jen Gerson, independent journalist, The Line, As an individual

Corey Larocque, Managing Editor, Nunatsiaq News

Christian Ouaka, Executive Director, Association des francophones du Nunavut

Karen Prentice, Director of Content and Communications, Inuit Broadcasting Corporation

Manitok Thompson, Executive Director, Inuit Broadcasting Corporation

Tamara Voudrach, Executive Director, Inuvialuit Communications Society

Wednesday, November 27, 2024

Nicole Arseneau-Sluyter, President, Société de l'Acadie du Nouveau-Brunswick

Miranda Castravelli, Executive Director, English Language Arts Network

Denise Comeau-Desautels, President, Fédération acadienne de la Nouvelle-Écosse

Tony Cornect, President, Fédération des francophones de Terre-Neuve et du Labrador

Kirwan Cox, Executive Director, Quebec English-Language Production Council

Charles Duguay, President, Société acadienne et francophone de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard

Arnie Gelbart, Co-chair of the Board of Directors, Quebec English-Language Production Council

Eva Ludvig, President, Quebec Community Groups Network

Sylvia Martin-Laforge, Director General, Quebec Community Groups Network

Martin Théberge, President, Société Nationale de l'Acadie

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

Jean-Michel Beaudry, Executive Director, Société de la francophonie manitobaine

Fabien Hébert, President, Assemblée de la francophonie de l'Ontario

Peter Hominuk, Executive Director, Assemblée de la francophonie de l'Ontario

Carol Ann Pilon, Executive Director, Alliance des producteurs francophones du Canada

Isabelle Salesse, Executive Director, Association franco-yukonnaise

Richard Stursberg, Chief Executive Officer, Aljess, As an individual

Kim Trynacity, journalism instructor, MacEwan University, As an individual

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Tuesday, October 21, 2025

Marie-Philippe Bouchard, President and Chief Executive Officer, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation

Brodie Fenlon, General Manager and Editor-in-Chief, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation

Jean Francois Rioux, General Manager, Regional Services, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation

Bev Kirshenblatt, Executive Director, Corporate and Regulatory Affairs, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation

Appendix C – Briefs and Other Documents

First Session of the Forty-fourth Parliament

Briefs and other documents are available online on the [committee's website](#).

Barry Azevedo, As an individual

Esther Berube, As an individual

Christine Carter, As an individual

Kendra Cheeseman, As an individual

Civicplan Research Inc.

Coro, As an individual

Kirwan Cox, Executive Director, Quebec English-Language Production Council

Kieran Denny, As an individual

Diversity Institute, Toronto Metropolitan University

Shyla Dutt, As an individual

The Honourable Senator Pat Duncan

Oona Eager, As an individual

Havoc Franklin, Board Member, Canadian Journalists for Free Expression, As an individual

Friends of Canadian Media

Catarina Gomes, As an individual

Derrick Gray, Chief Research and Operations Officer, Numeris

Marcus Handman, As an individual

Fabien Hébert, President, Assemblée de la francophonie de l'Ontario

Helen Henderson, As an individual

Joanna Jack, As an individual

Michael Jenkins, As an individual

Mara Kerry, As an individual

Barry Kiefl, As an individual

Jessica Knowler, As an individual

April Lindgren, Professor, School of Journalism, Toronto Metropolitan University, As an individual

Eva Ludvig, President, Quebec Community Groups Network

Warren Murschell, As an individual

Elizabeth Watts, As an individual

Public Broadcasting for Canada

Quebecor Media Inc.

Louise Smith, As an individual

Shauna Sylvester, As an individual

Martin Théberge, President, Société Nationale de l'Acadie

Manitok Thompson, Executive Director, Inuit Broadcasting Corporation

Pierre Tousignant, President, Syndicat des travailleuses et travailleurs de Radio-Canada

Talin Vartanian, As an individual

Christopher Waddell, Professor Emeritus, School of Journalism and Communication, Carleton University, As an individual

Robert Yip, As an individual

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Briefs and other documents are available online on the [committee's website](#).

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