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For immediate release

Let's see how much money the big broadcasters are really making and where they're spending it, says Directors Guild of Canada

Toronto, February 15, 2008 - The Directors Guild of Canada (DGC), as part of the Canadian English independent production community, filed comments yesterday with the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) to support public disclosure of aggregate financial data for over-the-air television and radio broadcasters. DGC requested that revenue and expenditure information for media giants such as CTVgm, CanWest and Rogers be made public in order to evaluate the manner in which CRTC policies are being applied, and the extent to which broadcasters are contributing to the system.

"This information is critical for analytical purposes. Without this data, industry stakeholders cannot properly participate in the public process," said Brian Anthony, DGC National Executive Director and CEO. "Disclosure of financial information relating to the over-the-air licences is essential to the public interest. This is an important tool for assessing the performance of these broadcasters in meeting their regulatory obligations and assessing their contributions to the broadcasting system," added the CEO.

The DGC firmly believes that annual disclosure of aggregate financial data of both private broadcasters and the CBC is essential despite broadcaster assertions this will put them at a competitive disadvantage. "The Commission released financial information to the public for CTV, Global and TVA station groups for the 2001 licence renewal hearings. This information included annual revenue and expenditures reported in 1997 through to 2000, and I can assure you the world didn't end nor did it make these organizations vulnerable to their competitors," said Monique Lafontaine, DGC General Counsel and Director of Regulatory Affairs.

The Guild supported the Commissions approach in 2001 to 'foster open and informed public discussion', as public access to data allows for more informed public discussion on the wide range of issues facing the industry. Specialty and pay services have disclosed this information on an annual basis for many years and have not endangered their competitive position by doing so.

In the world of drama, with its long germination periods, full and complete disclosure on an annual basis is required in order to track and comment on trends as well as compliance matters that directly affect the overall health and welfare of the industry.

DGC filed comments in conjunction with the CFTPA, ACTRA, WGC and DOC as a coalition of the Canadian English independent production community.

About the Directors Guild of Canada

The Directors Guild of Canada (DGC) is a national labour organization that represents over 3,800 key creative and logistical personnel in the film and television industry covering all areas of direction, design, production and editing. The DGC negotiates and administers collective agreements and lobbies extensively on issues of concern for members including Canadian content conditions, CRTC regulations and ensuring that funding is maintained for Canadian film and television programming.

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