



# Open Letter to the Honourable Shelley Glover, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages

Minister Glover,

I am writing this open letter on behalf of the countless Canadians who believe Prime Minister Stephen Harper, your cabinet colleagues and yourself when you say that it is your Conservative government's mission to be tough on criminals and to stand up for the victims of crime.

As president of Avis de recherche (ADR) – a French-language public-interest specialty television channel devoted to helping police apprehend suspects, solve crimes, find missing persons and, in some ways, help give crime victims closure, I share your government's law-and-order objectives. Like all sensible Canadians, I believe that crime suspects should be apprehended; they should be tried and, if found guilty, they should be punished. I also believe that as many tools as possible must be put at the disposal of police departments and other crime-prevention agencies to help them ensure public safety. And I believe that our public institutions – government and government agencies – should defend and promote these ideals, which are the cornerstone of the society in which we live.

The CRTC (Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission), the Canadian regulatory body which grants television stations their licence to operate, recognized the “exceptional importance” of ADR in the past, and granted it mandatory distribution status as a “must-carry” channel in Quebec. Alas, these sentiments are not shared by current CRTC commissioners. In Spring 2013, ADR petitioned the CRTC for renewal of its licence and, more importantly, renewal of its mandatory distribution order.

Despite overwhelming public and institutional support – including glowing testimonials from a broad spectrum of Canadian individuals and institutions at the public hearing – the CRTC rendered a decision which will very likely spell the end of ADR within the next few months. Its English-language counterpart, **All Points Bulletin (APB)** – which would have benefitted the rest of Canada – was also denied CRTC approval and will never see the light of day. Both are the victims of an ill-advised decision by a government agency which, by all accounts, is misinformed, misguided, and perhaps cowering to external pressures.

The CRTC decision terminates ADR's mandatory distribution, cutting it off from its only source of operating revenue – a mere \$0.06 (that's six cents!) per digital television subscriber in Quebec. More importantly, it removes the obligation of cable companies to offer the channel to consumers. Without this obligation consumers will not have the possibility to choose it, as it will not be on the menu. Furthermore, the decision obliges ADR to alter its business model and find alternative sources of revenue, namely through advertising – by August 2015. Not only is this unrealistic, it is, in fact, in breach of the channel's Category B licence.

Invoking the possibility that ADR impose user fees to broadcast police bulletins, further reveals the insensitivity of the CRTC decision: it is essentially asking that those who should pay are distraught parents looking for their missing child, police departments whose budgets are strapped, and crime victims who have already endured a loss!

I can understand that it is the prerogative of government and the CRTC to periodically review how Canadians consume television, and to make adjustments over time as the situation changes. But to render a decision that obliterates a television station which provides a worthy public service is to throw out the proverbial baby with the bath water.

The assertion by the CRTC that ADR is somehow obsolete, replaced by online equivalents, is both false and distractive. ADR works closely with law enforcement agencies to produce round-the-clock broadcasts of police bulletins on wanted suspects and missing persons. It also produces and broadcasts 100 percent original Canadian programming in collaboration with numerous public safety bodies and organizations that aim to educate and inform viewers on all matters pertaining to public safety and prevention.

ADR's licence renewal application received letters of endorsement from almost every police force in Canada, as well as from the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, and the provincial equivalents in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and New Brunswick. There were also letters from numerous provincial public safety ministers, letters from city mayors from Halifax to Vancouver, missing persons' organizations, the Canadian Crime-Stoppers Association, and Correctional Service of Canada. There were letters from a brigadier-general in the Department of National Defence, victims' organizations, and many other organizations involved in the promotion of safety and crime prevention. It was truly a united call by many of those to whom we entrust the safety and well-being of all Canadians. (See < <http://adr.tv/a-propos-adr-lettre-appui.php> > for a listing of over 300 letters of support.)

Many interventions provided evidence of ADR's value in bringing criminals to justice and in reuniting families. For example, the RCMP in Quebec indicated that the resolution of at least 34 percent of its “unlawfully at large” cases is directly attributable to ADR. Organizations outside Quebec demanded that a similar English-language channel be made available so that all Canadians could benefit.

In your home province of Manitoba, there were letters from the Honourable Andrew Swan, Attorney General and Minister of Justice, Mayor Sam Katz of Winnipeg, Ian Grant, vice-president of the Manitoba Association of Chiefs of Police, and Arthur Stannard, acting chief of police in Winnipeg. We also received a letter of support from Christy Dzikowicz of the Canadian Centre for Child Protection. All acclaimed the service provided by ADR in Quebec and appealed to the CRTC to approve its English-language equivalent so that Manitobans could also benefit. **As a former police officer, you can surely see the value of a service that is praised almost unanimously by the Canadian law-enforcement establishment and sister agencies.**

But the greatest endorsement of all for ADR came in September 2012, when I was awarded the Silver Jubilee Medal for the work I do with ADR, during a ceremony in Ottawa. Among those present were Conservative senators Jean-Guy Dagenais and Pierre-Hugues Boisvenu; the ceremony was presided by your cabinet colleague Rob Nicholson, Minister of National Defence!

The wrongfulness of the CRTC decision to deny ADR its “must-carry” licence must be viewed both in light of the groundswell of public support for ADR and in the indisputably valuable service ADR provides to the community at large.

As Heritage Minister, you have the discretion to remedy this situation – to undo a wrong before it's too late. Is the safety of a child, the security of our communities, and the bringing of criminals to justice not worth the six cents it costs to maintain our service? Police departments, victims' organizations, civil protection agencies and consumer groups, among others, all say yes. **What do you say, Minister?**

Vincent G racitano,  
Founder and President  
Avis de Recherche TV  
All Points Bulletin TV

**Minister Glover,  
“Is the safety of a child, the security  
of our communities, and the bringing  
of criminals to justice not worth the six  
cents it costs to maintain our service?”**



ATTORNEY GENERAL  
MINISTER OF JUSTICE  
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FEB 21 2013

John Traversy  
Secretary General  
Canadian Radio-television & Telecommunications Commission  
Ottawa ON K1A 0N2

Re: Notice of Consultation: CRTC 2013-19  
2012-0689-7 “All Points Bulletin”  
2012-1051-7 “Avis de Recherche”

Dear Mr. Traversy:

On behalf of the Province of Manitoba and Manitoba Justice, I am pleased to provide the Province's endorsement for the application by “All Points Bulletin” (APB) to obtain “Public Interest” status.

I understand that APB's sister station in Quebec, “Avis de Recherche”, works very closely with police services and numerous other public safety bodies to produce and broadcast programming aimed at informing and educating viewers on all matters pertaining to safety and prevention.

I believe that APB will provide an invaluable tool for the policing and public safety community in Manitoba and would be particularly important in missing persons investigations and Amber Alert notifications.

The Province supports this endeavour as APB aims to inform, educate and enhance public safety.

Yours truly,

Andrew Swan

c. Vincent Geracitano



Winnipeg Police Service - Service de Police de Winnipeg

February 25, 2013

Secretary General John Traversy  
Canadian Radio-television &  
Telecommunications Commission  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0N2

Dear Mr. Traversy,

Re: Notice of Consultation: CRTC 2013-19  
Reference Numbers: 2012-1051-7 and 2012-0689-7

On behalf of Chief Devon Clunis, I am writing in support of the renewal of Avis de recherche (ADR-TV) television license, as well as its renewal of its “Public Interest” status as per Article 9(1)h) of the Broadcast Act.

The Winnipeg Police Service supports the APB proposal for a television channel whose programming will make Canada a safer place to be. It is our understanding that Avis de Recherche (ADR) has been embraced by our colleagues in the province of Quebec and that the service has surpassed their initial expectations. Not only has ADR contributed in locating wanted suspects and missing persons, it has also assisted law enforcement agencies and other public safety bodies in informing and educating Quebecers in all matters pertaining to public safety. Further, it has been used as a vehicle by all public safety bodies to reach out to the community with informative programming aimed at improving the safety and the overall well-being of the community.

More importantly, we would equally like to benefit from the availability of a similar English language service in the rest of Canada. Like its sister station (ADR) in Quebec, which is fully supported by Chiefs of Police in Quebec, APB will work closely with Public Safety agencies in a collaborative effort to promote safety, education, and information to views in regards to crime prevention matters.

As such, we wholeheartedly support the APB application before you believing that this communication model is a true asset to community safety and a proactive component to community based initiatives throughout Canada, and respectfully request that the CRTC approve the application by “All Points Bulletin” (APB) and grant it the same status as ADR in accordance with Article 9(1)h) of the Broadcast Act.”

Yours truly,

Arthur G. Stannard  
Acting Chief of Police

/psb



CANADIAN CENTRE for CHILD PROTECTION  
Helping families. Protecting children.

January 30, 2013

Mr. John Traversy  
Secretary General  
CRTC  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A0A3

Notice of Consultation: CRTC 2013-19  
Reference Numbers: 2012-1051-7 and 2012-0689-7

Dear Mr. Traversy,

I am writing in support of the renewal of Avis de recherche's (ADR-TV) television license, as well as its renewal of its “Public Interest” status as per Article 9(1)h) of the Broadcast Act.

As the Director of a national missing children service, MissingKids.ca, I can speak to the importance of opportunities to profile searches in the media. The public can be the eyes and ears for families of missing children and can assist the police in their efforts. These mediums also provide hope and comfort to families that their children are not forgotten. The Canadian Centre for Child Protection and its MissingKids.ca program works in partnership with Entant Retour in Quebec. For years, I have been aware of the great collaboration between Entant Retour and ADR and am fully appreciative of the service ADR has provided to Entant Retour and to families of missing children in Quebec.

This letter is written to support renewal of licensing for ADR and to request that the CRTC grant the application to its sister station All Points Bulletin in hopes that all Canadians may benefit from a station dedicated to the well-being of children and the safety of our communities. Our agency would welcome the opportunity to highlight child safety issues and profile missing children through such a station and we look forward to working with them. Our agency has developed a wealth of public awareness, prevention and education materials. Our challenge is to get them into the hands of Canadians. All Points Bulletin could assist us in this mission.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me directly. Thank you for your consideration.

A copy of the letter has been sent to the applicant.

I do not want to appear at the hearing.

Respectfully,

Christy Dzikowicz  
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**A sampling of letters from organizations that expressed their support of ADR and APB at the CRTC public hearings in Spring 2013  
Many more such letters will be published in the weeks and months ahead!**