



## Broadcasting Public Notice CRTC 2007-136

Ottawa, 7 December 2007

### **Call for comments on the proposed addition of France 24 (English) and France 24 (French) to the lists of eligible satellite services for distribution on a digital basis**

1. The Commission received a request dated 22 October 2007 from Videotron Ltd. (Videotron) for the addition of France 24 (English), a non-Canadian, English-language satellite service, and France 24 (French), a non-Canadian, French-language satellite service, to the lists of eligible satellite services for distribution on a digital basis (the digital lists).
2. Videotron described the services as news channels that operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and that report on international news with a specifically French perspective. Both services offer identical programming schedules, and make use of the same news, images, subjects and reports. According to France 24, the services' programming schedules, which are dedicated exclusively to world news, focus primarily on current affairs, economy, culture, sports and weather, and broadcast news bulletins, news programs, current affairs reports and talk shows.
3. The Commission's approach to requests for the addition of non-Canadian English- and French-language services to the digital lists is set out in *Call for proposals to amend the lists of eligible satellite services through the inclusion of additional non-Canadian services eligible for distribution on a digital basis only*, Public Notice CRTC 2000-173, 14 December 2000. In that public notice, the Commission indicated that it would assess such requests in the context of its general policy, which, among other things, precludes the addition of a non-Canadian satellite service that can be considered either totally or partially competitive with Canadian specialty or pay television services. The Commission stated that, in applying this policy, it would take into account all specialty and pay television programming services whose licence applications had been approved by the Commission, including launched and unlaunched Category 1 and Category 2 specialty and pay television services.
4. The Commission will rely primarily on the comments filed to identify the Canadian pay and specialty services with which France 24 (English) and France 24 (French) might be totally or partially competitive and which therefore should be included in the assessment of the competitiveness of the service. Parties wishing to argue that France 24 (English) or France 24 (French) would be competitive should therefore name the specific Canadian pay or specialty services with which they consider the services would compete, and provide details to support their views, such as comparisons as to nature and genre of service, programming schedules, programming sources and supply, and target audience.

## **Call for comments**

5. The Commission calls for comments on Videotron's request for the addition of France 24 (English) and France 24 (French) to the digital lists. Parties submitting comments on the request should also submit a true copy of their comments to the Canadian sponsor, Videotron, at the following address:  
  
Quebecor Media Inc.  
Regulatory Affairs  
465 McGill Street, 5<sup>th</sup> floor  
Montréal, Quebec  
H2Y 4A6  
  
Fax: 514-380-4664  
E-mail: [tabet.peggy@quebecor.com](mailto:tabet.peggy@quebecor.com)
6. Proof that comments have been sent to Videotron must accompany the original version of the comments sent to the Commission.
7. Comments on Videotron's request must be received by the Commission no later than 22 January 2008. A copy of the comments must be received by Videotron no later than the deadline for receipt of comments by the Commission.
8. Videotron may file a written reply to any comments received concerning its request. This reply should be filed with the Commission, and a copy sent to the person who submitted the comments, by no later than 5 February 2008.
9. The Commission will not formally acknowledge comments. It will, however, fully consider all comments and they will form part of the public record of the proceeding, provided that the procedures for filing set out below have been followed.

## **Procedures for filing comments**

10. Interested parties can file their comments to the Secretary General of the Commission:
  - **by using the**  
[Broadcasting Intervention/Comments Form](#)
  - OR
  - **by mail to**  
CRTC, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0N2
  - OR

- **by fax at**  
819-994-0218

11. Submissions longer than five pages should include a summary.
12. Please number each paragraph of your submission. In addition, please enter the line \*\*\*End of document\*\*\* following the last paragraph. This will help the Commission verify that the document has not been damaged during transmission.

### **Important notice**

13. Note that all information that you provide as part of this public process, except information granted confidentiality, whether sent by postal mail, facsimile, e-mail or through the Commission's Web site at [www.crtc.gc.ca](http://www.crtc.gc.ca), becomes part of a publicly accessible file and will be posted on the Commission's Web site. This information includes your personal information, such as your full name, e-mail address, postal/street address, telephone and facsimile number(s), and any other personal information you provide.
14. The personal information you provide will be used and may be disclosed for the purpose for which the information was obtained or compiled by the Commission, or for a use consistent with that purpose.
15. Documents received electronically or otherwise will be put on the Commission's Web site in their entirety exactly as you send them, including any personal information contained therein, in the official language and format in which they are received. Documents not received electronically will be available in PDF format.
16. Please note that the information you provide to the Commission as part of this public process is entered into an unsearchable database dedicated to this specific public process. This database is accessible only from the webpage of this particular public process. As a result, a general search of our Web site with the help of either our own search engine or a third-party search engine will not provide access to the information which was provided as part of this public process.
17. The Commission encourages interested parties to monitor the public examination file and the Commission's Web site for additional information that they may find useful when preparing their comments.

### **Examination of public comments and related documents at the following Commission offices during normal business hours**

Toll-free telephone: 1-877-249-2782  
Toll-free TDD: 1-877-909-2782

Central Building  
Les Terrasses de la Chaudière  
1 Promenade du Portage, Room 206  
Gatineau, Quebec K1A 0N2  
Tel.: 819-997-2429  
Fax: 819-994-0218

Metropolitan Place  
99 Wyse Road  
Suite 1410  
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia B3A 4S5  
Tel.: 902-426-7997  
Fax: 902-426-2721

205 Viger Avenue West  
Suite 504  
Montréal, Quebec H2Z 1G2  
Tel.: 514-283-6607

55 St. Clair Avenue East  
Suite 624  
Toronto, Ontario M4T 1M2  
Tel.: 416-952-9096

Kensington Building  
275 Portage Avenue  
Suite 1810  
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 2B3  
Tel.: 204-983-6306  
TDD: 204-983-8274  
Fax: 204-983-6317

Cornwall Professional Building  
2125 - 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Room 103  
Regina, Saskatchewan S4P 3X3  
Tel.: 306-780-3422

10405 Jasper Avenue  
Suite 520  
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 3N4  
Tel.: 780-495-3224

530-580 Hornby Street  
Vancouver, British Columbia V6C 3B6  
Tel.: 604-666-2111  
TDD: 604-666-0778  
Fax: 604-666-8322

Secretary General

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