

B. THE PROGRAMMING COMMITMENT: To support Active and Informed Citizenship in Canada

CPaC represents a commitment by the CBC and the Canadian cable industry to make a direct and continuing contribution to the maintenance and enhancement of active and informed citizenship in Canada by enabling Canadians to participate more fully in the democratic process. Consider CPaC's programming priorities:

- i) to provide Canadians with direct, unedited access to the proceedings of the House of Commons and other democratic institutions in Canada;
- ii) to extend that coverage, to put it in a wider context, and to make it more understandable by providing direct access to the views and activities of those individuals and organizations who have the greatest impact on our national life; and
- iii) to increase the opportunities available for Canadians to participate actively in, and to contribute to the national public policy debate.

CPaC's dedication to extended, uninterrupted coverage of the raw material of democratic decision making is based on the belief that Canadians are well served by the quality and quantity of the journalistic programming that is now available within the Canadian broadcasting system. CPaC believes, however, that all Canadians will benefit from greater access to, and increased opportunities to discuss, the actual events and activities on which this journalistic programming is based. As such, CPaC will provide programming which will allow viewers to make up their own minds on the issues of the day.

To effectively support active and informed citizenship, CPaC recognizes that even as Parliament has rules of procedure, so too must CPaC's programming be balanced and diverse — reflecting a range of views. As such, CPaC will establish policies and procedures to ensure that the programming which it originates is both diverse and balanced.

For this purpose (and as is set out in greater detail in subsequent sections of this application), a Programming Committee of the Board of Directors of CPaC will be established to develop and monitor the service's published programming policies.

PROGRAMMING MANDATE

CPaC will provide a national programming service in both official languages based on high quality coverage of the proceedings of Parliament and other events of national public significance.

CPaC programming will consist of five key elements, which are presented below in the order of their priority within the service: