

letter "V" inside a small red square when a violent movie is broadcast; the symbol will appear a number of times during the broadcast. The letter "V" will also be printed next to the title of the movie in its movie catalogue. However, this initiative will not affect the time of day at which violent movies are to be shown.

2. Province of Ontario¹⁰²

The Ontario Film Review Board, also an administrative tribunal, operates pursuant to the provisions of the Ontario *Theatres Act*. The Board has the power to classify films in accordance with the following classifications set out in the Act: "Family", "Parental Guidance", "Adult Accompaniment" (restricted to persons 14 years of age and over or to younger persons who are accompanied by an adult), and "Restricted" (to persons 18 years of age or over). "Information pieces" about the contents of the film may be added to the film rating; these include "Brutal Violence", "Frightening Scenes", "Nudity", and "Not Recommended for Children".

In the Ontario *Theatres Act*, film is defined to include videotape. However, the Act does not provide for the marking or stamping of the ratings on the video cassettes themselves or on their boxes. The Act also makes no provisions to regulate the sale or rental of videos to persons under the age required by the rating. Instead, the ratings are consigned to a catalogue that each video store is required to keep.

3. Industry Proposal to the Provinces

At present, national film and video producers and distributors have to deal with seven provincial classification systems, three pay television systems and one American system. Getting a film or a video classified is a cumbersome, lengthy and costly process. To overcome this problem, five industry trade associations — Canadian Association of Video Distributors, National Association of Canadian Film and Video Distributors, The Canadian Motion Picture Distributors Association, The Motion Picture Theatres Association of Canada and Video Software Dealers Association — made a joint proposal to the provinces in November 1992 asking their governments "to support the creation of a single national classification facility which will classify all films and videos released in Canada."¹⁰³

Under this proposal, provincial governments would continue to exercise their right to license the distribution, exhibition, sale and rental of films and videos in their provinces, to add "information pieces" to suit community standards, to offer a local appeal process for the handling of consumer complaints and to provide penalties for non-compliance.

The proposal calls for a non-profit National Classification Corporation empowered to carry out its classification work on behalf of the provinces. The Corporation's Board would consist of a representative from each participating province and a representative from each industry association, but with a majority of provincial representatives. The classification of films and videos would be conducted by a Review Board made up of professional classifiers reporting to the Corporation's Board. The classification of each film, video cassette and video box would be identified using an easily recognized, publicly acceptable set of symbols and "information pieces".

Asked about the reaction of the provinces to the industry proposal, Sandra Macdonald, President of the CFTPA, stated that "to this point, we haven't had any provinces agree to give up jurisdiction in this area".¹⁰⁴