

Parliament's long-standing decision to create and maintain a national broadcasting service as an essential facet of Canadian development has been implemented through a CBC Board of Directors, acting as trustees in broadcasting for the Canadian people on behalf of Parliament.

Parliament has given the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation the widest possible latitude in all phases of its operations. This is necessary in order that the Corporation might carry out its programming mandate from Parliament. The Corporation is free to program by its own decisions. Once a year it reports formally to Parliament on what it has done, through its annual report. Additionally, the Corporation stands ready at any time to report or answer to Parliament on its trusteeship.

On these occasions it is our belief that the CBC has two prime responsibilities: to provide Parliament with all possible factual information it may require, and secondly, to express our opinions on broadcasting freely and frankly.

For convenience in answering points raised by the 1959 Committee and in the hope of facilitating the consideration of these answers, this report divides the Corporation's response into four main areas: Programming; Finance; Administration, and Coverage.

In considering these aspects of the Corporation, it should be stressed that there are two underlying factors which are basic:

1. The interest of Parliament and of the CBC are identical. One is the trustee for the other in assuring the continued operation of the Corporation in the best interests of the public.
2. The philosophy and policies followed by the CBC have been shaped since 1936 by the distinguished Canadians who have served their country as Governors and Directors of the Corporation.

The basic aims and objectives shaped by successive CBC Boards have had the stated approval of successive Parliamentary Committees on Broadcasting, including the 1959 Committee.

In the four areas mentioned above -- Programming, Finance, Administration and Coverage -- the Corporation has made significant progress since the report of the 1959 Committee.

I -- Programming

Programming is always the first consideration of the Corporation. CBC networks and stations carry more than 100,000 programs a year -- each one tailor-made and each subject to public appraisal.