

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ottawa, October 28 - The CBC Board of Directors today issued the following policy statement:

The Board has completed reviews of CBC policies in the fields of news broadcasts and talks and public affairs.

The Board believes that CBC's news policy and its policies followed in talks and public affairs are of the highest importance to broadcasting in Canada. It believes the policies which have been worked out in practice by the Corporation over more than twenty years have resulted in good broadcasting in these fields, and that these policies should be firmly maintained.

The integrity of the CBC news is based on the primary conception that this service is in the nature of a public trust; to present by radio and television all the significant news of the day's happenings in Canada and abroad factually, without bias or distortion, without comment, and in a clear and unambiguous style.

The Board affirms the Corporation's long-standing policy that news broadcasts should not be sponsored.

The Board considers the news service as of prime importance in the over-all CBC service.

In talks and public affairs, the subject matter of programs should be as varied as the interests of listeners and viewers. The CBC must aim at providing information to the Canadian public about a large number of topics, some of them of current interest, some of more lasting importance; presenting a variety of viewpoints about those topics on which there is a difference of opinion, either internationally or within the Canadian community; presenting, fairly, the main points of view held by Canadians; facilitating the exchange of information and viewpoints between different sections of Canada; and interesting a larger number of Canadians in current affairs and in subject areas which might otherwise be outside the range of their experience, in as entertaining a manner as possible.

The CBC must be completely independent in the field of opinion broadcasting and the Board supports the public affairs broadcasting policies developed by the Corporation over the years.

The Board believes also that if a subject is a matter of concern to a significant section of the population, the Corporation is justified in providing a platform for discussion of it, whether the subject is controversial or not.