

E. CRTC INITIATIVES

While not directly related to the control of television violence, the standards promulgated by the CRTC in 1985 for the pay television services were a first regulatory step. Developed by the industry itself, these standards require that programming be classified according to the type of audience for whom the programming is intended; letters such as "G", "PG", "A" and "R" are used for that purpose, much in the same way that films are classified by various provincial film boards.

As mentioned earlier, in May 1992 the CRTC published two important reports on the subject of television violence; both were commissioned following the massacre of 14 women at the Montreal École Polytechnique. The CRTC's staff report, *Scientific Knowledge about Television Violence*, presents an overview of more than 200 scientific studies about violence on television and its effects in terms of aggression and anti-social behaviour.⁸⁸ The second report, *Summary and Analysis of Various Studies on Violence and Television*, summarizes the recommendations and policy initiatives of a number of public inquiries into media violence and examines the broadcasting standards developed in Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and France.⁸⁹

With modest financial help from the CRTC, and hosted by the "Institut québécois de recherche sur la culture," the International Symposium on Violence in Film and Television was held in Montreal in November 1992. A few months later, in February 1993, again with modest financial help from the CRTC, a second symposium on the theme "Reclaiming Childhood: Responsible Solutions to television Violence and our Children" took place in Toronto, hosted by the Hincks Institute.

In addition to its dialogue with the CAB on the revision to the Voluntary Code Regarding Violence in Television Programming, the CRTC has initiated discussions with key players such as the Canadian Cable Television Association, provincial ministers responsible for regulating video stores and cinemas, Canadian pay and specialty services, the American Federal Communications Commission, executives and producers at the U.S. studios and major networks, and representatives of the Canadian Teachers' Federation, the Canadian Home and School and Parent-Teacher Federation, the Canadian Advertising Foundation, the CBC and the Canadian production community. The CRTC has also launched an informal newsletter to encourage an ongoing dialogue and exchange of ideas with anti-violence groups and to keep them informed of the Commission's activities.

F. RECENT PROPOSALS AND INITIATIVES FOR CO-OPERATIVE ACTION

Recently, separate proposals for co-operative action to deal with television violence were announced by the Minister of Communications, the Canadian television production industry, the CAB and the CRTC. They will be summarized in the order in which they were made.

On 19 February 1993, speaking to the delegates on the opening day of the C.M. Hincks Institute Conference, the Minister of Communications announced a five-part strategy to get at this issue.⁹⁰ Briefly, the five elements are:

- 1) *a strong and uniform code on television violence for all elements of the industry — the Minister will ask the CRTC to write and enforce one if the industry produces one that is not tough enough;*