

A new draft code on television violence was adopted by the Board of the CAB in January 1993 and was sent to the CRTC on 29 January. Within two weeks, the CRTC provided the CAB with its views on necessary improvements and also met with the President of the CAB to exchange views on the new draft code. The Chairman of the CRTC told Committee members during his presentation of 24 February 1993 that:

*We are pursuing this with a sense of urgency and determination so that, we hope, the public can see a final version in a few weeks, not months. We are seeking a strong, credible self-regulatory code with a credible monitoring system to function under our close surveillance.*⁸⁴

As the Sub-Committee on Television Violence was finalizing its report, more than two months after Mr. Spicer's statement to the effect that the CRTC was pursuing this with a sense of urgency and determination, a code had still not been agreed upon. As stated in Recommendation No. 10, it is with a unanimous sense of urgency and determination of its own that the members of the Standing Committee urge Mr. Spicer to conclude his negotiations with the broadcasters in a few weeks, not in a few months.

D. THE CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION'S POLICIES

The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) has its own policies regarding violence in radio and television programming (the Voluntary Code developed by the CAB applies only to private television broadcasters). The CBC policies reflect the view that, given the predominantly Canadian content broadcasted by the CBC during prime time viewing hours, it is able to reflect Canadian values — values which do not include or condone gratuitous violence. The three CBC policies on the treatment of violence in its programming deal with three different areas: *journalism*, *general programming* and *children's programming*.

The CBC's 1988 Journalistic Policy includes guidelines on the portrayal of violence and the following statement:

*Violence must not be exploited on radio and television. The CBC as a matter of general policy does not portray violence, except where its depiction is an essential fact of the reality being portrayed.*⁸⁵

The 1984 Program Policy No. 14 on Violence in General Programming states that "*the CBC does not broadcast programs that unduly exploit violence, and restricts the number of program series built around themes of violent action*".⁸⁶ It also spells out some practical considerations to take into account when producers are considering program content.

The 1984 Program Policy No. 15 on Violence in Children's Programming was designed with the creative growth and development of Canadian children in mind:

*The CBC produces children's programs and selects films and TV series whose content and treatment are consistent with what is known about the creative growth and development of Canadian children. The Corporation does not consider that young people should be sheltered from the realities of life, but neither does it assume that children are prepared for adult entertainment from the beginning.*⁸⁷