

1. The CPaC (Canadian Parliamentary Channel) proposal, as presented by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and the Canadian cable television industry (Cableco) should be accepted and endorsed as proposed, provided that four members of the Board of Directors are appointed to represent the public interest.

“CPaC will take what you give us from the House of Commons and we will wrap programming around that.”

Philip B. Lind,
Senior Vice-President,
Rogers Communications Inc.

The CPaC proposal involves the creation of an independent, non-profit joint venture between the CBC and the Canadian cable television industry (Cableco). CPaC would be a satellite-to-cable specialty service; it would broadcast the proceedings of the House of Commons, as well as any other proceedings (such as committee hearings) that are provided to it by the House of Commons. Any airtime that was not taken up by broadcasts from the House would be programmed by CPaC; such “wrap-around” programming would be of a public affairs nature. The CPaC proposal is modelled upon the C-SPAN operations in the United States; C-SPAN is a non-profit initiative of the U.S. cable television industry, and has been very successful since its inception in 1979.

An executive summary of the CPaC application is set out in detail in Appendix “II” to this Report. It is important to note that the CPaC application must be licensed by the CRTC before it can commence operations. It will be subject to any conditions of licence imposed by the Commission, as well as general obligations and requirements of the *Broadcasting Act*, the regulations, and other applicable legislation.

Under the proposal, CPaC would be governed by an 11-member board of directors, consisting of five members nominated by the CBC and five members nominated by Cableco. In addition, one member nominated jointly by the CBC and Cableco would serve as Chairman of the board.

The Committee believes there should be representation of the public on the board of directors of CPaC. As the board is responsible for the overall direction and supervision of the Channel, it is important in its deliberations that there are individuals who have no connection with or commitment to either the CBC or Cableco; independent directors whose role is to represent the public interest. In appearances before the Committee, both Mr. Philip Lind, on behalf of Cableco, and Mr. Gérard Veilleux, President of the CBC, indicated that they did not foresee any problem with a requirement that each partner in CPaC name two nominees who would be independent of them and would represent the public interest on the board of directors. The four nominees to represent the public should