

CAUTION TO POTENTIAL APPLICANTS FOR COSTS AWARDS:

The funds available to the Broadcasting Participation Fund are currently limited as described in the letter below to the Fund's Stakeholders. The letter informs the Stakeholders that the Fund will be materially depleted in early 2026 unless significant additional funds are received. The Fund strongly encourages potential costs awards applicants to take this information into account when planning interventions in Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission broadcasting proceedings. A significant risk exists that the Fund will not be in a financial position to award costs past early 2026.

Dear Stakeholders:

The Board of Directors of the BPF (the "Board") wishes to provide an update to Fund Stakeholders on certain recent developments relating to the fund administered by the Board (the "Fund"). This update relates to the forecast timeline for the anticipated exhaust of the Fund, and the Board's intended steps in relation thereto.

Stakeholders will recall that the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (the "Commission") determined initial funding for the Fund shortly following establishment of the BPF in a few separate decisions, namely,

- *\$3M in 2011 resulting from Broadcasting Decision CRTC 2011-163;*
- *\$2M (payable in seven equal annual installments) in 2013 resulting from Broadcasting Decision CRTC 2013-310;*
- *\$1M (payable in two equal annual instalments) in 2018 resulting from Broadcasting Decision CRTC 2018-91; and*
- *\$725,439 (payable in three equal annual instalments) in 2022 resulting from Broadcasting Decision CRTC 2022-76.*

Additionally, in 2023 the Board secured \$650,000 through a one-time funding agreement signed with the Department of Canadian Heritage to cover certain cost awards made between the period of April 1, 2023 and March 31, 2025.

No other or ongoing funding source has been received by the Fund since these funding awards and the outcome of any future funding is uncertain at this point.

*Based on the recent rate of disbursements from the Fund (\$488,381 in 2024 and the additional payment of over \$340,000 for 32 cost claims received in the first six months of 2025), if no additional funding contributions are forthcoming, **the Board currently projects that the Fund could be materially depleted by early 2026**, to the point that it is anticipated that the funding of cost awards from the Fund could cease in whole or in part prior, on or around such time, dependent upon the number and scope of Commission broadcast proceedings as well as the participation of groups seeking cost awards in those proceedings.*

The Board has been actively assessing Fund exhaust on an ongoing basis. In addition to consideration of this issue at a number of recent Board meetings, the Board will raise the issue of fund diminishment to both the CRTC and Canadian Heritage as well as directly to the Commissioners at the upcoming CRTC consultation on public interest participation CRTC 2025-94.

We are providing you this information to ensure that Stakeholders are informed as to the status of the Fund, and to solicit and consider Stakeholder views. We welcome input with respect to this issue; however, please note that this is a time-sensitive matter and we ask that any comments be sent to the BPF at bpf@welchllp.com by July 28, 2025.

For further information on the Fund, please visit the BPF website: www.bpf-fpr.ca.

Kind regards,

*Teresa Griffin-Muir, Chair
on behalf of the Board of Directors of the BPF*