

Broadcasting Participation Fund Receives Financial Assistance from Department of Canadian Heritage

January 24, 2024

The Broadcasting Participation Fund (BPF) is pleased to announce that the Department of Canadian Heritage will contribute \$650,000 to the Broadcasting Participation Fund (BPF) over the two-year period of 2023-2025. The funding will ensure that Canadian public interest and consumer groups have the necessary financial support to make legal and properly researched interventions in the CRTC's broadcasting hearings. This contribution will enable the articulation of Canadians' concerns to the CRTC on such important matters as creating a modernized regulatory framework for the new Online Streaming Act.

This injection of funds from the Department of Canadian Heritage comes at a time when the BPF has been facing suspension of operations due to insufficient funding.

Established as an independent, not-for-profit organization in 2012 at the direction of the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC), the BPF is the only funding mechanism in place to support public participation in the democratic process of CRTC hearings on broadcasting. Since its inception, the Fund has supported over 250 claims from dozens of public-interest organizations for some or most of their costs for participating in over 100 CRTC broadcasting proceedings, enabling a broad spectrum of public-interest organizations to undertake detailed analysis of broadcasters' applications, gather and analyze evidence about the impact of CRTC policies, and to advocate before the CRTC on behalf of seniors, marginalized Canadians, individuals with disabilities, people living in rural areas, and Canadians in general. By participating in CRTC proceedings that are often lengthy and complex these groups have helped the Commission fulfill its mandate of engaging Canadians in its public processes.

The relevant forms and information on how to prepare a cost submission are found at <https://www.bpf-fpr.ca/en/home.html>. The definition of a public interest group is found [in item 13 of our FAQ](#). Please contact André Auger, BPF Costs Officer at aauger@welchllp.com; telephone: 613-288-5050; Toll free – 1-855-832-0754 with any questions about the eligibility of your organization to apply for a cost award.

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