

## The Broadcasting Participation Fund and CMAC

The Broadcasting Participation Fund (BPF) was set up by CRTC Decision 2011-163 to provide financial assistance to public interest and consumer groups representing non-commercial user interests and the public interest in proceedings before the CRTC in broadcasting matters under the Broadcasting Act.

The BPF is an arms-length not-for-profit corporation governed by a three person board. To date its funding has been derived from contributions from tangible benefits resulting from the transfer of ownership or control of broadcasting undertakings.

Since 2013, the Fund has provided over \$4.6 million for 233 claims from 35 public interest and consumer groups representing non-commercial user interest groups. Claims are awarded based on the relevance of the claimant's submission to the CRTC, which is part of the public record. Cost award decisions are made by the BPF independently of the CRTC.

### Application Review process

Decisions on cost awards are made by the BPF Board of Directors. The review process, criteria, rates, policies and forms are consistent with those used on the assessment of cost awards made by the CRTC in telecommunications proceedings. The application review process includes close financial examination by the BPF Cost Officer. Applicants seeking reimbursement must confirm their status as public interest organizations and attest to their experience and expertise in broadcasting matters.

### The Community Media Advocacy Centre (CMAC) and the BPF

CMAC has received 16 cost awards from the BPF totaling \$508,247 since 2016. As an applicant, CMAC met the BPF's eligibility criteria as a public interest group and the consultants involved provided evidence of their experience and expertise in broadcasting matters. CMAC has most recently intervened in the following broadcasting proceedings: CBC/SRC broadcasting license renewal, call for comments on the CRTC's policy on Canadian programming expenditures and Indigenous broadcasting licenses.

All content submitted by CMAC for review by the BPF Board was in relation to CRTC proceedings, which are part of the public record. The Board does not review content outside of the scope of its mandate.

For further information, please contact: André Auger, Costs Officer, [AAUGER@welchllp.com](mailto:AAUGER@welchllp.com) or Robin Jackson, BPF Chair, [oborne49@gmail.com](mailto:oborne49@gmail.com)

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