



May 5, 2009

Honourable James Moore  
Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Mr. Hubert Lacroix  
CBC President & CEO  
181 Queen St  
P.O. Box 3220, Station "C"  
Ottawa, ON K1Y 1E4

Dear Minister Moore and Mr. Lacroix:

On behalf of the Saint John Board of Trade's Board of Directors and members, I would like to express our concern regarding the recent cuts to the funding of the CBC and the repercussions they are having on local area programming. The CBC is a well respected media outlet in our region which provides excellent coverage of local issues. We are very concerned that these cuts will lead to an eventual closing of the station in Saint John.

The local CBC radio station in Saint John celebrated its thirtieth anniversary last year. Thirty years ago, our City fought hard to have the CBC establish a local office; its impact on our City and region has been great. With the proposed cuts to CBC, our local office will lose half of its staff, negatively impacting its programming capabilities and its positive involvement in our community.

The contribution CBC Radio Saint John has made to our region with long running programs like Information Morning which bring information, entertainment, awareness and a sense of community to Saint John and the surrounding areas cannot be understated. The CBC's commitment to our community through various activities including the Annual Harbour Lights Campaign which raises money for food banks in the region is exemplary and unfortunately a necessity during the winter months for many food banks.

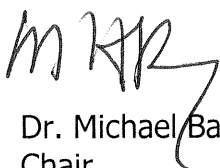
CBC Radio Saint John is not only a media outlet, it is part of the fabric of our community and region; it is fulfilling and exceeding its mandate as part of CBC.

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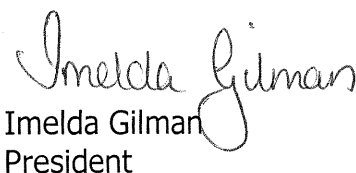
The Saint John Board of Trade is dedicated to fostering an economic climate that enhances growth, prosperity, and an improved quality of life in the community. With more than 1,000 members, representing 600 small, medium, and large businesses and organizations and therefore, the interests of more than 30,000 citizens, the Board is a dynamic advocate and the principal voice for the business community of Greater Saint John. It offers a variety of programs, activities, services, and networking opportunities designed to enhance the business prospects of members and the overall business climate of the area.

Saint John has been a training ground for some of CBC's best journalists and has the largest audience in the province. We strongly urge you to reconsider these cuts and ensure that the Saint John station is adequately staffed to produce our local morning show and subsequent input into the noon hour, regional and afternoon provincial shows.

Sincerely,



Dr. Michael Barry  
Chair



Imelda Gilman  
President



CC: Right Honourable Stephen Harper, Prime Minister  
Hon. Jim Flaherty, Minister of Finance  
Hon. Greg Thompson, MP NB Southwest  
Mr. Rodney Weston, MP Saint John  
Mr. Rob Moore, MP Fundy Royal  
Hon. Shawn Graham, Premier of New Brunswick