

CBC gets all the perks

A29

Re Private broadcasters seeking more taxpayer support, Entertainment, March 21.

It is unfortunate that Antonia Zerbisias, yet again, fails to get her facts straight. The Canadian Association of Broadcasters (CAB) takes issue with her incorrect reporting that Canada's private broadcasters receive nearly 10 per cent of their revenues from government coffers and are going to Parliament to ask for more taxpayer support.

The real story is that, in 2000, 8.5 per cent of the revenues of the total Canadian television industry were granted to the CBC and provincial broadcasters, not to private broadcasters. Furthermore, the CAB is not asking the Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage for "more taxpayer support," as Zerbisias alleges, but is asking that the licence fee paid by private broadcasters to the CRTC should be related to the actual cost of regulation. Private broadcasters are only asking for a fair licence fee that would not constitute taxpayer support; it would merely constitute fairness.

The future of Canada's broadcasting industry is important and merits no less than an informed debate. To that end, it is time that Zerbisias made an effort to check her facts because we believe that your readers deserve accurate information presented to them and nothing less.

GLENN O'FARRELL
President and CEO
Canadian Association
of Broadcasters
Ottawa