



**FREDERICTON  
CHAMBER  
OF COMMERCE**

— The Voice of Business —

364 York Street, Suite 200  
Fredericton, NB  
E3B 3P7



June 6, 2018

Mr. Claude Doucet  
Secretary General  
Canadian Radio-television and  
Telecommunications Commission  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0N2

Dear Mr. Doucet;

**Re: Application by Rogers Media Inc. to maintain mandatory carriage  
on digital basic service for OMNI Regional - Broadcasting Notice of  
Consultation CRTC 2018-127 (B2018-127) (Application 2017-1051-7)**

This is a letter of support for the application filed by Rogers Media Inc. (Rogers) to maintain mandatory carriage on digital basic service (also known as “skinny basic”) across Canada by all television providers for OMNI Regional (also “OMNI”) under section 9(1)(h) of the *Broadcasting Act*.

The Fredericton Chamber of Commerce was established in 1874 and with approximately 950 members we are the second-largest chamber in Atlantic Canada. We have always been supportive of immigration and cultural inclusion, but we became more actively involved with the newcomer community in 2009 with the launch of our Business Immigrant Mentorship Program, which has since been adopted throughout New Brunswick as well as Alberta and British Columbia. Since that time we have been actively involved with new immigrants and launched a second program in 2014 - The Hive Business Incubator. In 2016, 23 launched a third program focused on newcomers - Succession Connect - a business matching program to help newcomers purchase existing businesses.

OMNI Television plays a vital and unique role within the Canadian media landscape by providing many new Canadians with essential exposure to Canadian identity, social mores, culture, politics and civic engagement.

As CEO of our chamber, I commend OMNI's efforts to increase awareness and acceptance of the cultural diversity that makes this country a place where the cultures and traditions of all Canadians can be celebrated and shared.

OMNI provides original Canadian news and information programming and supports local independent production that would not be available through other means. The unique nature of OMNI sets it apart from other television stations, as it speaks to Canada's diversity like no other. Its continued programming makes a significant economic



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contribution to the local production industry and promotes a sense of belonging for our culturally diverse communities.

Moreover, this application supports the Commission's view that news and analysis programming remains important today as an expression of journalistic independence and a reflection of our rights as Canadians to freedom of expression. News and analysis produced and distributed through the broadcasting system, of which OMNI is an integral member, are essential components of the Canadian democratic system and the trust Canadians place in it.

Given Canada's multicultural reality, it is important that all Canadians have access to national and regional news and local programming in their language of comfort at an affordable price. I commend the commitments that Rogers has made to producing high-quality ethnic and third-language programming on OMNI, and fully support this application to stabilize OMNI's business model and position it for a sustainable future.

Although I do not wish to appear at the hearing, I wish OMNI all the best with their application and I thank the Commission for the opportunity to express our support for this application.

Yours truly,

Krista Ross, Chief Executive Officer  
Fredericton Chamber of Commerce  
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June 6, 2018

Cc: Richard Chan, Manager, Regulatory, Media  
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