



January 20, 2006

RE: Friends of Canadian Broadcasting Questionnaire

Attached please find the response of the New Democratic Party to your 2006 Election Survey. It is the policy of our party to respond to surveys on behalf of all New Democratic candidates.

For more information, we encourage you to consult our full 2006 election platform at: <http://www.ndp.ca/page/2963>

Thank you for your interest in the views of the New Democratic Party on the critical issues facing Canadians.

We appreciate your efforts to help voters make an informed decision on voting day.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jack'. The signature is stylized and fluid, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jack Layton
Leader of Canada's NDP

1. If elected, will you and your party commit to protecting Canada's cultural sovereignty by maintaining Canadian ownership and control of media and communications?

The NDP wants to maintain current restrictions to foreign ownership in this sector. We want a Canada written about by Canadians, portrayed in productions by Canadians, encouraging Canadian artists, presenting Canadian news – made possible by a vast array of Canadian workers and technicians.

It is essential that we keep Canadian control of one of our most important cultural industries and through it foster the development of Canadian identities that are distinctly recognizable to ourselves and to others.

We will oppose any attempt by other parties to ease foreign ownership restrictions.

2. If elected, will you and your party direct the CRTC to ensure that private broadcasters increase the number of quality Canadian drama programs?

The NDP will:

- **Direct the CRTC to require clear, binding, monitored and enforced performance standards for broadcasters, including a significant and permanent increase in the production and broadcast of Canadian drama.**
- **Review and restructuring the CRTC to avoid the mixed mandates and conflicts of interest that undermine the role of the commission in promoting and protecting Canadian cultural industries.**
- **Provide sustained funding for the Canadian Television Fund and Telefilm Canada.**

3. If elected, will you and your party commit to ending patronage appointments to CBC's Board and giving that Board the responsibility of selecting the President?

The NDP has repeatedly called for an end to patronage at the CBC. We believe that the CBC Board members should be chosen from the best and the brightest Canadians, selected at arms length free from political patronage. We also believe that a patronage-free board should have the power to hire and fire the President and CEO of the CBC.