

Message from the Chair



Sometimes, through the stories of ordinary Canadians who do extraordinary things, we can glimpse the very essence of what makes Canada so great.

This past year there were many such stories of courageous Canadians battling West Coast forest fires, SARS in Toronto, or cleaning up after Hurricane Juan in Halifax; worrying reports about Mad Cow Disease in Alberta; moving accounts of Canadian soldiers fighting for freedom in Afghanistan; and political narratives from eight provincial elections and three federal leadership contests. There were also many joyous celebrations across the country. Tragic, uplifting or just plain fun, these are the kinds of stories that connect us to our fellow Canadians. Everyday, we can find them on CBC/Radio-Canada.

Canadians in every reach of this vast country turn to CBC/Radio-Canada for something they won't find anywhere else – rich content that explores the Canadian experience in all its regional, linguistic and cultural diversity. In our services to northern Canada, isolated Aboriginal and Inuit communities can connect to one another and the rest of the country. In Radio-Canada, Francophones living across Canada find a cultural lifeline. Others find a door into that culture. In our arts and culture programming, Canadians have front row seats for Canadian music, theatre, film, dance, and comedy productions originating from every region – shown by no other broadcaster and in no “venue” so large and accessible to all. In our sports programming, fans have



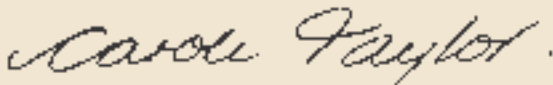
many opportunities to cheer Canada's amateur and professional athletes. And, children and young adults find a place on our networks to explore and connect to one another and to Canada.

Of course, CBC/Radio-Canada's exploration of Canada reaches far beyond our broadcasts. In every region, we initiate, support and actively participate in hundreds of community festivals, celebrations, literary and talent competitions, and fundraising events each year. In addition to benefiting communities by bringing together citizens to share and enjoy their culture or to help others in need, these activities help CBC/Radio-Canada realise its goal of being a vital part of Canadian life.

Nowhere is CBC/Radio-Canada's value to Canadians more visible than in News and Current Affairs. Through a wide range of stellar programming such as *The National*, *Le Téléjournal/Le Point*, *The Current*, *Matin express*, *CBC News: Canada Now*, *counterSpin*, *Sans frontières*, *Sounds Like Canada*, and via *CBC.ca* and *Radio-Canada.ca*, every Canadian can gain understanding of the happenings and issues that affect their lives, regions, nation, and world. From urban centres like Vancouver, Ottawa and Montréal, to Canada's smaller communities like Kelowna, Saguenay and Goose Bay, our skilled News teams gather, verify and present the facts. From Baghdad and Tel Aviv, to Washington and New York, our seasoned foreign correspondents bring home unique Canadian perspectives on the important international stories. All of our coverage reflects our unwavering commitment to fair and balanced stories.

In today's market-driven global economy, Canadian culture doesn't just happen. We have to work at it. CBC/Radio-Canada has always had a crucial role to play in encouraging and mentoring young artists, and giving a stage to both new and seasoned performers. Living in a globalised world, we must recognise the essential contribution of CBC/Radio-Canada to Canada's cultural independence. In a sea of foreign programming, we need a vibrant, independent meeting space for Canadian voices, ideas and values. Without it, Canadian voices could not be heard, and Canadian values would not thrive.

As a proud Canadian and the Chair of CBC/Radio-Canada's Board of Directors, I am gratified to contribute to such a worthy, creative institution – an institution that matters to so many Canadians for so many reasons. I thank the other Board members who devote a great deal of time and talent to this remarkable endeavour. I also want to congratulate Robert Rabinovitch, President and CEO, and his entire CBC/Radio-Canada team, for another year of extraordinary success.



Carole Taylor, O.C.
Chair, Board of Directors

