



SOCAN

Society of Composers, Authors and
Music Publishers of Canada

Société canadienne des auteurs,
compositeurs et éditeurs de musique

SOCAN DISAPPOINTED IN CRTC'S DECISION ON SATELLITE RADIO

(Toronto, June 20, 2005) On Thursday, June 16, the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) granted broadcast licences to Canadian Satellite Radio and Sirius Radio Canada for satellite subscription radio services and to CHUM Limited (CHUM/Astral) for a terrestrial subscription radio service. In SOCAN's opinion, this decision fails to recognize the important provisions of the Canadian *Broadcasting Act*, and does not offer sufficient protection to Canada's composers, lyricists, songwriters, and publishers of musical works.

SOCAN's dissatisfaction with the decision is due to several factors, including:

- the Canadian content requirements for satellite radio are inconsistent with existing regulations for commercial radio broadcasters and fail to respect the policy objectives of the Canadian *Broadcasting Act*
- 90 per cent of programming for two of the satellite services will be done outside of Canada and the existing content regulations will not apply to these channels as they do to other Canadian broadcasters
- Canadians are being denied their right to reasonable levels of Canadian content on these new services, something that SOCAN consistently insists must apply to all broadcasters operating in Canada

SOCAN will continue to consider carefully the CRTC's decision for satellite subscription radio services, and will determine shortly what formal action to take, including the possibility of appeals.

About SOCAN

At SOCAN, we understand that the Canadian music industry is only as strong as the sum of its parts. We are proud to play a leading role, working with other organizations to ensure the long-term health of our members' livelihoods and the Canadian music industry as a whole. SOCAN is the Canadian copyright collective for the communication and performance of musical works. We administer these rights on behalf of our members (composers, lyricists, songwriters and their publishers) and those of affiliated international organizations by licensing this use of their music in Canada. The fees collected are distributed as royalties to our members and to affiliated organizations throughout the world. We also distribute royalties received from those organizations to our members for the use of their music worldwide. SOCAN has offices in Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver, Edmonton and Dartmouth.

For more information about how we're doing what's right for music, please visit us at www.socan.ca.

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