



US TELEVISION COALITION

700 - 1 RIDEAU STREET, OTTAWA ON K1N 8S7  
PHONE: (613) 670 -5905

September 26, 2017

Hon. Chrystia Freeland, PC, MP  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
House of Commons, K1A 0A6  
[chrystia.freeland@international.gc.ca](mailto:chrystia.freeland@international.gc.ca)

Hon. Mélanie Joly, PC, MP  
Minister of Canadian Heritage  
House of Commons, K1A 0A6  
[Hon.Melanie.Joly@canada.ca](mailto:Hon.Melanie.Joly@canada.ca)

Dear Minister Freeland and Minister Joly,

As NAFTA negotiations continue with the United States, I write to seek your support for Canada implementing a digital broadcast signal retransmission consent and compensation regime for owners of American television stations with digital broadcast signals retransmitted to Canadian pay-tv subscribers.

This update to NAFTA is necessary given technological and regulatory developments, including the shift to digital broadcasting and the establishment of a retransmission consent and compensation regime by the US Congress.

Canadian television stations will also benefit from the new commercial revenues retransmission consent will create. This will allow Canadian stations to invest in local digital broadcasting infrastructure as well as increase local news, weather, sports and emergency alert systems.

American television stations, particularly along the border, have a distinguished legacy of deepening and strengthening US-Canada relations while helping define our shared communities of interests.

Attached is a draft text to assist in discussions. By cooperatively working together now as old and close neighbors, allies and free trade partners, NAFTA will be improved moving forward for television viewers on both sides of the border.

Sincerely,

[original signed by]

Frank Schiller  
A/Secretary to the US TV Coalition