

907 Alness Street
Toronto, Ontario
M3J 2J1
Attention: Mr. Slava Levin

CRTC
Ottawa, ON K1A 0N2

Re. file 2009-254,

Dear Sir,

The Canadian Tamil Congress joins other Canadians, who are interested in continuing to see a rich media environment in this country, in supporting Al Jazeera's submission to broadcast in Canada.

Canadians have long enjoyed a diverse collection of media offerings, from older institutions that have won awards on the global stage to up and coming ethnic outlets. We are especially proud to have a healthy environment for free media, considering that some of our citizens come from countries like Sri Lanka where press freedom is still largely suppressed. We also empathize with Canadians working in this industry who are facing tough times. We would like to support efforts to keep this industry robust and the quality of media work, rich and free.

Over the years, Al Jazeera English has been nominated for and received prestigious industry awards, recognizing the quality of their international reporting. The Canadian Tamil community is particularly grateful for Al Jazeera's objective coverage of the Sri Lankan conflict, which highlighted the plight of Tamil civilians in the country's north. We hope that Al Jazeera will continue to present multiple perspectives on this issue and many other events happening around the globe.

As Canadians, we are known for our interest in and knowledge of global events. Al Jazeera's reporting will greatly add to this understanding. To that effect, the Canadian Tamil Congress would like to encourage the CRTC to approve Al Jazeera's bid to broadcast their all-news cable channel across Canada, and look forward to welcoming them to Canada.

Sincerely yours,

Professor Sri Ranjan
President, Canadian Tamil Congress