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Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission

Ottawa, Ontario

K1A 0N2

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of Independent Jewish Voices Canada in response to CRTC Notice 2009-254 to support Al-jazeera's application for the right to provide their news channel to Canadians. Al Jazeera is very much needed in Canada. Through Al Jazeera, Canadian viewers will be able to access coverage that is not available on other Canadian media.

Al-jazeera provides a third world perspective to Western viewers, a perspective on global questions which Canadian viewers are rarely exposed to. With the current economic troubles facing the world, existing news outlets are reducing their programming, retiring reporters, cutting costs, and closing news offices. Under these circumstances, it is all the more important that news channels which provide under-reported perspectives can and should be made available to Canadian viewers. Permitting Aljazeera to broadcast on cable will do just that.

A prime example of such coverage was provided by Al Jazeera during Israel's recent war on Gaza. Al Jazeera English was uniquely positioned to provide such coverage as it was the only international news station that actually reported from within Gaza while other news agencies could only guess at what was happening there and depended entirely on Israeli sources for news on the war. In this instance, Al Jazeera provided coverage of the war from both Israeli and Palestinian perspectives.

In short, Canada would greatly benefit from having access to this unique source of news coverage. I urge you to approve Al Jazeera's application.

Yours truly,

Sid Shniad

Co-Chair

Independent Jewish Voices