

June 8, 2009

907 Alness Street  
Toronto, Ontario  
M3j 2J1  
Attention: Mr. Slava Levin

CRTC  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0N2

Dear Mr. Levin,

On behalf of the 24 000 full time undergraduate and graduate students represented by the Ryerson Students' Union at Ryerson University in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. I am writing to affirm the full and unwavering support of the establishment of Al-Jazeera English language cable television network here in Canada.

At Ryerson University we have highly renowned journalism programs both at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Currently, many of the major news agencies are downsizing their work force, which limits their ability to effectively cover the broad issues facing the local and global community. The establishment of an independent news agency will greatly benefit graduates of these programs as there will be another highly reputable news agency that will require highly skilled individuals such as these.

Another great beneficiary to the establishment of Al-Jazeera English will be the Canadian populace. As aforementioned, the current trend in many news agencies is the continual downsizing of the work force which inhibits the ability of a station to effectively cover local, national, and global news events. By having Al-Jazeera English established, Canadians will have the opportunity to see high quality news from a station that one of the most widely watched English-language news sources in the world. In addition to its broad footprint, Al-Jazeera English operates without the influence of commercial or explicit political agendas; a structure which models the values that Canadians of all backgrounds expect from our own CBC. And just like the CBC, Al Jazeera benefits from having few journalistic restrictions in what they cover yet it maintains an extremely high level of ethics,

journalistic integrity and honesty, which is partly why it has become the most watched English language news source.

It is for these reasons, then, that the Ryerson Students' Union urges the CRTC to approve Al-Jazeera's English network for broadcast in the homes of Canadians across the country. On behalf of the members of the Ryerson Students' Union, we implore the CRTC and television-providers to take this opportunity to support independent international media that provides Canadian journalists with additional employment opportunities and offers high quality news programming.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JB', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jermaine P.V. Bagnall, President  
Ryerson Students' Union