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Mr. Claude Doucet
Secretary-General
Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC)
Ottawa, ON K1A 0N2

November 17, 2023

Dear Secretary-General,

CRTC TNC 2021-102 Call for comments – Review of video relay service - Procedural Reply for Cost Applications

Acknowledgement

1. The Deaf Wireless Canada Consultative Committee - Comité pour les Services Sans fil des Sourds du Canada (DWCC - CSSSC or "DWCC") has received letters from the CDBC.VRS Collective group (CNSDB and DBPC).
2. The DWCC would like to acknowledge the response from the CRTC by Veronique Lehoux, Legal Counsel. It appreciates the compassionate understanding of the situation beyond the CDBC.VRS control.
3. The DWCC is now in receipt of a letter from CDGM - the Canadian Deaf Grassroots Movement (CDGM) and is now responding to their request for the cost application extension sent last night.

CDGM Response

4. The DWCC is dismayed at the lack of consideration where the CDGM tries to piggyback on a compassionate situation.
5. There is a lack of compassion from the CDGM in ignoring the difficult situation that the CDBC.VRS is experiencing.

6. There was no acknowledgement of the loss faced by the CDBC.VRS team leader. The more recent CDBC.VRS letter describes the details of the challenges the team leader has faced. DWCC expresses its compassion and wants to show its support for the CDBC.VRS in light of the current circumstances.
7. The DWCC has been collaborating with the CNSDB since 2016 in CRTC proceedings. We have ensured that the Deaf-Blind lived experience and perspectives have been included since then. For this proceeding specifically, the CDBC.VRS worked with DWCC, and collaboratively, we figured out how to incorporate the Deaf-Blind more appropriately in the Reply Phase.
8. With the letter from CDGM, it is DWCC's view that the group takes advantage of the process, presenting a clear sense of entitlement. There is a sense of clear vidism,¹ defined as "preferring sighted people, giving preference to sighted people," and is a type of oppression of those with vision loss.
9. As previously mentioned, DWCC tried to assist CDBC.VRS with their cost application and completed the sighted members' hours. However, it came to the point that the DWCC could only help to a specific limit, and the rest could only be done with the team's lead person. DWCC has witnessed firsthand how challenging it has been for the CDBC.VRS.
10. Therefore, DWCC disagrees in giving CDGM an extension. All sighted participants should stick with the December 4th deadline. It is about the Deaf-Blind group's accessibility and organizational needs to work in a less-stressed pace and environment.
11. DWCC asks the Commission to consider the differences in the requests and remains available for questions for clarification if needed.

Sincerest regards,

Jeffrey Beatty
Acting Chairperson
Deaf Wireless Canada Committee (DWCC)

¹ Language Justice for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students Transcript
<https://mn.gov/deaf-commission/advocacy-issues/education/collaborative-experience/keynotes-and-presentations/language-justice-for-deaf-hard-of-hearing.jsp#:~:text=Vidism%20is%20preferring%20sighted%20people,and%20this%20way%20of%20life.>