



Canadian Deaf-Blind Collective for VRS (CDBC.VRS)
% Canadian National Society of the Deaf-Blind
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November 10, 2023

Mr. Claude Doucet
Secretary-General
Canadian Radio-telecommunications and
Telecommunications Commission (CRTC)
sec-gen@crtc.gc.ca

Dear Secretary-General,

Call for comments – Review of Video Relay Services, Telecom Notice of Consultation CRTC 2021-102 (Ottawa, March 11, 2021) - Cost Application Procedural Document.

- 1.** The **Canadian National Society of the Deaf-Blind (CNSDB)** participates in this proceeding with the **Deaf-Blind Planning Committee (DBPC)** as the “**Canadian Deaf-Blind Collective,**” or “**CDBC.VRS.**”
- 2.** The CDBC.VRS has eight (8) members who have participated on their team for the TNC 2021-102 proceeding.
- 3.** The CDBC.VRS confirms it received the friendly reminder notice from Nanao Kachi on **08 November 2023.**
- 4.** The CDBC.VRS Deaf-Blind members have been waiting to complete timesheet calculation assistance from the CDBC.VRS contact person designated to lead and direct them to follow instructions for the cost application for its participation. This person was responsible for time tracking for the Deaf-Blind participants.
- 5.** However, this CDBC.VRS lead person (from DBPC) who is guiding the entire CDBC.VRS team has had a death in their immediate family and is jointly responsible for the end-of-life arrangements. This situation is beyond the control of the other seven Deaf-Blind members of the DBPC and the CNSDB.

6. As a side note, the CDBC.VRS team could not complete their document as a final reply to the virtual discussions related to our Team Lead's situation.
7. In addition, both Deaf-Blind teams need visual assistance to view the spreadsheets and forms for the critical timesheet calculation and application forms. The cost application tabulations, calculations, and paperwork process have been halted. The DWCC team has only been able to help to a certain extent and now cannot help further because the lead person holds all the remaining records for verification.

Holidays

8. CDBC.VRS expresses its concern for the lead member of the DBPC, as it is a very emotionally charged time for them.
9. CDBC.VRS understands, from the experienced DWCC members, that the cost application deadline is separate from the regulatory policy. Both groups know that the cost application does not affect the policy outcomes for the revised VRS policy. There should be no direct impact on the proceeding by a delay of a cost application submission.

Extension

10. Given the above issues, the CDBC.VRS is seeking an extension of the December 4 deadline to give our members the necessary time and support during this difficult period.
11. With consideration that holidays are a difficult time for people with recent losses in their immediate family, the two groups of CDBC.VRS would like to request that the cost application for the CDBC.VRS groups be extended on compassionate grounds to **January 15, 2024**.

Closing

12. CDBC appreciates the opportunity to participate and sincerely hopes for reassuring support for extending the Deaf-Blind group cost application.
13. If you have any concerns or questions, please contact **Megan McHugh or Terri Nolt** at the **separate emails** in our signatures below **and** the shared email address [**CDBC.VRS@gmail.com**](mailto:CDBC.VRS@gmail.com).

Thank you,



Megan McHugh, President
Canadian National Society of the
Deaf-Blind (CNSDB)
mchugh.mm@gmail.com



Terri Nolt, Chair
Deaf-Blind Planning Committee
(British Columbia)
dbpc2.0@gmail.com

[cc list follows]

cc: Suzanne Laforest, Canadian Administrator of VRS (CAV-ACS)
Jennifer Porteous, CRTC
Nanao Kachi, CRTC
Megan McHugh, CNSDB
Terri Nolt, DPBC

Cc continued:

Richard Belzile, Canadian Association of the Deaf (CAD-ASC)
Jeffrey Beatty, Deaf Wireless Canada Consultative Committee (DWCC)
DHH Coalition, Donald Prong, Ontario Association of the Deaf (OAD)
Myles Murphy, Newfoundland and Labrador Association of the Deaf (NLAD)
Elliott Richman, Deafness Advocacy Association of Nova Scotia (DAANS)
Sarah Stadnicki, Ontario Video Relay Services Committee (OVRSC)
Kimberly Wood, Canada Deaf Grassroots Movement (CDGM)
Ursula Grant, Canadian Wireless Telecommunications Association (CWTA/CTA)
Telus Regulatory
Rogers Regulatory
Bell Regulatory

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