

Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen,

The Bill Hutton Award of Excellence is truly a great honour for the CBSC to receive. As Cal Johnstone [RTNDA President] said, when the award was announced in March:

Our members may not always agree with the rulings handed down by the CBSC. But everyone recognizes the important role the organization plays. RTNDA is proud to work hand in hand with the CBSC to ensure fairness and accuracy in Canadian broadcast journalism.

We of course recognize that you will not always agree with all of our decisions. That's normal. I fully expect that, even if you yourselves set up an internal committee to render such decisions, you would not be able to achieve such unanimity among yourselves.

What is perhaps more important is that you recognize that our decisions are carefully and thoughtfully taken on each and every occasion and that we provide a reasoned account at the end of the day of how we reached the conclusions arrived at in each instance.

And here is the commitment that we made to RTNDA President Gary Ennett back in 1993, when he and I put this arrangement to bed. A broadcast journalist, hopefully a paid-up RTNDA member, will be a part of every adjudicating Panel (there were five such Panels back then). Now we have eight Panels in all. But we don't only have eight broadcast journalists or news directors. We actually have 16, and they don't only sit on RTNDA Code or journalistic adjudications, of which there have been 36 since the amended code came into existence in 2000 (out of 239 decisions in all). The broadcast journalists' contribution extends well beyond that.

To be more precise, of the last 58 English-language decisions we have taken (since 2007), broadcast journalists/RTNDA members have sat on 80%, although no more than 25% have been journalistic matters. Their role, your role, is of great importance, whether the matter is talk radio, coarse language in a television drama, human rights, or whatever.

Beyond that, historically speaking, consider the two associations' associations. I sat with Steve Andrusiak, Gerry Phelan, and Bob Hurst on the *Code of Ethics* revisions in 2000; two of your former Presidents currently sit on our Panels; I have been invited to most of the meetings of your Board during the terms of Bob McLaughlin and Cal Johnstone; and Don Newman is head of the CBSC's Nominating Committee. Also, of all the codes we administer, and there are seven of them, we have been able to create a full set of annotations of only one, namely, your *Code of Ethics*.

Our commitment to RTNDA is whole-hearted and enthusiastic. And we know that none of us is going to run out of broadcast journalistic work soon; over the past nine years, there have been 2,637 complaints relating to journalistic issues on radio and television. We work at resolving these together. We are proud of our association with the RTNDA. Your commitment to professionalism is palpable. And we strive *with you* to ensure fairness and accuracy in Canadian broadcast journalism. Thank you for this honour.