

## **Bill 1**

### **Responsible Reporting Act**

**WHEREAS** 60 percent of Canadians report following news and current affairs daily;<sup>1</sup> and

**WHEREAS** “journalism needs to keep its head, maintain an independent mind and pay attention to the basics of accuracy, fairness and attention to detail”;<sup>2</sup> and

**WHEREAS** the National NewsMedia Council, an agency that adjudicates complaints about Canadian press, does not consider news broadcasts on television or radio;<sup>3</sup>

**THEREFORE HER MAJESTY, BY AND WITH THE ADVICE AND CONSENT OF THE YOUTH PARLIAMENT OF MANITOBA, ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:**

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**1** As of January 1, 2018, the Government of Canada shall create the Bureau of Regulating the Operation And Diction of Canadian Articles, Stories & Telecommunications [**BROADCAST**] to establish a reporting standard for all Canadian news outlets.

(1) **BROADCAST** shall review the print, web, television, and radio media of outlets with a weekly cumulative audience of over 500,000.

(a) If there are no outlets in a capital city that meet the above rate in any category, the outlet with the largest weekly cumulative audience shall be reviewed.

(2) **BROADCAST** shall be comprised of non-partisan linguists, journalists, and professionals in the following fields:

- (a) Arts and culture;
- (b) Business and economics;
- (c) Politics;
- (d) Science.

(3) Candidates shall be selected by a board consisting of one representative from each outlet under the jurisdiction of **BROADCAST**, and one non-voting member from the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission who shall act as a chair.

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<sup>1</sup> “The Use of Media to Follow News and Current Affairs,” *Statistics Canada*, last modified February 15, 2016, <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/89-652-x/89-652-x2016001-eng.htm>.

<sup>2</sup> Sylvia Stead, “Public Editor: Journalism Needs to Focus on Accuracy, Fairness and Independence,” *Globe and Mail*, February 24, 2017, <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/community/inside-the-globe/public-editor-journalism-needs-to-focus-on-accuracy-fairness-and-independence/article34129179/>.

<sup>3</sup> “FAQ,” *National NewsMedia Council*, accessed December 3, 2017, <http://mediacouncil.ca/frequently-asked-questions/>.

**2 BROADCAST** shall conduct reviews with adherence to existing policies and style guides, but in the event of ambiguity, shall take precedence.

(1) **BROADCAST** shall review news media for the following:

- (a) Factual and statistical accuracy;
- (b) Discriminatory vocabulary, as determined by **BROADCAST**;
- (c) Funding by partisan sources, and prohibiting thereof.

(2) Reviews shall only be initiated following a submitted complaint.

**3** Outlets that do not violate the criteria in 2(1), at the discretion of **BROADCAST**, shall be eligible for benefits provided by the Canadian government.

(1) Outlets that do not commit any violations for a period of 18 months shall be granted the following benefits:

- (a) Priority media access to buildings owned by municipal, provincial, and national governments in Canada;
- (b) Recognition on the Government of Canada website;
- (c) Grants to be used for stationing employees, establishing new platforms, or subsidizing publication and distribution costs.

**4** On the instance of a violation, the offending outlet shall be required to issue a statement of regret through the original medium by which the violation was committed.

(1) The statement must be issued by or on the fifth day following the original reporting date.

(a) In the case of 2(1)(c), outlets shall be required to revoke the funding immediately.

(2) If an outlet issues a statement within this period, the violation shall be pardoned.

(3) If an outlet fails to issue a statement within this period, it shall lose the following:

- (a) Any benefits, if accrued;
- (b) The right to reporting for a period of four months following the original violation date.