

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Reporting for class 3 broadcasting distribution systems

The reporting requirements for class 3 broadcasting distribution systems **have changed for 2002**. In previous years an Annual Return was collected for all cable and wireless distribution systems and the CRTC and Statistics Canada shared the information. This collection was done under the authority of the Broadcasting Act and Statistics Act.

The CRTC requirements were changed as a result of public notice CRTC 2001-121. Statistics Canada has also revised its requirements. **Please read the following note carefully to avoid unnecessary reporting or unnecessary follow-up.** Note that the reporting requirements for class 1 and class 2 systems are the same as in previous years.

Reporting to the CRTC

In public notice CRTC 2001-121, the CRTC announced its decision to exempt cable systems with less than 2000 subscribers from the obligation to hold a license, provided that the system(s) is not physically linked to a class 1 or class 2 system. This decision includes an exemption to complete the Annual Return. The CRTC therefore only requires information for those class 3 systems that are not exempted from licensing requirements. If your company operates such systems, please complete the 2002 Annual Return of Broadcasting Distribution Licensees (Short form). The list of systems for which this report must be completed appears on the first page of the enclosed copy. Any questions regarding reporting to the CRTC should be directed to:

Anik Gibeault (819-997-4852, anik.gibeault@crtc.gc.ca) or
Linda Wollenschlager (819-997-4852, linda.wollenschlager@crtc.gc.ca).

Reporting to Statistics Canada

In order to measure the contribution of the cable and satellite industry to the Canadian economy and inform the policy process, Statistics Canada will continue to collect information for all cable and wireless programming distribution systems operating in smaller communities. The information collected will allow a measurement of the impact of competition in the industry and of the availability and use of new technologies in smaller communities.

The amount of information requested has been considerably reduced from the previous survey. The form now requests a few basic financial variables and subscription and client base information for selected services. The form titled **Survey of Class 3 Broadcasting Distribution Systems** should be completed for all class 3 systems (exempted and non-exempted) operating within the same province.

This information is collected under the authority of the Statistics Act. Under section 11 of the Statistics Act, an agreement was reached to share the information from this survey with the Quebec Bureau of Statistics for systems operating in the province of Quebec. The Quebec Statistics Act includes the authority for the collection of this information and the same provisions for confidentiality and penalties for disclosure of information as the Federal Statistics Act.

Under section 12 of the Statistics Act a similar agreement was reached with the Federal Department of Canadian Heritage for all broadcasting undertakings in Canada, the Quebec Department of Communications for broadcasting undertakings in Quebec, and the Ontario Ministry of Economic Development and Trade for broadcasting undertakings in Ontario. The agreements we have with these agencies require that they keep the information confidential and only use it for statistical and research purposes. In the case of the agreements with these three agencies, respondents may object to the sharing of their information by giving notice in writing to the Chief Statistician and returning the letter of objection in a separate envelope addressed to: **Special Advisor, Telecommunications & Broadcasting, Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa, Canada, K1A 0T6, Telephone: (613) 951-3177, Facsimile: (613) 951-9920.**

Any questions regarding reporting to Statistics Canada should be directed to Dany Gravel (613-951-0390, dany.gravel@statcan.ca)

Thank you for participating in this survey.