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August 8, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

Since 1957, CHAT television has been entrenched in the Medicine Hat region. As an independent, small market station, they are committed to their responsibility within our community and region by providing daily newscasts and investing in and supporting local events and causes.

The local coverage and special programming provided on events, such as elections, pandemics and natural disasters, provides a connection for people who find it challenging to obtain that information elsewhere. In addition, they provide quality local content such as their "Week in Review", "What's Up in the Hat", and "News at Noon" with local guests, as well as regular features on local events, athletics and culture. This type of content generation heightens our community's awareness of current events and happenings around our region.

Chat television provides quality content as a local news station and a forum for our business community to advertise through a cost-effective media outlet. Add to this that CHAT television invests significant value to local not-for-profit and charitable organizations by giving back in airtime, investment and involvement, and you have a committed and invested community organization.

We were pleased when they expanded their service offering to our local community by introducing an enhanced web presence through their chatnewstoday.ca site. Now individuals can watch newscasts on demand from any device, providing an expanded reach and audience, with viewers staying up-to-date and informed on news, community events and various features.

It's an organization whose staff dedicates volunteer time to our community because they are invested as residents of this region. They are an integral part of the framework of life here, over and above their on-air presence. They celebrate the unique lifestyle of Southeastern Alberta on television and the internet.

Broadcasters, and those who regulate them, can't lose sight of the vital role that local television news plays, particularly in small markets. Local content for our region is essential to stay informed and connected. There also needs to be the necessary airtime granted and appropriate staffing levels to ensure that local content can have a forum to be broadcast. Additionally, small, local markets must be able to keep up with trends such as providing broadcasts in high definition and online broadcast opportunities.

We appreciate CHAT television's commitment and investment and the ability to have a forum to broadcast the local voice for our region. We ask that the CRTC continue supporting small market television programming and broadcasting.

Sincerely,



Lisa Kowalchuk Executive Director



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