

# CBC fans lobby for broadcast service

## Cable option not acceptable, organizer says

By **MIKE YOUNDS**  
Daily News Staff Reporter

CBC-TV broadcast viewers in the region remain without the mandated service of the public network months after CFJC-TV disaffiliated.

While cable subscribers now enjoy the full CBC-TV schedule, those who subscribe neither to cable nor satellite services have been left out in the cold.

To Pam Astbury that is simply unacceptable.

Astbury is a Kamloops CBC fan who has set up an e-mail account, [saveourcbeckamloops@hotmail.com](mailto:saveourcbeckamloops@hotmail.com) to help lobby for the return of the broadcast signal to local airwaves.

About a half-dozen others in the city have lent their support.

"Right now we're trying to get the word out as soon as possible," she said.

She doesn't accept the CBC's argument that the CFJC-TV disaffiliation caught the Crown corporation off guard, unable to finance retransmitting towers to carry the signal. CHBC of Kelowna recently disaffiliated as well, she noted.

"They found funding in Vernon, Penticton, Kelowna, yadda, yadda, yadda," she said. "We're paying tax dollars for something that we have no access to."

She feels that if the public broadcaster cannot provide service to the local public, the local public should have the equivalent tax reduced.

Astbury has sought the sup-



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port of MP Betty Hinton in pressing the case for restored service.

"I have written to (CBC president) Mr. Rubinovich and to the CRTC to find out what they're going to do to maintain CBC coverage because they are obliged to, and I've yet to receive an answer back from them," Hinton said.

"If I get a chance I'll chat with the minister briefly and see if she knows any more," she added.

What is it that Astbury values about CBC-TV?

"First of all I don't want to spend money to allow a conduit for American programming. It's not a good use of my funds."

Beyond that she sees the CBC as playing an essential role in national identity.

"It gives exposure to Canadian artists, musicians, entrepreneurs. Without it you really lose

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touch with what's going on. The current Global feed has a huge amount of American influence. It's very superficial and sensationalist."

She also argues that seniors and others on fixed incomes should not have to pay twice to receive the CBC signal, once in their taxes then again as subscribers to privately operated services.

CJFC-TV disaffiliated from the CBC in February after 49 years of carrying the signal locally. At the time the CRTC estimated that five per cent of the region's population relied on the broadcast signal.

Fred Mattocks, then head of English-language programming for the CBC, said the corporation did not have the funds to build retransmitting towers. The corporation is required to provide service to all Canadians, but only as resources are made available to do so.

Since then calls to Mattocks and his successor have not been returned.