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Canadian Broadcasting
Corporation
Société Radio-Canada



June 13, 2024

Julian Carrington
Managing Director, Racial Equity Media Collective

By Email - julian@re-mc.org

Dear Mr. Carrington,

Thank you for taking the time to write to us about your concerns regarding our news coverage of the Israel-Hamas war and CBC's internal culture.

Not surprisingly, this war has surfaced tensions between so many Canadians and, by extension, some of our employees. They have strong views and feel their public broadcaster should reflect those views in its news coverage and, where applicable, with other content.

Beyond the public, our management teams in both content divisions regularly hear from our employees. And we want feedback. Creating a safe space for our staff to share their opinions and lived experiences is crucial to cultivating an inclusive workplace environment where employees are heard, respected and supported. We welcome respectful, vigorous debate when making editorial decisions on how best to cover the most complex of stories or in determining what documentaries get commissioned.

None of this is easy and that's why we want to ensure our employees get the support they feel they need. We continue to provide opportunities for people to express their concerns. And that happens regularly - in one on one meetings, in editorial discussions, in team meetings and in discussions with our employee resource groups. Our senior leaders are addressing issues as they come up - carefully, thoroughly and thoughtfully. And always with a view to improving how we serve Canadians.

Separately, as you have noted, there have been meetings to hear the concerns of documentary filmmakers and racialized screen creators; most of those concerns are expressed in the open letter. Most notably, we want to acknowledge the hurt some individuals have experienced.

We recognize you have asked for several commitments from CBC; some of these are already in place and we will take the others under consideration. While we can never make everyone feel satisfied or fulfill every request, we are committed to regaining the trust within the documentary community, keep listening and continue to offer many doors for filmmakers to come through with their pitches.

Candidly, what we are experiencing at CBC is a microcosm of what's happening all over the world and that's to be expected; this is such an emotionally charged topic, personal as it is divisive.

Given the strong emotions attached to the catastrophic events that have occurred in the Middle East, seemingly every day is fraught with nuance and contradiction. It's admittedly challenging for leaders right through the organization just as it is far from the hallways and meeting rooms of the CBC.

Thank you again for reaching out to us; we are committed to continuing the conversation.

Sincerely,

Catherine Tait
President & CEO
CBC/Radio-Canada

Sally Catto
General Manager, Programming
CBC

Jennifer Dettman
Executive Director, Unscripted Content
CBC

c.c. Amira Elghawaby, Special Representative on Combatting Islamophobia of Canada
Vicky Eatrides, Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer, Canada Radio-television and
Telecommunications Commission - CRTC
Office of the Values and Ethics Commissioner, CBC/Radio-Canada
Sally Catto, General Manager, Programming CBC
Jennifer Dettman, Executive Director, Unscripted Content, CBC