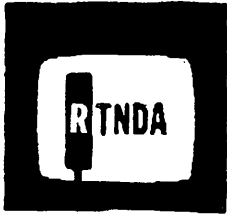




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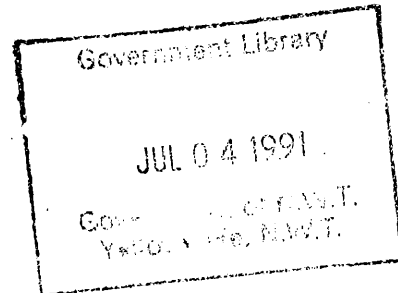
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CANADA

July 3, 1991

Mr. Troy Reeb, News Director  
 CJCD Radio Ltd.  
 P. O. Box 218  
 Yellowknife, N.W.T.  
 X1A 2N2



Dear Mr. Reeb:

The Radio Television News Directors Association of Canada (RTNDA) represents more than 350 radio and television news directors, and editors across the country. It is closely associated with RTNDA International, representing more than 3,500 radio and television news directors and editors worldwide.

It has been brought to our attention by Troy Reeb, of CJCD, that Bill 44 is coming under consideration in your legislature today. We wish to add the following comment.

Government is accountable to the people, whether it likes it or not. Our modern and democratic society enjoys freedom of expression and that freedom includes the right to be informed on matters of proper public interest. Any legislature that wants the government to hide from such scrutiny is out of step with both reality and what is expected by members of the community.

There is a real confidence in any community when there is alive a sense that the public will hear about any misdeeds affecting the public's business. The media has a role to play in responding to the public's desire to be informed - not to unsettle the government, but to be the messenger of the news to those who are really interested in receiving it.

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Bill 44, while it creates some substantial roadblocks to the flow of information about the conduct of government, is a valiant start at developing an access to information regime. It will, if passed, bring a new era of confidence in the communities affected. Any weaknesses in it can be corrected as experience is gained in its application.

The Northwest Territories should not miss the opportunity to bring modern and democratic government to the people.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Clark". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

George Clark  
President  
RTNDA, Canada

GC:clm