

# CAB/WABE meet in BC

VANCOUVER — Diamond Jubilee '86 was the name of the joint conference and National Trade Show of the Canadian Association of Broadcasters (CAB) and the Western Association of Broadcast Engineers (WABE) which was held in Vancouver on November 2-4. The CAB celebrates its 60th Anniversary this year, while the meeting marked the WABE's 36th conference.

In addition to the National Trade Show, which had over 50 display units set up at the Hyatt Regency, the several hundred participants were free to attend two days of radio and television sessions at the Hotel Vancouver which covered topics such as trends and forecasting in television, public opinion and critics, and getting

along with cable companies. WABE Papers were given on subjects such as Digital Video and Magnetic Media.

The Honourable Flora MacDonald spoke at a special broadcasting session about the need for more production of Canadian drama. As well, she outlined her affirmative action program for women and minority groups in the broadcasting industry, and assured the gathering that the federal government will come in with the new Broadcasting Act before the end of this term.

Gold Ribbon Awards were presented to radio and television stations for top quality productions in various categories on the final evening of the conference.

He said cable subscribers pay tax on both basic and discretionary (pay-TV) cable service, but now, for the first time, the discretionary services will be able to tap into the fund.

"We always felt they should get access," Allen said.

MacDonald said she is open to new ideas such as those suggested in the recent Caplan-Sauvageau Task Force on broadcasting.

One of the task force recommendations that MacDonald welcomes calls for the establishment of new French and English satellite-delivered television networks. She said they could be public, private or a combination of both.

MacDonald, who was speaking at the convention which marked the 60th anniversary of the Canadian Association of Broadcasters, also said women must play a more important role in broadcasting.

The problem of under-representation of women in the industry must be resolved, she told convention delegates. A recently passed bill will require employment equity provisions in all federally regulated industries including broadcasting, MacDonald said.

"Beginning in January 1988, employment barriers for women and minority groups are to be eliminated in these industries and employers will be required to outline plans for achieving a greater representation of these groups."

## CRTC decision

OTTAWA — The CRTC has approved an application by La

Rivière TV Club Inc., Manitoba to increase its maximum installation fee from \$2. to \$50. A request to add the signal of KNRR-TV, North Dakota, was denied on the grounds that the

distribution of this signal would have a damaging effect on Canadian broadcasters since KNRR-TV could offer lower commercial air time rates.

## Fund to pay-TV

Cont. from p. 34

He said producers must have a "window" in each of the exhibition services such as cassettes, pay-TV or broadcast.

MacDonald said she has advised CRTC chairman André Bureau of the proposed changes. MacDonald states in a press release that she asked Bureau to review the potential impact of the changes for specialty services and all other possible applications.

MacDonald said more and better Canadian programming is the key to the future health of the broadcasting system. She added the need to increase

television drama is the greatest challenge confronting the industry.

"Unfortunately, the amount of quality Canadian programming is intolerably low and this is one of the principal reasons why the government considers the development of new broadcasting policies a priority...", she said.

MacDonald said pay-TV services, including any future services licensed, are to get access to the annual \$60 million fund.

Bill Allen, director of communications for the Canadian Cable Television Association, said the cable association has long supported such a move by the federal government.



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