

TENTH MEETING ON THE CANADIAN AMATEUR RADIO ADVISORY BOARD (CARAB)

DATE: Monday, May 25, 1998

TIME: 09:00 to 15:00

**PLACE: CANADIAN EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COLLEGE
ARNPRIOR, ONTARIO**

CHAIR: J. FARRELL HOPWOOD

PARTICIPANTS: INDUSTRY CANADA: Mike Connolly, Tom Jones, John Nosotti, Kathleen McCrea;
RADIO AMATEURS OF CANADA (RAC): Bill Gillis, Dennis Livesey, Jim Dean, Doug Leach, Ken Pulfer, Daniel Lameroux, Debbie Norman, Ken Oelke;

1. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was accepted as presented with the addition of five items to be discussed under New Business. It was also agreed that Item 12 should be discussed as the first order of business.

2. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 15th 1997 MEETING

It was agreed that acceptance of the minutes would be delayed in order that Item 3 could be appropriately amended. The remainder of the minutes were accepted as written.

3. TERMINATION OF DELEGATION AND INDUSTRY CANADA PLANS FOR FUTURE ADMINISTRATION OF THE AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE

The chairman asked if Industry Canada could give an overview of why they had decided to pursue another course of action rather than the delegation initiative. Industry Canada replied that, as they had advised RAC in November 1997, Industry Canada had decided

that the time had come to perform a fundamental review of the current authorization process used for the amateur radio service. As a result, Industry Canada had examined the utility of continuing to maintain the issuance of two separate authorities, certification and licensing, and they had concluded that both radio amateurs and Industry Canada could benefit from simplifying this authorization process. Industry Canada also recognized that RAC perceived there to be significant financial risk to them in attempting to proceed with the delegation initiative as it had been recently outlined. Industry Canada had therefore reviewed the situation and had now come up with a proposal for simplifying the administration of the amateur service.

RAC expressed its strong objection to the way in which Industry Canada had handled the cancellation of the delegation initiative. RAC protested that the decision by Industry Canada, following the CARAB meeting, to abandon the delegation project and launch a new proposal without reasonable notice or consultation with RAC, was unnecessary and unwarranted.

On another point, it was agreed that the Amateur Delegation Working Group (ADWG) would be formally disbanded. As well, the question was brought out as to how Industry Canada intended to consult with RAC in the future with respect to initiatives such as the current delicensing proposal. With respect to this current initiative, Industry Canada explained that they have embarked on a broad consultation within the amateur community. For certain major initiatives, it is the responsibility of Industry Canada to ensure that the proposal is presented, to the extent practicable, to all those potentially affected. On any initiative, Industry Canada has the responsibility, in the final analysis, to take a decision on how it is best to proceed with respect to the public interest.

4. CALL SIGN WORKING GROUP (CSWG) UPDATE BY RAC

The RAC board have reviewed the CSWG Report and accept it's recommendations. As well, through their magazine and web site, they provided a public consultation with amateurs across the country and received comment that was generally positive. RAC will formally send a letter to Industry Canada indicating their approval of the CSWG report.

5. TOWER UPDATE (Townsend Report)

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Townsend report had to be delayed from its' original delivery date, however, Industry Canada is confident this should be completed soon. On another front, Industry Canada is currently working with Health Canada and the Canadian Wireless Telecommunication Association (CWTA) in respect to risk communications in the area of antenna towers and radio frequency fields. The object of this initiative is to provide a factual and objective assessment of antenna towers and their related radio frequency fields to those in the community interested in the subject. At RAC's request, Industry Canada agreed to provide them with information on a proposed

Health Canada hosted international seminar on EMF (electro-magnetic fields) Risk Perception and Communication to be held in Ottawa, August 31 to September 4, 1998.

6. CEPT/IARP UPDATE

RAC indicated that they have been issuing these permits and all has been going smoothly. The question was asked as to whether or not this work would need to be continued under Industry Canada's new amateur delicensing proposal. Industry Canada indicated that they did not foresee any particular issue here as the agreements are based on operator certificate qualification and not the possession of a radio licence. Industry Canada will, however keep RAC advised as work progresses on the delicensing initiative.

7. CALL SIGN DATA BASE

The contract between Industry Canada and RAC for continued maintenance of the call sign data base as well as enhancements to the data base with respect to the level of operator qualification will be finalized shortly. As this is a work in progress at this time, it was felt that the details would be better discussed between the Industry Canada responsibility manager and RAC project manager rather than brought up as a CARAB item. With respect to CARAB discussions, it need only be noted that RAC and Industry Canada both agree to continue with a contractual arrangement for this project as had been previously discussed. Industry Canada also advised that they had approached their informatics people with regard to this data base and there appeared to be no particular "Year 2000" concerns.

8. AMATEUR EXAMS

In preparation for delegation, the Ham Exam software and revised examination question banks were developed. RAC questioned if, now that delegation will not take place, it is Industry Canada's intention to introduce the revised question banks? If so, could RAC handle the marketing of the question banks to the public?

Industry Canada responded that, from the point of the delicensing initiative, the amateur certificate examinations will remain unchanged. The examinations will continue to be an important factor in regulation of the amateur service. Industry Canada fully intends to implement the revised question banks in the future. At this point in time, however Industry Canada is not certain what the appropriate sequence of events should be. It is anticipated that a decision on the delicensing initiative should be taken first before implementing a revised examination question bank.

With respect to marketing, there is no exclusivity with respect to federal government documents and those who wish to provide them are free to do so within the Federal government policy.

9. PRIMARY ALLOCATIONS AT 2.4 AND 5.7 GHz

RAC has been discussing the possibility of some sub-bands in the 2.4 Ghz and 5.7 Ghz being allocated on an exclusive basis to amateur radio. They are currently pursuing this issue within the Canadian Preparatory Committee to determine if frequency allocations can be changed. They will keep the CARAB advised of any future developments.

10. NEW LF ALLOCATIONS

In harmonization with the United States, RAC would like to get Canadian Amateur allocations within the very low frequency (VLF) bands. Industry Canada suggested that as these frequencies are used for world wide communication, RAC may want to get support from the international amateur community in their various proposals.

11. U.S. LANDMOBILE SERVICE

The Land Mobile Communication Council (LMCC) in the United States is proposing the use of the 70 cm band for land mobile use. The FCC will be putting out a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) on this issue shortly. Industry Canada commented that initiatives within the United States on many occasions can translate into pressure within Canada to do the same thing. As well, land mobile spectrum in all the major centres in Canada is congested and there is very little new spectrum that can be made available to the land mobile service in the near term. Therefore, there will likely be future pressure on the Department to satisfy demand in the land mobile services especially if there is radio equipment available for use in the U.S.

With respect to the sharing agreement for 220-222 MHz the last meeting took place on April 15-16, 1998 with the FCC. Three additional points were addressed:

- 1) Consideration of the United States rules for the base TX and base RX frequencies close to each other against use by amateurs in Canada.
- 2) Finalizing the details concerning effective radiated power (ERP) versus Antenna height.
- 3) Considering the possibility of aggregating ERP over a 20 kHz bandwidth to facilitate use by amateur operators.

12. MALICIOUS INTERFERENCE

The interference problem is generally with respect to amateur repeater stations, whereby amateurs or non-amateurs insist on causing malicious interference. Though Industry Canada has investigated some of these cases there appears to be a reluctance on the part of Industry Canada to become involved. RAC feels that perhaps some further clarification could be given to district offices with regard to how they could assist in these situations. Industry Canada indicated that in cases of malicious interference, there is no other organization that amateurs can turn to investigate these situations other than Industry Canada. It was suggested that RAC regional directors liaise directly with the local Industry Canada offices to establish a working relationship in such matters. Industry Canada is certainly prepared to take the time to investigate bone fide cases of malicious interference recognizing that it must budget its limited resources amongst many competing demands.

13. OTHER BUSINESS (and additional items)

a) Level of Service

A specific case was presented by RAC as an example of how it can sometimes be difficult for an amateur to change administrative information on a licence. It was discussed that although these types of situations should not occur, it may be symptomatic of the need to change our authorization process for amateurs. RAC also mentioned that they receive requests for Industry Canada documentation from people who were sent to RAC by Industry Canada District offices. RAC would be happy to provide this documentation on a cost recovery basis, however they were under the understanding that Industry Canada had exclusive arrangements with government publishers. Industry Canada did not believe that this was the case, however they stated that they will clarify the situation and advise RAC accordingly.

b) Call Signs

There appears to be some confusion in the application of special call signs by some offices. Industry Canada pointed out that IPC 2-8-0 should be used in the assignment of special call signs. Because these requests are handled very infrequently by some Industry Canada offices, there may be a lack of understanding of the existing procedures. It is expected that, if in accordance with the proposed delicensing initiative, Industry Canada goes to a central delivery point for amateur authorization, these matters of inconsistency of service delivery will disappear.

c) 10 Metre Proposal

A letter is being sent to Industry Canada on a proposal to change operating privileges for 28 to 29.7 MHz band. Industry Canada stated that they will consider any proposal put forth by RAC that will benefit the radio amateur community. RAC will formally send their request to the Director General, Radiocommunication and Broadcasting Regulatory Branch.

d) Delegated Examiners

RAC feels that some cases exist where delegated examiners may not be qualified to perform the examination function or are abusing their privileges as delegated examiners. They wondered if some audit procedure could be put in place to ensure delegated examiners continue to remain qualified to carry out examinations. It was felt that if some additional control mechanism could be put in place for delegated examiners, the situation could be more readily controlled. RAC will make a presentation in the future to Industry Canada, outlining proposals that could be put in place for auditing delegated examiners. Industry Canada advised that they currently investigate situations of concern that arise from time to time with respect to delegated examiners.

e) Amateur Radio Emergency Use

A case was presented whereby the Calgary Fire Department is using amateur radio frequencies with respect to fire fighting operations. The Calgary District office has been advised accordingly and Industry Canada stated that this is the correct approach to take in resolving such a situation. RAC will keep Industry Canada advised with respect to this matter.

14. Date of Next Meeting

The next CARAB meeting will be held on Friday, September 11, at 9:30 at RAC Headquarters in Ottawa, 720 Belfast Road, Suite 217.