

**THIRTEENTH MEETING OF
THE CANADIAN AMATEUR RADIO ADVISORY BOARD (CARAB)**

DATE:

Friday, October 22, 1999

PLACE:

Industry Canada Headquarters
Room 1585D
300 Slater Street
Ottawa, Ontario

CHAIR:

Darius Breau

PARTICIPANTS:

RAC: Kenneth Oelke - President
Dr. Kenneth Pulfer - Vice-President, International Affairs
Douglas Leach - First Vice President
Daniel Lamoureux - Regional Director, Quebec

Industry Canada:

Tom Jones, Chief, Authorization
Hubert Pambrun, Eastern Ontario District Director
Harold Carmichael, Program Manager, Certificates and Examinations, Quebec
Region

1) Review and Approval of Agenda.

The agenda was approved as outlined. The chair indicated that unfortunately, due to a last minute matter, the Industry Canada co-chair, Mike Connolly, was unable to attend. The chair also congratulated Mr. Oelke on his election as the new RAC President and wished him the best for the future in this position.

2) Acceptance of the CARAB minutes of last meeting.

The summary record of the last meeting was approved. The secretary agreed to distribute the draft summary record of CARAB 13 to the co-chairs for their approval within one month of the meeting having taken place.

3) Status Report by Industry Canada on Streamlining the Authorization Process for

the Amateur Radio Service.

Industry Canada indicated that they feel that the current proposal has been sufficiently modified and addresses the concerns raised by RAC. In the discussion document, a six month time allowance for submitting mailing address changes by amateurs to Industry Canada was proposed, after which time an amateur would be in contravention of the Radiocommunication Regulations and subject to the appropriate penalties. In their comments RAC indicated that a period of this length invites procrastination and proposed 10 days as a more appropriate time frame. Recognizing that six months is likely excessive, Industry Canada has re-examined the situation and will implement a thirty day time period for change of address, which is more in line with the time frames applied to other authorizations. RAC agreed that this was a reasonable period to apply.

As well, RAC had commented with respect to the significance of the name of the single authorization and suggested that amateur operators would feel more comfortable if the terms "operator certificate" and "radio station licence" could be incorporated in the title of the new authorization document. Industry Canada stated that, within the Radiocommunication Act, operator certificates and radio licences are two distinct and separate authorizations. Therefore, in streamlining to a single authorization for the amateur service, it is a legal requirement that Industry Canada use the name of the specific authorization being granted, which in this case is an operator certificate.

Industry Canada advised that the amendments to the Radiocommunication Regulations to implement the streamlining initiative are currently being finalized and will need to be approved within the federal regulatory process. Industry Canada is targeting April 1, 2000 as the implementation date for the single authority.

4) Status Report by Industry Canada on the New Single Point of Service for Amateur Radio.

Mr. Hubert Pambrun gave a brief update on how the single point of service initiative is progressing. Starting April 1, 1999 all amateur certificates were issued from the Amateur Service Centre located in Ottawa and on June 1, all amateur radio licence applications were also being issued from this centre. A letter will soon be sent out to all accredited examiners advising them of this administrative change. The project to rationalize the amateur call sign and operator certificate data bases has been completed and the new call sign/certificate qualification data base is available on the RAC web site. There may however, be entries that still do not appear correctly, and if amateurs have any concerns in this regard they should be directed to the Amateur Service Centre.

Mr. Pambrun also stated that Industry Canada is currently in the process of developing a new amateur certificate to implement with the streamlining initiative and once a draft has been finalized he would like RAC and RAQI to comment on it.

RAC inquired as to how amateurs who do not have internet access might receive information with respect to the amateur service centre and the call sign data base.

Industry Canada replied that, on a government wide basis, Industry Canada is striving to make Canada the most connected nation in the world and therefore is committed to pursuing electronic commerce and having all documents publicly available electronically. As a result, even those who do not have personal internet access, can obtain these documents at libraries or most government offices. Industry Canada also has non-exclusive publishing arrangements with various firms whereby, those who desire hard copies of documents, can purchase them.

As an overall observation, RAC stated that they feel that the transition to a single point of service for amateur authorizations has gone well and outside a few minor problems that generally occur during such a transition, it has been well received by the amateur community.

5) Status Report by Industry Canada Regarding the Policy for Examinations of Disabled Amateur Candidates.

Concern was expressed by RAC that, with respect to accommodated testing for candidates with a disability, even with the requirement for the production of a doctor's certificate, the process was still open to abuse. Mr. Leach mentioned how the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) handles this type of situation, by providing an attachment to their documentation that provides guidance for the doctor in order that they can more readily make a decision with respect to the persons ability to take the examination in a standard format. Mr. Leach stated that a request for accommodated testing is usually with respect to the radiotelegraphy examination. By providing the doctor with an indication of what is involved in taking this type of examination, he felt it would give a medical expert a better basis for making their assessment with respect to disability. Mr. Leach was also of the opinion that the FCC form was too complex and therefore had agreed to draft a more simplified form, a sample of which he had forwarded to Industry Canada for their consideration.

Mr. Jones stated that he felt the concept of the notice had merit and he believed that the form produced by Mr. Leach was a dramatic improvement from the FCC document. However, Industry Canada needed to be extremely careful with respect to implementing a procedure that would certainly be perceived as giving individuals the right to accommodated telegraphy testing on the basis of a doctors certificate. Mr. Jones stated that he would like to provide others within Industry Canada the opportunity to comment on this proposal before replying to RAC.

6) Status Report by Industry Canada on RAC's Proposed Call Sign Policy

As had been pointed out by RAC at the last CARAB meeting, Industry Canada agrees that a policy document will need to be created by Industry Canada in order to clearly explain the process and rationale to amateurs regarding call sign assignment. Industry Canada also pointed out that one of the most controversial issues that needs to be addressed is with respect to the assignment of two letter suffix call signs. There are currently several policy variations being applied in different regions of Canada with

respect to the issuance of two letter call signs. Recognizing that many amateur operators attach a certain level of prestige to the assignment of two letter call signs, Industry Canada needs to formalize a standard policy articulating the eligibility criteria to hold a two letter call sign and implement the criteria nationally. Industry Canada had recently provided RAC with a draft version of the proposed call sign policy document and had received their comments. This document will be reviewed taking into account the comments received and published in the fall.

7) Status Report by Industry Canada on the Examination Question Banks and Suggested RIC-1 Changes for Accredited Examiners.

Mr. Jones provided an update on the implementation of the new question banks. These are currently being text revised and should be available early this fall. It is being suggested that July 1, 2000 could be the target date for implementation of the new question banks. This would provide approximately 6 months advance notice for accredited examiners to familiarize themselves with the new question banks. In any event, Industry Canada plans to provide for a phase in period before discontinuing the old examination question banks in order that there be minimum inconvenience for accredited examiners. Mr. Jones suggested that, upon coming into force, it would be a good idea if Industry Canada published an advertisement in the RAC/RAQI magazines to inform amateurs of the new question banks. Industry Canada will be publishing these question banks as Radiocommunication Information Circulars (RIC's), therefore they will be available to the public electronically. Industry Canada will not distribute hard copies of these documents to accredited examiners. Should RAC or any other organization wish to distribute this information in a hard copy format, they would be welcome to do so in accordance with standard governmental procedures.

Industry Canada has also published a modified version of RIC-1, "*Guide for Examiners Accredited to Conduct Examinations for the Amateur Radio Operator Certificate*". This document explains the process involved with the single point of delivery for amateur services by Industry Canada and provides an overview with respect to the accredited examiner program.

8) Status Report by Industry Canada on the Proposed Date for Posting to Strategis the Examination Generator for Amateur Examinations.

Industry Canada will be providing, through the Strategis web site, an examination generator for the amateur operator examinations. This feature will be available in conjunction with the implementation of the new examination question banks. As with the new question banks, Industry Canada is targeting the summer of 2000 for making this software available to the amateur community.

9) Status Report by Industry Canada Concerning the Association of Canadian Municipalities and Guidelines for Municipalities on Antenna Supporting Structures.

The wireless industry in Canada recognized that there was a need for greater dialogue and

cooperation between themselves and land-use authorities involved in the approval process for antenna towers. As a result, the Board of Directors of the Canadian Wireless and Telecommunications Association (CWTA) created a new committee to deal specifically with municipal issues. The Municipal Affairs Committee is mandated to monitor municipal activities related to various antenna siting policies and provide timely information on various practices and to develop industry consensus and policy regarding the establishment of communication sites.

As an initial step, the committee is working cooperatively with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) on basic principles and a general consultative process related to the installation of antenna towers. In its early deliberations, the committee has emphasized that detailed processes already exist for a number of communities across the country that may be used as a starting point for drafting a model process. With this in mind, the committee is currently drafting a set of principles that should help to focus its work over the next few months as it examines various processes that could be helpful in avoiding contentious situations and ultimately facilitating the installation of antenna towers.

10) RAC Submitted Brief to the Canadian Amateur Radio Advisory Board - Antenna Support Issues for the Year 2000.

Mr. Jones offered to give a brief overview for Industry Canada with respect to the submission by RAC. Mr. Jones was of the opinion that two points in the submission needed further discussion. One was the premise that recent growth in the wireless telecommunication industry had resulted in an increased public concern over towers and was responsible for causing a negative impact on the municipal consultation process for amateurs wishing to install antenna towers. The other point was the suggestion that the department, on behalf of radio amateurs, should lead negotiations with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities in order to arrive at a standard set of guidelines for radio amateur antenna tower installations.

Regarding the first item, there is, no doubt, instances of increased public awareness due to the erection of telecommunication tower installations for such commercial service undertakings as cellular and PCS wireless operations. For the most part, however local concern is not raised as these types of commercial antenna towers as they tend to be located in industrial areas and along transportation corridors. On the other hand, radio amateur antenna towers are almost without exception located in residential areas where citizens generally tend to be more concerned about the erection of such types of structures. In respect to Industry Canada's land-use consultation process, experience has shown that the public's perception of what is intrusive is more often related to the location of an antenna tower rather than to specific construction parameters such as height and tower markings. Generally, the public does not differentiate between commercial wireless or amateur antenna sites, but rather seems to object to any type of antenna structure when they are placed at certain locations within the community that are perceived to be inappropriate for such land-use. Therefore, with respect to antenna towers in general, the specific site location can, by itself, be considered extremely significant. In

establishing antenna protocols with municipalities, it is likely necessary to consider several key factors rather than simply attempting to establish antenna height limits.

Regarding the second item, Mr. Jones felt that the radio amateur community as a whole would likely gain by the establishment of a standardized antenna tower protocol with municipalities. Therefore, it would appear most appropriate that a representative of RAC be the lead for the amateur community in negotiations with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. As noted in the previous agenda item, the Canadian Wireless Telecommunications Association, as a representative of the telecommunication industry, is currently working with the FCM on the development of consultation protocols for antenna towers. It would no doubt be beneficial for RAC to follow the progress that is being made by this group.

RAC indicated that they would further discuss this matter with their board, taking into consideration the CARAB discussions.

11) Status of 220 - 222 MHZ

Mr. Jones informed that the draft agreement has been finalized to the satisfaction of both the Canadian and United States administrations. The FCC are currently in the process of having their State Department formally ratify the agreement and it is expected that this will have taken place by the next meeting of the Radio Technical Liaison Committee scheduled for early in November. Until it is officially ratified the terms of the arrangement cannot be circulated within the amateur community however Mr. Jones will check with engineering branch of Industry Canada to see if any draft documentation could be circulated to RAC in advance of formal ratification.

12) Status Report by Industry Canada on RAC's Request for Frequency Allocations for the Amateur Service.

As discussed at the last CARAB meeting, Dr. Ken Pulfer indicated that he had discussed the matter with Fern Léger of Industry Canada with respect to obtaining a primary allocation at 2.4 GHz for amateurs, however he has heard no more on this matter to date. Mr. Jones indicated that he had spoken with Mr. Murray Hunt of Industry Canada's spectrum allocation and utilization policy directorate and Mr. Hunt indicated that the matter was still under consideration. Dr. Pulfer indicated that he would approach Mr. Léger again on this issue.

RAC has also recently requested a Very Low Frequency (VLF) allocation for amateurs in the 135.7-137.8 KHz band. Mr. Jones reported that he had spoken to Murray Hunt who is also dealing with this item, and as Mr. Hunt is still reviewing the request, there is nothing to report at this time.

13) Status Report by Industry Canada in the use of Ticketing for Infractions Under the Radiocommunication Act.

In accordance with Schedule IX of the Contraventions Act, Mr. Jones gave a report on the provinces that have agreed to initiate these types of federal ticketing actions. These include Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and Manitoba, as well as Ontario and Quebec who have now initiated these actions on a partially operational basis. Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Alberta and Saskatchewan should have operational regimes in place by the end of the year 2000 and it is anticipated that all provinces and territories in Canada will have concluded agreements with the Federal Government by the summer of the year 2001.

14) Status of Wind Profilers in the 449 MHZ and 915 MHZ bands.

Although amateur operations are secondary in these bands RAC are concerned that wide spread implementation of wind profiler radar could cause significant problems. Industry Canada was unaware of any operations in Canada by Wind Profiler type radar stations nor was their any reason to believe that such networks would be implemented in the near future. Both RAC and Industry Canada will continue to follow any developments in this area and advise each other accordingly.

15) Report on Low Power 70 Centimetre Operations in Hamilton for Crane Controllers.

In Canada the 70 Centimetre (430- 450 MHZ) band is allocated to amateur operation on a secondary basis and to radiolocation on a primary basis. RAC is concerned however, that certain services which are not of a radiolocation nature may be using this band. RAC has received some complaints with respect to radio equipment for crane control operating in the Hamilton area, though they do not have the particulars of the complaint and would need these before discussing further with Industry Canada. In Europe the band 433.05-434.79 MHZ is designated for industrial, scientific and medical (ISM) applications and operates on an unlicensed basis. RAC is concerned that this type of equipment, though not certified for use in Canada, may be being sold in Canada. Industry Canada stated that they were not aware of such unlicensed radio apparatus being sold in Canada and had no intention to allow such usage at this time.

16) Industry Canada Report with Respect to Amateurs in Quebec Carrying Out Illegal Operations.

Mr. Lamoureux stated that a situation had been brought to the attention of RAC with respect to amateurs in Quebec who are communicating with individuals operating on board vessels outside of Canada and who are allegedly operating in non-conformity with the Radiocommunication Regulations. He understood that this situation had been under investigation for sometime by Industry Canada and inquired as to if there had been some resolution on the matter.

Mr. Breau advised that this matter had been ongoing for quite sometime and numerous investigations had been carried out by Industry Canada staff in the Quebec region. Mr. Breau added that, in this circumstance, there appeared to be certain practical limitations

to Industry Canada's ability to take action against amateurs, Canadian or foreign, who were operating outside of the country. Industry Canada had, however, contacted a number of the amateur operators who allegedly were involved in these activities and Industry Canada was continuing to monitor this situation. Should evidence be forthcoming with respect to the contravention of the regulations by Canadian amateurs, Industry Canada was prepared to take appropriate action to correct the situation.

Mr. Lamoureux inquired if any amateurs had been cited for violating the Radiocommunication Regulations with respect to this matter. Both Mr. Breau and Mr. Carmichael advised that currently, as a result of this matter, no amateur had been accused of operating in non-conformity with the Radiocommunication Regulations.

Mr. Lamoureux advised that this situation had unfortunately created negative publicity in the amateur community of Quebec and he asked to have further clarification concerning rumours that were circulating with respect to this matter. Mr. Lamoureux asked if Industry Canada had requested anyone from outside the department to monitor and police the amateur radio frequencies. He also inquired if a denunciation line was to be set up for amateurs to report violations to Industry Canada and if Industry Canada intended to ask RAC and Radio Amateurs of Quebec (RAQI) to set up such a service on their respective web sites. Mr. Breau stated that the answer to all these questions was no, and that Industry Canada had no intention of implementing any of these type of measures in the future.

17) RAC Official Observer Program

At the annual Board meeting in May, the RAC Board of Directors approved the activation of an official observer program. With the influx of new amateur operators in the last few years, combined with the reliance Industry Canada has placed on the amateur community in self regulation of their activities, this new program was developed to encourage the maintenance of the high operational standards that have been traditional in the amateur bands.

In contrast to the program operated in the United States by the American Radio Relay League, the RAC Official Observer program has been developed entirely independent of government and avoids any appearance of enforcement. The program observers actively look for and report on stations that have unusually good operating procedures and set an example for the rest of the amateur community. To a much lesser degree, the observers will also note troubling operating practices or technical difficulties, however these are done only for information purposes. The objective of the Official Observer program is to reinforce good operating habits, not to attempt to enforce regulatory compliance, as this is the job of Industry Canada.

All appointments as official observers are made by the RAC section manager and will initially be limited to two observers per RAC section. RAC will keep Industry Canada informed of the progress of this initiative.

18) New or Other Business.

There were no additional items however Mr. Ken Oelke wished to advise Industry Canada that RAC had received an extremely positive response from the amateur community with the modification to the operating standards on 10 metres.

19) Preparation for the 14th CARAB Meeting - Date, Time and Place.

It is not certain when the next Board of Directors meeting of RAC will be held but it is expected to be in April after the Easter long weekend. Therefore, it may be convenient to hold the next CARAB meeting on the Thursday after this long weekend. Mr. Breau suggested that we wait until RAC has finalized the date of their next executive meeting before finalizing a date for the next CARAB meeting. This was agreed to by RAC and they will inform Industry Canada accordingly.