

38th Meeting of Canadian Amateur Radio Advisory Board (CARAB)

Draft Minutes

Date: April 23, 2014

Time: 13:00 - 16:00

Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) Attendees: Geoff Bawden –President, Glenn MacDonell – Vice-President, George Gorsline – International Affairs Officer, Marcel Mongeon – Honourary Legal Counsel

Industry Canada (IC) Attendees: Lynne Fancy – Senior Director, Caroline Kennedy – Manager, Operational Policies, Stephen Williams – Technical Policy Analyst

1. Welcome and Introductions of IC and RAC representatives present

2. Briefing on Major Developments

- a. IC explained the new organization chart and new structure of the three regions
- b. IC updated RBR-4 addition to add 5 channels in the 60m band
- c. IC started talks with EU regarding CEPT
- d. IC implemented new exam generator
- e. RAC has formed a IC working group to focus approach when liaising with IC
- f. RAC will send a representative to WRC 15. RAC is going to support WRC AI 1.4 that will allocate to Amateur radio 60m spectrum. From IC, Justine Sider and Christine Hsu are working on the proposal. RAC is looking for a firm commitment of support from IC on WRC AI 1.4
- g. RAC's finances are in order and RAC is now solvent
- h. New Brunswick has recently passed a law allowing Amateurs to operate while driving, the last province to do so.
- i. RAC is not be requesting IC to create a new simplified entry level certificate called "Foundation Licence" at this time.
- j. RAC have asked to form a working group with Industry Canada and Public Safety but were turned down by both groups.

3. Review of amateur radio statistics

IC presented the number of certificates issued in fiscal years 2012/2013 & 2013/2014.

4. Exam Generator

RAC is happy with the new exam generator and updated question banks recently published. RAC has reviewed the new questions and identified and sent number of typographic errors to the Centre for correction. RAC noted that the recent review and update of the questions had used the curriculum for the Basic and Advance Certificates that has not been reviewed for a long time and suggested that it may be time to review the curriculum.

5. Antenna Consultation and Siting

- a. IC has issued a consultation paper and is now reviewing the comments on the paper. The comments and the new policy will be published on IC's web site.
- b. RAC is concerned over the confusion regarding the sub 15m towers and whether Amateur sub 15 towers are exempt or do all sub 15 towers need to be consulted.
- c. RAC said Municipalities are also confused. Some Municipalities are insisting consultation is required for all towers regardless of tower height.
- d. Lynne confirmed that IC consulted on removing the exemption for broadcasting undertakings and telecommunications carriers. Final siting policy to come later this year. Note: On July 15, 2014, IC announced the changes to CPC-2-0-03.

6. CEPT Permit

- a. Stephen explained that IC has been in contact with the European Communication Office (ECO) to re-establish the equivalence of the CEPT permit.
- b. IC answered their request for information and is waiting for them to approve the Canadian equivalence at their meeting in Norway at the end of May, 2014
- c. The RBR-4 needs to be amended to remove the requirement for US amateurs to have Morse code qualification in order to operate in Canada

7. Updating of RBR-4 and RIC-3

- a. RAC is willing to work with IC to modernize the RBR-4 and RIC-3
- b. Lynne said she could not commit to updating the RBR-4 and RIC-3 at this time.
- c. RAC and IC agreed that representatives of their organizations would work together to identify high priorities from a list of proposed changes RAC had submitted to IC earlier that could be considered for inclusion if RBR-4 is updated to address the points noted in Agenda item 6.

8. 2 Letter Call Sign Shortage

- a. Stephen commented that there is only a shortage of 2 letter call signs in Ontario. Every other province or territory has many available.

- b. RAC noted Ontario radio amateurs raised this issue frequently and suggested using an approved but currently unused prefix such as VB3XXX.
- c. RAC proposed that as an alternative solution could be to change the rule of cancellation of calls signs, reducing the age at which this was done from the current 125 years (Silent Key Rule).

9. Equivalence for certain Canadian Forces Signals qualifications

- a. RAC noted suggestions from some of its members that IC consider including some Canadian Forces Signals qualifications as equivalent to amateur radio qualifications. IC observed that only a small numbers of individuals would be affected (in the 10's) and such a change would require extensive work to update the *Radiocommunication Regulations*. For these reason's IC indicated that required changes would not be possible.

10. Non-Amateur intrusions into Amateur frequencies

- a. RAC pointed out that its members expressed concern over temporary assignments in Amateur bands to non-Amateurs.
- b. IC said that due to spectrum congestion, creative ideas must be used to meet the spectrum needs of special events. This includes more commercial operations and in rare cases using Amateur frequencies.
- c. RAC's position is that IC should not authorize use of bands allocated to radio amateurs to third parties not identified in the allocations. However, if IC chooses to do so, they should contact RAC through the national office to coordinate with potentially affected Radio Amateurs.
- d. RAC requested that IC inform RAC when it makes assignments in Amateur bands. Lynne agreed to ask the regions to inform RAC.

11. Adjournment

The meeting concluded at 15:45.