CANADIAN RADIO-TELEVISION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (CRTC) UPDATE

Dear Colleagues,

In our last newsletter of January 25th, we informed all of you about a proposal of the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) to relax restrictions concerning the broadcasting of specious information on radio and television, which we felt could seriously hamper efforts to hold the media responsible for disinformation as was recently presented in the CBC Marketplace 'Cure or Con? ' segment earlier this year. The CRTC wanted to make it illegal to broadcast false information only if the licensee knows the news is false or misleading and it "endangers or is likely to endanger the lives, health or safety of the public" – a much harder thing to prove. The pseudoskeptic organizations were actively lobbying for this rule change for that very reason.

We asked you to write the CRTC with your objections to this rule change, scheduled to go into effect September 1st, 2011.

I have great news –we did it! Canadians came out swinging against this odious assault on truth in broadcasting, and the CRTC recently announced that it has rescinded the proposal. The law in Canada remains firm that broadcasters "shall not broadcast any false or misleading news."

Many thanks to those of you who took the time to express your objections to the CRTC, and congratulations to all of us in Canada. Every battle won for the truth is a win for our patients.

Respectfully,

Maria Ringo
President