

CRTC Decision enhances TV service competition in commercial and institutional properties

A December 14, 2011 policy decision by the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) has significantly increased competition and choice amongst TV distributors for the operators and managers of commercial and institutional properties and their occupants. Broadcasting Regulatory Policy CRTC 2011-774 (BRP 2011-774) expands the pre-existing CRTC rules requiring a cable or satellite company that owns “inside wire” in a residential property to allow subscribers or a competing cable or satellite service provider to use that wire to provide TV service to the customer. BRP 2011-774 extends this sharing obligation to the inside wire within commercial and institutional properties, such as hotels, retirement and long term care facilities.

The “inside wire” portion of the wiring generally begins where the wiring branches off for the exclusive use of the TV customer and extends right into their suite, up to and including the jacks and wall faceplates. In multi-dwelling units (MDUs), the CRTC rules require the TV service provider using the inside wire to pay \$0.52 per inside wire per month to the cable or satellite company that owns it. BRP 2011-774 mandates this same \$0.52 monthly inside wire fee in commercial properties where the wiring configuration is similar to that of an MDU (e.g., a central spine, with Inside Wires branching off to individual units). However, where the wiring configuration in a commercial property is different from that of an MDU, the CRTC expects the TV provider that owns the wiring and the TV provider requesting to use it to negotiate a commercially reasonable monthly fee.

If you have any questions regarding how this new policy applies to your commercial or institutional property, please feel free to contact:

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To view the complete decision, please click this link
<http://www.crtc.gc.ca/eng/archive/2011/2011-774.htm>