



## CSI Not Considered History

### For Immediate Release

**August 1, 2007** – The CRTC has issued a final ruling on History Television’s airing of *CSI: New York*, stating that it is not appropriate programming for the specialty broadcaster. The regulator has given its broadcaster – Alliance Atlantis Communications (AAC) - until January 1, 2008 to remove *CSI: New York* from the Canadian specialty channel’s schedule.

The CRTC decision came seven months after the Writers Guild of Canada’s Executive Director, Maureen Parker, filed a complaint with the CRTC regarding History Television’s airing, several times a day, of *CSI: New York*. AAC, who produces and owns the American series, responded to the complaint by stating that the program met its licence requirements as it offered “viewers a critically acclaimed look at forensic policing in post – 9/11 New York City.”

The CRTC sided with the WGC in an initial decision in late March but allowed AAC to appeal the decision. In its appeal the broadcaster engaged outside legal counsel to assist with its argument, and dissected each episode of the series in an attempt to prove the program did indeed meet the channel’s nature of service by providing “history programs which embrace both current events and past history.”

AAC argued that, because the back-story of *CSI: New York* includes a lead character whose wife died in 9/11, and because the program makes ongoing reference to Ground Zero and terrorist attacks, the series met the channel’s condition of licence. The WGC again disputed the claim, noting that, at the very best, the references were fleeting and that this series is not about 9/11. The CRTC agreed – again.

“The CRTC has restored integrity to the Canadian broadcasting system by making the right decision and requiring AAC to remove *CSI: New York* from its History Television schedule,” says Maureen Parker, the Writers Guild of Canada’s Executive Director.

This is a victory for those who watch History Television, Parker says, because the broadcaster may now air programs more in keeping with the conditions of its licence and the expectations of its Canadian audience.

*The Writers Guild of Canada (WGC) represents more than 1800 professional screenwriters across Canada who create the distinctly Canadian entertainment we enjoy on our televisions, movie screens, radios and computers – such as dramatic TV series and movies, feature films, documentaries, animation programs, comedy and variety series, children’s programming, radio drama and digital media productions.*

*For more information please contact David Kinahan, Director of Communications, at 416-979-7907, ext. 5234 or [d.kinahan@wgc.ca](mailto:d.kinahan@wgc.ca)*