



Canadian Radio-television and  
Telecommunications Commission

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29 March 2007

**CRTC Case# 328063**  
File# BRO 6840-00SP25-X/10  
DOCs 726419

**Sent electronically**

Elizabeth Duffy-MacLean  
Vice President, Public and Regulatory Affairs  
Alliance Atlantis Communications Inc.  
121 Bloor St. E., Suite 1500  
Toronto, ON M4W 3M5

**re: Broadcast of *CSI: NY* on History Television**

Dear Ms. Duffy-MacLean:

We are writing in response to correspondence from the Writers Guild of Canada (WGC) dated 5 January 2007, and your response dated 2 February 2007.

WGC raised the question of whether the broadcast of the fictional crime drama titled *CSI:NY* was appropriate on History Television, given that service's nature of service condition of licence, which reads:

The licensee shall provide a national English-language specialty service consisting of historical documentaries, movies, mini-series and history programs which embrace both current events and past history, with a special emphasis on documentary and dramatic programs related to Canada's past.

Specifically, WGC argued that *CSI: NY* was neither an historical program nor a series embracing current events or past history.

In reply, Alliance Atlantis stated that it carefully considers every program and that, in its view, *CSI: NY* was appropriate to the service, given that it offers viewers a "critically acclaimed look at forensic policing in post-9/11 New York City." Alliance Atlantis noted that the show was based on New York-specific situations and locations "set in a city that became synonymous with one of history's most significant and notorious events, 9/11" and noted the significance of that event to the show's development.

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Canada

Commission staff have reviewed the correspondence and have concluded that the mere fact that the drama is set in a city which was victim to a significant historical event is not a sufficient justification for broadcasting the program on a service that is mandated to be devoted to history programs. If the show were about the events that happened on 9/11, or related directly to those events, the program would not be inappropriate on History Television. However, based on the explanation set out in your 2 February letter, the show is neither about 9/11 nor directly related to that event. Further, we note that on the History Television website, the show is described as a forensic procedural crime drama about forensic investigators who use high-tech science to follow the evidence and solve crimes in New York. Therefore, Commission staff is of the view that, notwithstanding Alliance Atlantis' comments, the broadcast of *CSI: NY* on History Television is not consistent with the service's nature of service definition.

Accordingly, Commission staff expects Alliance Atlantis to take immediate steps to correct the situation to ensure that History Television is in compliance with its conditions of licence.

With this letter, Commission staff proposes to close the above noted case; however, if you have any questions about this case, please contact Martine Vallee at 819-997-9254 or [martine.vallee@crtc.gc.ca](mailto:martine.vallee@crtc.gc.ca). If you wish to follow up on this case, please refer to the case number noted above in all related correspondence with the Commission. Please also note that any further correspondence should be sent to the following address: [replies@crtc.gc.ca](mailto:replies@crtc.gc.ca). Please note that a copy of this letter and all related correspondence will be added to your file and available for consultation by the public.

Sincerely,

**Original signed by**

Scott Hutton  
A/Associate Executive Director, Broadcasting

cc: Maureen Parker, Executive Director, Writers Guild of Canada  
[info@wgc.ca](mailto:info@wgc.ca)