



Association of
Visual Language Interpreters
of Canada

News Release

For Immediate Release
April 23, 2014

AVLIC supports the CRTC ruling to implement Video Relay Services (VRS) in Canada.

Squamish, BC (April 23, 2014) - The Association of Visual Language Interpreters of Canada (AVLIC) fully supports the implementation of permanent Video Relay Services (VRS) in Canada and is delighted to share the following news release from the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC):

CRTC announces that Canadians who are Deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired will have access to a new telecommunications service

April 22, 2014 – Ottawa – Gatineau – Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC)

The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) today announced that video relay service will be made available in Canada for users of American Sign Language (ASL) and Langue des signes québécoise (LSQ). When it launches, the service will facilitate conversations between people who are Deaf, hard of hearing and speech impaired and other Canadians, and vice versa...

...The CRTC is requiring that video relay service be made available to Canadians who are Deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired, starting as early as in the fall of 2015.

To read the full news release, visit: <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?nid=840439>

To watch an ASL version of the highlights of the VRS decision, visit: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TVzzgp2iSK0&index=2&list=PLLveC0IFjXEOohqRv2dlyLkAbhvzEORoW>

AVLIC, our members, our colleagues in the Deaf community and the community stakeholders our members serve are thrilled to see this positive outcome to the CRTC VRS hearing, October 21-25, 2013, in Gatineau, Québec, at which AVLIC President Christie Reaume and First Vice President Jocelyn Mark Blanchet made a case in support of a sustainable VRS in Canada.

As the CRTC seeks proposals on the independent administrator's structure and precise mandate, including the composition of the Board of Directors, AVLIC will be preparing an intervention prior to the June 25, 2014 deadline. Our intention will be to urge the CRTC to include both Deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired people as well as signed language interpreters on the Board of Directors.

To learn more about the CRTC's April 22, 2014 announcement, including Video: Highlights of the VRS decision (in ASL); Video: Frequently asked questions about VRS (in ASL); Infographic

on video relay service; Telecom Regulatory Policy CRTC 2014-187; Telecom Notice of Consultation CRTC 2014-188 Establishing the structure and mandate of the video relay service administrator (proposals and interventions); and Telecom Notice of Consultation CRTC 2013-155, visit: <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?nid=840439>

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About AVLIC:

The Association of Visual Language Interpreters of Canada (AVLIC) is a non-profit, professional association for interpreters whose working languages include a sign language. AVLIC was incorporated in 1979 and has eight Affiliate Chapters across the country. AVLIC is the only certifying body for ASL-English interpreters in Canada through the means of our Canadian Evaluation System. Among a variety of services, we offer a Dispute Resolution Process to maintain quality and accountability to the field of interpreting. For more information, visit www.avlic.ca

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