

Prime Minister Stephen Harper fails to take action on CRTC cable scandal - Canadian consumers may be owed more than 1.2 billion dollars

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OTTAWA, Feb. 7 /CNW/ -- OTTAWA, Feb. 7 /CNW Telbec/ - Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper was notified more than two years ago of questionable activities amongst industry and government officials and has not taken action on this issue. At stake is more than \$C 1.2 billion in fees collected from millions of Canadian consumers under a misleading pretence. A submission made by Canadian citizen Keith Mahar's legal counsel has not been addressed by the prime minister. At issue are actions taken by officials at the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) that have unjustly enriched cable corporations for more than a decade. An extensive breakdown of these actions is found on www.mediascam.com ➡.

The United States Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and Ontario Securities Commission (OSC) have been requested to investigate potential violations of New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) and Toronto Stock Exchange (TSX) listing standards on corporate governance by Rogers Communications and [Shaw Communications](#). The request has been made by legal counsel for Mr. Mahar, a Rogers and Shaw shareholder who is a social worker, precedent-setting public interest litigant ([Mahar v. Rogers Cablesystems Ltd. 1995](#)), and former corporate insider in the Canadian broadcasting industry.

"Prime Minister Harper introduced the Federal Accountability Act but apparently media companies and the CRTC are exempt from accountability and above the law," stated Mr. Mahar.

As posted on www.mediascam.com ➡, documents were made available to the SEC and OSC that demonstrate that the corporations may have breached Canadian law. The OSC has also been asked by Mr. Mahar to review the activities of Cogeco and Quebecor.

"Citizens and journalists are invited to review the documents on Mediascam.com and judge for themselves whether or not Prime Minister Harper's decision to ignore this matter has been in the public interest", Mr. Mahar added.

This afternoon Mr. Mahar appeared at the CRTC public hearing on the Canadian Television Fund (CTF), a program operated as a partnership between industry and government which is central to the activities in question. He noted that the federal agency had destroyed documents related to the issue and urged Commissioners to formally review the outstanding issue.