

Urban Alliance on Race Relations:
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For Immediate Release

Toronto, ON - The Community Media Advocacy Centre (CMAC) and the Urban Alliance on Race Relations (UARR) are raising concern with alleged systemic and overt racism at the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC), Canada's broadcasting and telecom regulator.

On September 9, CMAC and UARR submitted a letter to the Minister of Canadian Heritage concerning Raj Shoan, former CRTC Commissioner for Ontario, who was dismissed in June by an Order of Council for reasons which have not been publicly disclosed. The decision to dismiss Shoan came only days after the first public hearing of an investigation which has recently overturned a report finding Shoan engaged in harassment. The court decision determined Shoan was the victim of a "witch hunt" carried out by the CRTC's Chairman and staff.

"As organizations working to realize equitable representation and access for people of colour and Indigenous people within the media and all facets of Canadian society, we are alarmed by the allegations and implications of ongoing systemic and overt racism within the CRTC that have emerged through Shoan's case. We ask that immediate action be taken to restore Shoan to the Commission and to investigate and address issues of systemic and overt racism within the Commission."

-CMAC & UARR

CMAC and UARR are deeply concerned that Shoan's dismissal represents a grave mishandling of justice and due process, raising serious concerns about the transparency of the CRTC and its purported mandate to make decisions on behalf of all Canadians. Our organizations are further dismayed by the lack of equitable representation of people of colour and Indigenous people on the Commission.

In **48** years since the CRTC was created

there have been **103**
individuals appointed as Commissioners.

Only **2** have been visible minorities.

0 Indigenous or visible minority
Commissioners have ever served as
Chair or Vice-chair of the CRTC.

23% of Canadians
identify as Indigenous or visible minorities

Most recently and troublingly, documents filed in Shoan's legal challenge to his dismissal allege an **oppressive environment of overt racism within the Commission, enforced through a culture of fear and intimidation.**

CMAC and UARR request:

- That no Commissioner for Ontario, other than Shoan, be appointed until all court proceedings related to Shoan's cases are concluded;
- That a transparent and accountable third-party process be initiated to investigate and address allegations of systemic and overt racism within the Commission;
- That the CRTC implement comprehensive anti-racism education and training among its staff and appointees; and
- That the Commission establish equitable representation through the appointment of Commissioners who are People of Colour, Indigenous people and people from the community broadcasting sector for the five further vacancies currently on the Commission.

To view the complete letter, citations and information, visit: <https://cmacentre.wordpress.com/current-initiatives/>