

**FIFTEENTH MEETING OF  
THE CANADIAN AMATEUR RADIO ADVISORY BOARD (CARAB)**

**Date:** October 2, 2000

**Place:** Industry Canada Headquarters  
Room 1585D  
300 Slater Street  
Ottawa, Ontario

**Chair:** Mike Connolly  
Senior Director  
Radiocommunication and Broadcasting  
Regulatory Branch  
Industry Canada

**Participants:**

**RAC:** Kenneth Oelke - President  
Dr. Kenneth Pulfer - Vice-President, Government and International Affairs  
Dana Shtun, P.Eng. - Regional Director, Ontario South  
Daniel Lamoureux - Regional Director, Quebec  
Rick Lord, P. Eng. - Regional Director, Midwest

**Industry Canada:**

Tom Jones - Chief, Authorization, Spectrum Management Operations  
Harold Carmichael - Program Manager, Certificates and Examinations, Quebec Region  
Hubert Pambrun - District Director, Eastern Ontario

**(1) Review and Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved as written.

**(2) Acceptance of the CARAB minutes of the April 27, 2000 meeting**

The English version of the summary record of the last meeting (April 27, 2000) was approved by the co-chairs, however RAC had requested that a number of changes be made to the French version of the summary record in order that it completely reflect the discussions. Industry Canada agreed with these changes. The secretary also agreed to provide the co-chairs with draft versions of the summary record of CARAB 15 in both official languages for their final approval.

### **(3) Status Report by Industry Canada Regarding the Policy for Examinations of Disabled Amateur Candidates**

At the last CARAB meeting, concern was expressed by RAC about accommodating, for testing, candidates with a disability. RAC felt that adopting a position similar to that of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) would address this concern. The FCC has a publication that provides guidance for a doctor concerning the format of the examination in order that they can more readily make a decision with respect to the individual's ability to take the examination in a standard format.

Industry Canada had concluded that the proposal had merit and they had used the information provided by RAC as the basis for drafting an information bulletin. Mr. Jones stated that as a result of a number of other initiatives this particular one had not yet been concluded, but Industry Canada would continue with the finalization of the information bulletin.

### **(4) Status Report by Industry Canada - Call Sign Policy**

#### **— Clarification of RIC-9 in releasing the 2 letter call sign's of deceased amateurs**

As is outlined in Radiocommunication Information Circular 9 (RIC- 9), after the waiting period has passed, Industry Canada will re-issue these call signs to other amateurs on a first-come, first-served basis. In the case of immediate family members, these call signs may also be issued before the waiting period has expired, again on a first come, first served basis. There have recently been several instances whereby amateurs, who meet the qualifications as per RIC-9, have approached Industry Canada at the same time and requested re-issuance of these call signs. There is currently no procedure with respect to dealing with such mutual exclusive request for specific call signs that occur simultaneously, and therefore the amateur service centre has had to deal with these matters on a case by case basis.

Mr. Hubert Pambrun stated that they are currently examining various procedural applications to deal with such situations of mutual exclusivity in amateur call sign demand for re-issue. A number of suggestions have been put forward and are being considered for inclusion in RIC-9. Mr. Pambrun stated that whatever the final procedure may be, it would need to be administratively efficient and to be perceived as fair and equitable by the amateur community.

#### **— Exceptions to RIC-9 policy**

RAC stated that over the years they have supported the assignment of amateur call signs in accordance with a standard national policy as articulated by Industry Canada. They are aware that certain situations arise whereby amateurs request the use of call signs, generally with respect to special events, that do not meet Industry Canada's policy. In such situations Industry Canada has directed these amateurs to RAC to determine if RAC support such a special request. RAC does not support these special requests for call sign

assignment, and they believe that any such requests should only be considered in accordance with a standard national policy, articulated by Industry Canada. Therefore, they see little benefit in Industry Canada directing such inquiries to RAC.

Industry Canada replied that they are willing to continue in the authorization of amateur call signs as outlined in the public documents articulating amateur call sign policy. Industry Canada realizes that, from time to time, specific situations may arise whereby the amateur community in general would support the use of a call sign that may not be provided for in our current call sign assignment policy. Therefore, in order to allow the amateur community an opportunity to comment on the merit of a request for use of an amateur call sign that is not provided for in policy, Industry Canada currently suggests that such applicants first contact RAC for their view. Should RAC, as the national association representing all amateurs in Canada, indicate that, in accordance with the specific circumstances, such a call sign request has merit for the amateur community, Industry Canada would be inclined to look more favourably upon authorization of the call sign, notwithstanding the published call sign policy.

As RAC has indicated however, their firm belief that all call sign assignments should be handled in accordance with a clearly articulated national policy, Industry Canada will discontinue the practice of suggesting applicants contact RAC with respect to any special call sign requests. These requests will be dealt with in accordance with the applicable call sign policy.

#### — **WRC 2003 - S19 - Formation of Call Signs**

Article S. 19 of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Radio Regulations defines in detail how call signs may be constructed. Review and possible changes to this article as it concerns the formation of amateur service call signs is an item on the agenda for the upcoming World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC) to be held in 2003. The Canadian Preparatory Committee for WRC 2000 will be recommending policy positions for each of the articles in the ITU Radio Regulations that will be reviewed at WRC 2001 for potential modification. RAC continues to be actively involved with this committee in the development of Canadian policy positions.

#### **(5) Status Report by Industry Canada on RAC's Proposal to Drop 12 w.p.m. Morse Code Requirement**

As discussed at the last CARAB meeting, given the recent removal of Morse code for international maritime communications and its declining use internationally by all government and military organizations, RAC proposed, in a letter to Industry Canada dated June 15, 2000, the elimination of 12 w.p.m. Morse code examination for amateurs in order to hold full operating privileges in the high frequency (HF) bands. This proposal would give Canadian amateurs operating privileges similar to those that currently exist for United States amateurs.

Industry Canada is in agreement with such a proposal and is currently finalizing a notice

which they anticipate will be published in the Canada Gazette before the end of October requesting public comment on this matter. After the 60 day public comment period has expired, Industry Canada will examine all comments received and determine the course of action to be followed. It was also pointed out that should a federal election be held in the near future, this would likely result in a delay to the publication of the Gazette notice, however the process would still continue.

In their letter to Industry Canada, RAC also requested that, in conjunction with the removal of the 12.w.p.m. Morse code requirement, Industry Canada also consider improving amateur examination process in order to strengthen and expand the level of operator knowledge with respect to radio station technical and operating practices, so as to include the modern modes of communications being employed by amateurs. Industry Canada stated that they recognize that the techniques and operations employed by radio amateurs are rapidly evolving and this needs to be addressed in the context of operator certification. In conjunction with other ongoing activities, such as the implementation of the new amateur examination question banks, Industry Canada is certainly prepared to give serious consideration to new examination requirements.

## **(6) Status Report by Industry Canada on the Examination Question Banks**

### **— Examination question banks, RIC-7 and RIC-8**

Industry Canada has recently published these question banks as Radiocommunication Information Circulars (RIC's) and they are available to the public electronically from the *Strategis* Web site. RAC asked if the question banks are now finalized or if additional work was still required? Mr. Jones stated that the question banks had been modified to reflect the changes in regulation with respect to the amateur streamlining initiative and these could now be considered as the final version. He also noted that Industry Canada was still regularly receiving input from amateurs regarding suggested modifications to the questions in order to make them clearer and more relevant to amateur radio. Industry Canada welcomed this type of input from the amateur community and was quite prepared to make any modifications that would result in an improvement to the product. From this perspective, one could conclude that the question banks would continue to remain as a "work in progress" and be subjected to future revision.

### **— Examination generator**

Industry Canada indicated that they will provide an examination generator for the use of accredited examiners. It is anticipated that this feature will be available to the amateur community as of January 1, 2001. In any event, Industry Canada still plans to have the new examinations in place by January 1, 2001. As well, Industry Canada will ensure that there is a phase in period before discontinuing the old examinations in order to minimize the inconvenience for accredited examiners.

### **— New questions to improve written exams**

RAC indicated that, as previously discussed at the CARAB meeting, on a world wide basis the knowledge requirements for amateur operators is dramatically changing, one indication of this is the situation previously mentioned concerning knowledge of the Morse code. As a consequence of such change, RAC asked if Industry Canada would be receptive to substantive changes in the amateur examination knowledge requirements in order to cover new areas pertaining to operating knowledge and public concern. Industry Canada responded that they recognized that, like all other areas involved in wireless telecommunication, amateur radio was changing dramatically. Industry Canada had no doubt that the current examination requirements could be modified to better serve the amateur community, and they certainly are receptive to suggestions in this regard. The first step, however, was to put in place the new examination and automated examination system.

#### **(7) Status Report by Industry Canada - Progress Report on the CWTA Municipal Affairs Committee**

As discussed at the last CARAB meeting, the Board of Directors of the Canadian Wireless and Telecommunications Association (CWTA) created a committee to deal specifically with municipal issues. The Municipal Affairs Committee is mandated to monitor municipal activities related to various antenna siting policies. They have also been working cooperatively with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) on basic principles for establishing a general consultative process that relate to the installation of antenna towers. RAC asked that Industry Canada approach the chair of the CWTA Municipal Affairs Committee in order to get an update of their progress.

Industry Canada reported that the work of the Municipal Affairs Committee, in establishing a consultation protocol, had essentially been put on hold pending the outcome of ongoing industry roundtable meetings chaired by the City of Toronto's Economic Development Division. These meetings are held to ensure that the wireless industry has input into the process while the City of Toronto develops a planning protocol on issues that may affect the growth of the wireless industry, specifically regarding the issue of the siting of antenna structures. The work of the CWTA Municipal Affairs Committee in establishing a consultation protocol with the FCM is now pending, as they are waiting for the outcome of the City of Toronto discussions. The CWTA believes that the outcome of these meetings with the City of Toronto could be used to construct the basis for a national protocol with regard to antenna siting and land-use consultation guidelines. They believe that their active participation in such discussions is essential at this point in time.

Industry Canada stated that it would be appropriate that RAC, as the national organization for Canadian amateurs, be aware of the current discussions taking place with the City of Toronto. RAC stated that they would contact the CWTA to find out more about the situation and determine if their participation in these discussions was necessary.

#### **(8) Status Report by Industry Canada - Implementation of Ticketing ( enforcement of change of address regulations)**

At the last CARAB meeting, Mr. Jones reported that the issuance of tickets for contraventions of federal statutes and regulations was now in place in most provinces, and it was anticipated that all provinces and territories in Canada will have operational regimes in place by the end of the year 2000. RAC asked about the recent streamlining initiative and the single amateur authorization, how the *Contraventions Act* would be applied to require holders of an amateur operator's certificate to report a change of mailing address. Industry Canada agreed to outline to RAC how such a contravention could be handled.

Industry Canada explained that section 14 of RIC-2, "Standards for the Operation of Radio Stations in the Amateur Radio Service," requires that holders of an amateur operator certificate notify Industry Canada within 30 days concerning a change of mailing address. Item 16 of the schedule of contraventions provides for issuance of a ticket in respect to operation in the amateur service contrary to the applicable standards. The penalty for such non-compliant operation is a fine of \$250. It was also explained by Industry Canada that even though offenses are now itemized in the *Contraventions Act*, Industry Canada still could exercise the option of initiating more severe prosecution measures in cases where it was deemed warranted.

RAC also stated that, regardless of the coming into force of the new ticketing regime, they were aware that Industry Canada had limited resources that could be applied towards any compliance activities, especially in the case of amateur radio. It has been their experience however, that district offices were often unwilling to followup on extreme cases that were negatively impacting the amateur community. RAC asked if a national policy pertaining to enforcement actions, regarding the amateur service, might help the district offices in addressing such situations.

Industry Canada acknowledged that they had not received additional resources over the last number of years for any of their activities, and all district managers need to examine and set priorities and apply their resources accordingly. In any areas where there is however, flagrant disregard for regulatory compliance, Industry Canada was prepared to take appropriate action. In the last few years, there have been several instances with respect to amateur operators, where the Department has spent considerable resources on investigations and enforcement action. In these type of situations, it is necessary that the amateur community can demonstrate to the local Industry Canada office that such action on the part of Industry Canada is necessary and desirable in order to regulate the non-compliant behaviour and that the amateur community has done their best to deal with the matter pro-actively.

#### **(9) Status Report by Industry Canada on NIR-2 and Safety Code 6**

Industry Canada has recently announced the publication for comment of guidelines for the measurement of radiofrequency fields in accordance with the limits of exposure set out by Health Canada in Safety Code 6. RAC asked to what extent amateurs are responsible to ensure that they abide by these documents? Perhaps RAC should become

active in helping amateurs have a better understanding of these guidelines and how they apply to the amateur radio community.

Industry Canada stated that amateur operators, along with anyone else who operates radio apparatus in Canada, are required to comply with the guidelines for public exposure to radiofrequency fields (RFF) as articulated in Safety Code 6. Health Canada, in accordance with its federal mandate in the area of public health, produced Safety Code 6, which replicates the characteristics of many other international guidelines for RFF exposure. The Engineering Branch of Industry Canada has also developed a measurement procedure to provide a standard methodology for radiocommunication operators to follow in ensuring their compliance with Safety Code 6.

As previously mentioned, amateurs, as well as all other radio operators in Canada, are required to comply with the Safety Code 6 guidelines for RFF. How this is actually accomplished is the responsibility of the radio station licensee or operator. Amateurs should have a full understanding of the issues involved. To this extent, RAC could provide a valuable service to amateurs by translating the complex technical calculations into more easily understood terms for application. As Industry Canada has done much work in the past with respect to RFF calculation and measurement procedures, it agreed to assist RAC in reviewing any future initiatives that they may decide to pursue.

#### **(10) WRC - 2003 Agenda Items - Role of CARAB**

RAC stated that, as everyone is no doubt aware, they currently participate in the Canadian Preparatory Committee (CPC) for World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC) - 2003. As CARAB is the Industry Canada committee for amateur issues, there is an expectation among amateurs that all amateur issues, including those with respect to WRC-2003 that are currently being discussed at the CPC, should also be dealt with at CARAB. RAC asked that Industry Canada provide clarification on this matter and what is perceived to be a dual committee structure.

Industry Canada stated that the terms of reference for the CARAB are very inclusive and provide for the opportunity to discuss any issues that are of concern to Canadian amateurs. It should also be recognized that in the area of radiofrequency allocations and preparation for WRCs, Industry Canada has a longstanding policy of providing a CPC structure in which all interested parties have the opportunity to influence the Canadian position on frequency allocations. It is understood that there is rarely a single expressed Canadian interest in frequency allocation proposals, but rather many parties involved in promoting initiatives that are often in competition with other frequency allocation initiatives. To be able to present an effective and coordinated approach at a WRC, it is imperative that one committee be identified to handle all frequency allocation proposals for all radiocommunication services, and for Canada this is the CPC.

Industry Canada also stated that they are willing to discuss WRC items as they pertain to amateur radio at CARAB. In fact, there are likely some items, such as changes to the international radio regulations with respect to amateur call sign formation, that fall

directly within the CARAB scope of competency and should first be discussed at CARAB. However, concerning the frequency allocation proposals, there is a potential for confusion if any substantive discussion was to take place with Industry Canada on these matters outside of the CPC forum. Therefore, while not wholly excluding discussion at CARAB of any item of interest to Canadian amateurs, caution should be exercised in tabling initiatives at CARAB that are subject to ongoing deliberations at the CPC. It should be clearly understood that the CPC is the only body with the mandate to provide Canadian positions to WRC items or frequency allocation proposals.

RAC thanked Industry Canada for this clarification. Industry Canada also stated that, notwithstanding discussion in the CARAB forum, Canadian amateurs should realize that a strong and able presence by RAC at the CPC is necessary if amateur interests are to be effectively represented in the international forum.

### **(11) Status Report by Industry Canada - Reciprocal Operating Agreements - Thailand, Hong Kong, United States**

Through RAC, Industry Canada was approached by the administrations of Thailand and Hong Kong to determine if we were interested in establishing a reciprocal operating arrangement for Canadian amateurs. To expedite the process Industry Canada also suggested that an exchange of letters between regulatory agencies agreeing to such an arrangement first take place. In both cases the respective administrations have indicated that such reciprocal operating agreements would first have to be approved through formal diplomatic channels. Industry Canada is continuing to pursue this using the formal diplomatic process.

With respect to the United States, due to the recent change in Morse code privileges, RAC asked if there had been any change regarding the reciprocal operation privileges granted to United States amateurs while in Canada. Industry Canada responded that the situation currently remained as in the past. In accordance with RIC-2, United States amateurs still require to be qualified to send Morse code at a speed of at least 12 w.p.m. to operate an amateur station in Canada in accordance with similar privileges. As previously mentioned, Industry Canada is currently in the process of reviewing the Canadian requirements for Morse code qualifications. Any changes made from this review would also be applied to our reciprocal operating arrangement with the United States.

### **(12) New or Other Business**

RAC asked if Industry Canada was aware of the creation of a new radio service category in the United States called the Multi-use Radio Service (MURS). They understood that five frequencies in the VHF land mobile band had been allocated to the citizen's band service for licence exempt operation at 2 watts transmitter power. As the use of frequencies on a licence exempt basis appears to be increasing in the United States, and consumer devices generally become available for the North American market, RAC asked whether this type of usage was planned for Canada.



Industry Canada stated that there were a number of frequencies in the land mobile bands in the United States that were currently licensed by rule, or in essence, on a system licensing basis, which provides for itinerant operation without any pre-coordination of frequencies or individual licensing. They were not aware of this specific usage, however Industry Canada would check into the specific situation concerning MURS and advise RAC of the details.

**(13) Preparation for the 16<sup>th</sup> CARAB Meeting - Date, Time and Place**

RAC indicated that they will be holding their next board meeting during the last week of April 2001 and suggested the afternoon of Thursday, April 26, 2001 in Cornwall, Ontario Board. Industry Canada agreed with this date.