

**Fourth Meeting of the Canadian Amateur Radio Advisor Board(CARAB)  
Thursday, April 20, 1995 Office of the Radio Amateurs of Québec Inc  
(RAQI) Stade Olympique Montréal, Québec**

**Chair:** Farrell Hopwood

**Participants**

**RAC**

**IC**

Pierre Roger	Darius Breau
Jean-Pierre Rousselle	Tom Jones
Jim Dean	Mike Connolly
Bill Gillis	Denis Colbert
Leo Daigle	Alain Jolicoeur
Jacques Fortin	Doug Prentice

**1) Review and approval of agenda**

Two additional items were added under item (5). These were (d) sanctions with Industry Canada and (e) windprofilers operating in the 902-928 MHz band.

**2) Acceptance of the Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of October 13, 1994 were accepted as written.

**3) Update on the Amateur Delegation Initiative**

Jim Dean gave a presentation on the status of the agreement and the work of the Amateur Delegation Working Group (ADWG) during the past year. This also touched upon the work that has been done by John Gilbert in preparing his report on the practice of other administrations.

Jim's presentation then focussed on the current situation in New Zealand where they are proceeding to delegate amateur activities to a national organization. The proposal focuses on the delegation of callsign assignment and management, examinations and certification as well as licensing. The New Zealand government would continue to provide regulatory and any associated policy functions as well as enforcement activities.

A comparison was given with respect to Canadian Amateur licence fees and amateur equivalent fees in other countries. From John Gilbert's results, it appears that fees for

Canadian Amateurs are lower than most other countries.

Jim Dean then gave an analysis of what has happened with respect to implementing an agreement. The senior management committee (SMC) of Industry Canada had been briefed in March on the proposed agreement and the amateur business plan in order that the initiative could proceed. Upon review, it was determined that although all parties agree with the delegation concept, SMC felt that the costs incurred, as outlined in the business plan, would be extremely difficult for Industry Canada to justify. As a result of the recent Federal budget, Industry Canada's operating budget has been significantly reduced and therefore, funding any new initiatives at this time will be difficult.

In order to keep the delegation initiative moving ahead, a modified approach should be pursued. As discussed within the ADWG, this modified approach could be pursued in two ways using the first phrase of the proposed delegation agreement as a guide.

First, in this fiscal year, methods could be put in place to allow the RAC to do work in the areas of examination and certification. In parallel with this, work would also need to be done by Industry Canada to ensure that the regulatory and administrative infrastructure could be put in place to issue a general licence to the RAC. This would mean delegating a national organization to hold a licence on behalf of all Canadian Amateurs.

It was agreed that much work needs to be done on this modified approach, but all parties believe this should be pursued within the structure of the ADWG.

#### 4) Review of Ongoing Activities

##### a) Antenna and Antenna Structure - Update

The Client Procedures Circular (CPC) 2-0-03 should be published by the end of May and a notice will appear in the Canada Gazette announcing this. At that time, the old versions of the documents will be deleted. Discussion took place on the situation developing in the County of Strathcona, located near Edmonton, concerning an antenna structure. It was agreed that there is no general solution that can be applied to each antenna tower and it is hoped that the new CPC will help clarify the Departments procedure as well as Industry Canada's expectations of all the parties involved. It is doubtful, and probably not desirable, that any definitive decision is made in the future that could be construed as precedent setting for all amateur antenna structures. Such a decision could restrict the flexibility that all parties currently have in arriving at a reasonable compromise in these matters.

##### b) EMCAB2

The RAC position is that the standards criteria and methodology behind EMCAB2 is still unacceptable and that efforts to address this point within the confines of the

Radio Advisory Board of Canada (RABC) technical committee is not yielding a solution to this important issue. The RAC also expressed its disappointment at what it views as a lack of sincerity on the part of Industry Canada with respect to the EMCAB2 consultation process. While Industry Canada had indicated in the EMCAB2 Gazette notice that EMCAB2 was subject to review pending further comments, they feel that no attempt has been made to make adjustments in the face of subsequent comments they have provided.

The RAC does not object to the Department establishing criteria in immunity cases, in order to make a determination of the cause of interference. It is the technical approach being proposed that they are not in agreement with. The RAC would like to undertake activities to allow their members to be better equipped to deal with issues such as interference problems but they feel that they cannot involve their members on promoting determinations that they see as being based on flawed techniques.

At the meeting with Mr. Binder it was indicated that the implementation of EMCAB2 would be put on hold until a suitable measurement method is developed. Mike Connolly stated, that, as the RAC is of the opinion that there needs to be a commitment by Industry Canada to further discuss the technical aspects of EMCAB2, he will deliver this message to senior management.

It was also pointed out by the chair that Region 2 of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) will be developing a committee for the western hemisphere in order to address such issues.

c) Radio Location Definition

It was pointed out that, traditionally, spectrum management has relied upon allocating specific frequency bands to specific services. As convergence takes place in radiocommunication with the introduction of digital technologies, it becomes less and less desirable to follow this type of radio licensing regime.

In order to practically perform spectrum management, Industry Canada has for some time, applied general guidelines in cases where there are overlaps in service utilization. As a general rule, if the main function of a radio transmission falls within the allocation for that frequency band and any other incidental use in conjunction with the primary operation does not degrade the assignment and operation of primary devices, the Department would consider allowing such use.

In cases where there is inter-service operability, it is the responsibility of the Department to investigate the technical concerns and authorize the operation of such systems accordingly.

d) International Amateur Radio Permit

The amateur radio permit has been adopted by CITEL and will be presented to the

Organization of American States (OAS) for approval. The Canadian administration supports this initiative and the President of the RAC wished to thank Industry Canada for their work in this regard.

e) CARAB "Action List"

The secretary expressed his apology that the action list was not available however it will be available within the next few weeks.

f) Proposed Fee Structure

Mike Connolly gave a presentation on the licence fee reform project. He outlined problems with the current licence fee structure and the principles on which the new fee schedules will be based as well as a brief description of how such a scheme may affect amateur radio licences.

5) New Business

a) Call Sign Assignment

Traditionally, Industry Canada has used general guidelines in the issuance of specialized call signs. It was discussed that perhaps the RAC would like to become more involved in determining what events merit the use of special call signs.

The RAC felt that until delegation took place, the current call sign policies should not be changed. However, they also felt that there may be merit in them getting involved with the assignment of special call signs. It was decided that the RAC will look at the matter more closely and get back to Industry Canada on this matter.

b) Elimination of ITU Regulation #2735

Internationally, there is a proposal to delete the international regulation requiring a knowledge of the Morse Code as a requirement to operate in the amateur service below 30 MHz. Industry Canada would like to know the opinion of the RAC in this matter. It was pointed out that this proposal raised a number of matters of international and domestic concern. RAC agreed to have internal discussions on this proposal and get back in Industry Canada with a reply by September 1, 1995.

c) 30-960 MHz Review

As an information item, the publication of this document was brought to the attention of the group as it contains a section on amateur allocations.

d) Sanctions with Industry Canada

It has been a guiding principle within the work being done by the ADWG that

Industry Canada would continue to provide enforcement functions, as required.

Currently there are several examples of amateurs operating outside of the competency of their operating privileges. It appears that Industry Canada district office staff do not have the resources to address these types of issues. As the RAC is being petitioned by their members as to what should be done, they are looking to Industry Canada for direction.

Also, RAQI has a petition signed by over 1000 amateurs, asking for assistance in enforcing harmful interference problems. These interference situations seem to be growing.

Industry Canada will examine the privacy implication of releasing the qualification level of radio amateurs as public information and advise the RAC.

Industry Canada explained that due to their resource intensive nature, prosecutions are only undertaken by Industry Canada as a last resort. However, where evidence was provided to Industry Canada that a certain individual was maliciously causing harmful interference, the district office involved will investigate and take appropriate action.

e) Windprofiler Radar

There is currently a proposal to install a windprofiler radar in the 902-928 MHz band in Southern Ontario. An experimental licence has been issued and Industry Canada will be co-ordinating the collection of field intensity and power density measurements. As there are some concerns with respect to potential interference to amateur television operation, it was suggested that a member of the RAC be appointed to, in conjunction with Industry Canada, monitor these tests.

Date of next meeting

The next CARAB meeting will takeplace on the 22 of September in Burlington, Ontario, at the Industry Canada District office.