

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**June 8, 2009**

**For Immediate Release**

### **Broadcasting Commission's Statement on Nationwide News Network Broadcasts during test transmissions**

#### ***Existing Arrangements for Test Transmissions***

Under existing arrangements, test transmissions are authorised by the Spectrum Management Authority (SMA). These arrangements can apply to entities which have not yet been licensed, and would therefore not be within the remit of the **Broadcasting and Radio Re-Diffusion Act (BRR)** and the **Television and Sound Broadcasting Regulations (TSBR)**. However the Broadcasting Commission does not consider it desirable that such entities be allowed to broadcast editorial and advertising content without regulatory oversight.

#### ***Actions by the Commission on Test Transmissions***

From as early as May 7, 2009, the Commission had proposed to the SMA that a protocol be established for formally advising the content regulator about test transmissions and the inclusion of an obligation in any permission granted, that content must comply with broadcasting rules administered by the Broadcasting Commission.

**-more-**

Although the Broadcasting Commission does not have express statutory responsibility for test transmissions, it monitors the content being broadcast on Nationwide News Network (NNN) and has acted on public concerns.

On May 14 & 20, 2009, the Commission had reason to act in relation to content broadcast on NNN and the public is being assured that the Commission continues to act in its interest.

***Recommendations to the Minister***

The Broadcasting Commission has recommended to the Minister with responsibility for Information and Telecommunications that a framework be established at the earliest, for formal, codified arrangements to ensure that test transmissions are conducted in conformity with the requirements of the **Television and Sound Broadcasting Regulations**, as these currently apply only to licensed broadcasting entities. This would include the nature and length of time for such test transmissions.

This statement is being issued to clarify for the public the role and responsibility of the Broadcasting Commission in light of test transmissions being conducted from the studios of Nationwide News Network (NNN).



Cordel Green  
Executive Director

**-end-**

Contact: Nicole Morrison  
Information and Public Relations Officer  
929-1998 / 920-9537-9 / 564-8691