CBC Radio-Canada

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca>

Jack nagler replied

"" We also deal with stories on current issues of public controversy that are produced outside of CBC News.""

2 messages

Thu, Oct 9, 2014 at 12:25 PM

To: ombudsman@cbc.ca

Dear CBC Ombudsman –

I am writing to admonish you for not bothering to cover the efforts of the people on Parliament Hill last week who placed 100,000 pink and blue flags making a dramatic display of the fact that we in Canada murder 100,000 babies in the womb each year. The CBC states "" We also deal with stories on current issues of public controversy that are produced outside of CBC News."" Very disappointed in Canada's so called national broadcaster! If my taxes could be reduced because we no longer were paying your way I would be happy.

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca> Fri, Oct 10, 2014 at 1:04 PM
To:
Cc: Jennifer McGuire <jennifer.mcguire@cbc.ca>
Bcc: Amanda Pyle <amanda.pyle@cbc.ca>, Bob Campbell <bob.campbell@cbc.ca>, Gino Apponi <gino.apponi@cbc.ca>, Jack Nagler <jack.nagler@cbc.ca>, Office of the General Manager and Editor in Chief <officeofgm@cbc.ca>

Dear

CBC's Office of the Ombudsman is independent of CBC News management and thus has no say in day-to-day decision-making. The CBC Ombudsman has a mandate to determine whether information content the CBC has produced fully respects CBC's journalism policy. However, I have shared your email with Jennifer McGuire, General Manager and Editor in Chief of CBC News, along with the request that you be provided with a response.

Sincerely,

Esther Enkin
CBC Ombudsman
ombudsman@cbc.ca
www.cbc.ca/ombudsman

CBC Radio-Canada

New on my website: subscribe to reviews
[Quoted text hidden]

CBC Radio-Canada

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca>

Your concerns about CBC News coverage choices

1 message

Office of the General Manager and Editor in Chief <officeofgm@cbc.ca> Wed, Nov 5, 2014 at 12:14 PM
To: CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca>, Jennifer McGuire <jennifer.mcguire@cbc.ca>

Dear

Thank you for your Oct. 9th email to the CBC Ombudsman in which you say CBC failed to report a news event you believe to be significant. Jennifer McGuire has asked me to reply on her behalf.

The event in question was a pro-life demonstration on Parliament Hill in which 100,000 blue and pink flags were planted to represent the number of abortions performed in Canada each year. You say CBC did not cover this event.

I regret that you are disappointed with CBC News. But in fact, we did make note of this display on two occasions. One came on our popular politics blog from CBC News reporter Kady O'Malley the morning of the event to indicate it was happening. The other was to include a picture in our This Week in Politics photo gallery http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/photos/anti-abortion-campaign-on-parliament-hill-1.2786835 that showed the 100,000 flags.

I respect that this event has meaning for you. And I agree that the photograph is impressive. I spoke to the leaders of our Parliamentary Bureau about what went into our coverage choices that day. They noted that the size and scale of the event was similar to many events that happen on Parliament Hill on a variety of issues that receive little or no national coverage. Not every protest or demonstration is newsworthy, they told me. And they are right. I believe that the choices made about this particular event were reasonable. There's no evidence I can see that the decisions were informed by any bias or ideology, and I believe our journalists remain open to reflecting fairly and respectfully the views of Canadians who oppose abortion.

I hope this response has reassured you of the integrity of our news service. And I genuinely thank you for the feedback. It is welcome when Canadians hold the public broadcaster to account.

Sincerely,

Jack Nagler

Director, Journalistic Public Accountability and Engagement,

CBC News

CBC Radio-Canada

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca>

Jack Nagler replied

p://www.weneedalaw.ca/blog/471-journalistic-sins-of-commission-and-omission

2 messages

Fri, Oct 10, 2014 at 1:13 AM

To: ombudsman@cbc.ca

Date: Oct. 10, 2014 1:13 A.M.

Title: Mrs.

First name:

Last name:

Platform: CBC News Network

Program: The National

Subject: p://www.weneedalaw.ca/blog/471-journalistic-sins-of-commission-and-omission

Message: I agree the CBC should be horribly ashamed of this sin of omission.

E-mail address:

Address

City:

Province / state:

Country:

Postal / zip code:

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca> Fri, Oct 10, 2014 at 1:28 PM
To:
Cc: Jennifer McGuire <jennifer.mcguire@cbc.ca>
Bcc: Amanda Pyle <amanda.pyle@cbc.ca>, Bob Campbell <bob.campbell@cbc.ca>, Gino Apponi <gino.apponi@cbc.ca>, Jack Nagler <jack.nagler@cbc.ca>, Office of the General Manager and Editor in Chief <officeofgm@cbc.ca>

Dear

CBC's Office of the Ombudsman is independent of CBC News management and thus has no say in day-to-day decision-making. The CBC Ombudsman has a mandate to determine whether information content the CBC has produced fully respects CBC's journalism policy. However, I have shared your email with Jennifer McGuire, General Manager and Editor in Chief of CBC News, along with the request that you be provided with a response.

Sincerely,

Esther Enkin

CBC Ombudsman
ombudsman@cbc.ca
www.cbc.ca/ombudsman

CBC Radio-Canada

New on my website: subscribe to reviews
[Quoted text hidden]

CBC Radio-Canada

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca>

Your concerns about CBC News coverage choices

1 message

Jack Nagler <jack.nagler@cbc.ca> Wed, Nov 26, 2014 at 11:09 AM
To: "Ombudsman, CBC" <ombudsman@cbc.ca>, Jennifer McGuire <jennifer.mcguire@cbc.ca>

Dear

Thank you for your Oct. 9th email to the CBC Ombudsman in which you say CBC failed to report significant news. Jennifer McGuire has asked me to reply on her behalf. Please forgive the delay in my response.

Your concern centred around how CBC News treated two separate events.

The first is a pro-life demonstration on Parliament Hill in which 100,000 blue and pink flags were planted to represent the number of abortions performed in Canada each year. You say "CBC should be horribly ashamed of this sin of omission."

The second is the news that several New Brunswick women had travelled to Maine to have an abortion. You referred us to a blog post from the group weneedalaw, which organized the Parliament Hill protest, and noted the discrepancy in coverage of the two events.

I regret that you are disappointed with CBC News. But, with respect, I do not share your point of view here. Please allow me to explain why.

First, regarding the event on Parliament Hill:

It is untrue that this event went uncovered by CBC News. There were two mentions online. One came on our popular politics blog from CBC News reporter Kady O'Malley the morning of the event to indicate it was happening. The other was to include a picture in our This Week in Politics photo gallery http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/photos/anti-abortion-campaign-on-parliament-hill-1.2786835 that showed the 100,000 flags planted on Parliament Hill to symbolize the number of abortions performed in Canada each year.

I respect that this event has meaning for you. And I agree that the photograph is impressive. But in truth, the size and scale of the event was similar to many events that happen on Parliament Hill on a variety of issues that also receive little or no national coverage. Not every protest or demonstration is newsworthy, and there's no reason to conclude that the decisions made about this event were based on ideology or bias.

Next, the New Brunswick story:

This was not a story about whether abortion should or should not be legal. Rather, it was a story about a new phenomenon – the closure of the Morgentaler Clinic a few months earlier had prompted women to travel to Maine to procure an abortion.

The issue had taken on some prominence in the province, as the newly elected Premier-designate had weighed in, pledging to ease regulations in place that made it challenging for some women to have an abortion in a provincial hospital.

That meets a reasonable definition of news – something significant had changed (the private clinic had closed). In response, another change: some people made a surprising choice (to go to Maine). Now, the provincial government was signalling that it wanted to change public policy as a result.

In covering this story, we tried to give people information they need to draw their own conclusions about what is right. That includes pro-life supporters who may otherwise not have realized their new Premier seems intent on making it easier for New Brunswick women to have an abortion in a public hospital. Indeed, he has moved ahead on this very measure today.

It troubles me that you appear to feel we have an agenda -- we take very seriously our responsibility to cover controversial issues such as this with in a fair and balanced way. And we take this feedback of yours seriously as well.

I hope this response has reassured you of the integrity of our news service. And thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

Jack Nagler

Director, Journalistic Public Accountability and Engagement

CBC News

CBC Radio-Canada

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca>

Jade Nagler replied

abortion clinic in maine/lack of coverage of pro-life demonstration on parliament hill

2 messages

Thu, Oct 9, 2014 at 2:43 PM

To: ombudsman@cbc.ca

Date: Oct. 9, 2014 2:43 P.M.

Title:

First name:

Last name:

Platform: CBCNews.ca

Program: http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/abortion-clinics-in-maine-see-spike-in-new-brunswick-clients-1.2789090

Subject: abortion clinic in maine/lack of coverage of pro-life demonstration on parliament hill

Message: This article was incredibly biased and didn't include a single reference to all the people who are extremely happy that no more babies will be murdered at that New Brunswick clinic. CBC is publicly funded. I am a member of that public and I'm angry that an attempt at actual journalism wasn't even attempted and that the pro-choice side was the only one presented.
There was also a large pro-life demonstration on paliament hill last week, with 100,000 flags representing the 100,000 Canadians killed by abortion every year. Yet, there was no mention of that in any of your news. Rather 6 women from New Brunswick travelling to Maine in order to have 6 Canadians killed (you got to cross the border to do things like that, since Canada is sooo mean and doesn't want to pay to kill those Canadians and that's a real problem because there are lots more Canadians who need to be killed) get the spotlight.
There is no reason to continue to fund a national broadcasting corporation that promotes censorship and propaganda. Those are not Canadian values.

E-mail address:

Address:

City:

Province / state:

Country:

Postal / zip code:

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca> Fri, Oct 10, 2014 at 1:00 PM
To:
Cc: Jennifer McGuire <jennifer.mcguire@cbc.ca>
Bcc: Amanda Pyle <amanda.pyle@cbc.ca>, Bob Campbell <bob.campbell@cbc.ca>, Gino Apponi <gino.apponi@cbc.ca>, Jack Nagler <jack.nagler@cbc.ca>, Office of the General Manager and Editor in Chief <officeofgm@cbc.ca>

Dear

I write to acknowledge receipt of your email. The first step in the process is to share your complaint with the relevant programmers, who have the right and responsibility to respond. I have therefore shared your email with Jennifer McGuire, General Manager and Editor in Chief of CBC News. I will ask her to address your concerns about the New Brunswick report. If you are not satisfied with the response you receive you may ask me to review the matter.

Regarding the pro-life demonstration on Parliament Hill, CBC's Office of the Ombudsman is independent of CBC News management and thus has no say in day-to-day decision-making about which stories should or should not be covered. The CBC Ombudsman has a mandate to determine whether information content the CBC has produced fully respects CBC's journalism policy. However, I will ask Ms. McGuire to address your concerns about this as well.

Programmers are asked to try to reply within twenty working days.

Sincerely,

Esther Enkin
CBC Ombudsman
ombudsman@cbc.ca
www.cbc.ca/ombudsman

CBC Radio-Canada

New on my website: subscribe to reviews
[Quoted text hidden]

CBC Radio-Canada

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca>

Your concerns about CBC News coverage

1 message

Jack Nagler <jack.nagler@cbc.ca> Tue, Nov 4, 2014 at 5:36 PM
To: "Ombudsman, CBC" <ombudsman@cbc.ca>, Jennifer McGuire <jennifer.mcguire@cbc.ca>

Dear

Thank you for your October 9th email to CBC Ombudsman Esther Enkin in which you expressed your concern about a spike in the number of New Brunswick women going to Maine to seek an abortion.

Jennifer McGuire has asked me to respond on her behalf. Please accept my apologies for the length of time it has taken to respond.

"This article was incredibly biased and didn't include a single reference to all the people who are extremely happy that no more babies will be murdered at that New Brunswick clinic," you wrote. "I'm angry that an attempt at actual journalism wasn't even attempted and that the pro-choice side was the only one presented."

I would agree with you that in this article we failed to live up to our promise of balance and fairness. Though it's not for the same reason you have outlined. Please let me explain.

The article was about one of the side-effects of the closure of the Morgentaler Clinic in New Brunswick: that several women in that province are choosing to avoid the requirements the province has set up to secure an abortion in a public hospital, and are instead travelling to Maine to have it done at their convenience.

It was also about the fact that the incoming Premier has indicated a desire to ease those requirements.

We failed in reporting those facts to explain to the audience why those rules exist, and what the argument would be to keep them in place. That argument is important so that an independent reader can draw their own conclusion on the issue. And its omission made this report unbalanced, in my view. I have expressed my disappointment to our journalists in New Brunswick so that the mistake will not be repeated.

I do not share your view, though, that the article required an articulation of the view that abortion itself is wrong. It is absolutely true that CBC News has an obligation to reflect the view of many Canadians (presumably including yourself) that abortion should be banned. But that balance can be achieved over time, and need not be a requirement for any story that touches on the topic. As an example, in mid-May CBC New Brunswick reported widely on all platforms about a rally held by the anti-abortion movement. It included interviews with many people who are vigorously opposed to abortion including politicians, clergy and citizens who attended the rally. In that case CBC did not seek out recorded interviews with people who hold the opposite view. That does not mean that we have a bias against those who argue for a woman's right to choose. This more recent story was about access to legal abortions, not about whether the procedure should be legal. So the lack of a pro-life voice does not indicate a bias against those who oppose abortion on principle.

I'll point you to our CBC Journalistic Standards and Practices at http://www.cbc.radio-canada.ca/en/reporting-to-canadians/acts-and-policies/programming/journalism/. One of our fundamental values is, of course, balance, in which we state:

On issues of controversy, we ensure that divergent views are reflected respectfully, taking into account

their relevance to the debate and how widely held these views are. We also ensure that they are represented over a reasonable period of time.

So I hope that you will choose to judge us on the choices we make over time, rather than on any single story.

In your letter, you also indicated disappointment that CBC News made no mention of what you described as a large pro-life demonstration on Parliament Hill in early October.

There were, in fact, two mentions online of this event. One came on our politics blog from Kady O'Malley the morning of the event to indicate it was happening. The other was to include a picture in our This Week in Politics photo gallery http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/photos/anti-abortion-campaign-on-parliament-hill-1.2786835 that showed the 100,000 flags planted on Parliament Hill to symbolize the number of abortions performed in Canada each year.

I respect that this event has meaning for you. And I agree that the photograph is impressive. But in truth, the size and scale of the event was similar to many events that happen on Parliament Hill on a variety of issues that also receive little or no national coverage. Not every protest or demonstration is newsworthy. And I am comfortable that the coverage decisions made by CBC News that day were rooted in solid news judgment, not on the basis of ideology or bias.

I hope this response has reassured you of the integrity of our news service.

It is also my responsibility to tell you that if you are not satisfied with my response, you may wish to ask Esther Enkin, CBC Ombudsman, to review the matter. The Office of the Ombudsman, an independent and impartial body reporting directly to the President, is responsible for evaluating program compliance with the CBC's journalistic policies. The Ombudsman may be reached by telephone at 416-205-2978, or by mail at Box 500, Terminal A, Toronto, Ontario M5W 1E6, or by fax at (416) 205-2825, or by e-mail at ombudsman@cbc.ca.

Sincerely,

Jack Nagler

Director, Journalistic Public Accountability and Engagement

CBC News

CBC Radio-Canada

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca>

Jack Nagler replied

Re. The Pro-Life flag display at parliament Hill on october 2/14

2 messages

Mon, Oct 13, 2014 at 1:03 PM

To: ombudsman@cbc.ca

Date: Oct. 13, 2014 1:03 P.M.

Title: canadian citizen

First name:

Last name:

Platform: CBC News Network

Program: omitted from all news programs

Subject: Re. The Pro-Life flag display at parliament Hill on october 2/14

Message: I am totally flabbergasted that this event was totally ignored by both, the CBC radio news, as well as CBC TV
This event brought to light the total absence of any regulatory limits on the heinous crime perpetrated on the unborn inutero citizens in Canada.
If our national broadcasting services cannot be bothered with events of such nationalistic proportions they, in my view, forfeit the reason for their very existence.
Murder, by any other name is still murder, regardless of any other views you might hold

E-mail address:

Address:

City:

Province / state:

Country:

Postal / zip code:

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca> Tue, Oct 14, 2014 at 11:34 AM

To:
Cc: Jennifer McGuire <jennifer.mcguire@cbc.ca>
Bcc: Amanda Pyle <amanda.pyle@cbc.ca>, Bob Campbell <bob.campbell@cbc.ca>, Gino Apponi <gino.apponi@cbc.ca>, Jack Nagler <jack.nagler@cbc.ca>, Office of the General Manager and Editor in Chief <officeofgm@cbc.ca>

Dear

CBC's Office of the Ombudsman is independent of CBC News management and thus has no say in day-to-day decision-making. The CBC Ombudsman has a mandate to determine whether information content the CBC has produced fully respects CBC's journalism policy. However, I have shared your email with Jennifer McGuire, General Manager and Editor in Chief of CBC News, along with the request that you be provided with a response.

Sincerely,

Esther Enkin
CBC Ombudsman
ombudsman@cbc.ca
www.cbc.ca/ombudsman

CBC Radio-Canada

New on my website: subscribe to reviews
[Quoted text hidden]

A0059224_15-000015

CBC Radio-Canada

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca>

Your concerns about CBC News coverage choices

1 message

Jack Nagler <jack.nagler@cbc.ca> Wed, Nov 26, 2014 at 11:49 AM
To: "Ombudsman, CBC" <ombudsman@cbc.ca>, Jennifer McGuire <jennifer.mcguire@cbc.ca>

Dear

Thank you for your Oct. 13th email to the CBC Ombudsman in which you say CBC failed to cover a news event you believe to be significant. Jennifer McGuire has asked me to reply on her behalf. Please forgive the delay in my response.

The event in question was a pro-life demonstration on Parliament Hill in which 100,000 blue and pink flags were planted to represent the number of abortions performed in Canada each year.

"I am totally flabbergasted that this event was totally ignored by both, the CBC radio news, as well as CBC TV," you wrote.
"This event brought to light the total absence of any regulatory limits on the heinous crime perpetrated on the unborn inutero citizens in Canada. If our national broadcasting services cannot be bothered with events of such nationalistic proportions they, in my view, forfeit the reason for their very existence."

I regret that you are disappointed with CBC News. While you are correct that our radio and television newscasts did not cover this event, CBC News did make note of this display online on two occasions. One came on our popular politics blog from CBC News reporter Kady O'Malley the morning of the event to indicate it was happening. The other was to include a

picture in our This Week in Politics photo gallery http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/photos/anti-abortion-campaign-on-parliament-hill-1.2786835 that showed the 100,000 flags.

I respect that this event has meaning for you. And I agree that the photograph is impressive. I spoke to the leaders of our Parliamentary Bureau about what went into our coverage choices that day. They noted that the size and scale of the event was similar to many events that happen on Parliament Hill on a variety of issues that receive little or no national coverage. Not every protest or demonstration is newsworthy, they told me. And they are right. I believe that the choices made about this particular event were reasonable. There's no evidence I can see that the decisions were informed by any bias or ideology, and I believe our journalists remain open to reflecting fairly and respectfully the views of Canadians who oppose abortion.

I hope this response has reassured you of the integrity of our news service. And I genuinely thank you for the feedback. It is welcome when Canadians hold the public broadcaster to account.

Sincerely,

Jack Nagler

Director, Journalistic Public Accountability and Engagement,
CBC News

CBC Radio-Canada

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca>

Jack Nagler replied

Flags for support of the unborn

3 messages

Thu, Oct 16, 2014 at 9:21 PM

To: ombudsman@cbc.ca

Date: Oct. 16, 2014 9:21 P.M.

Title: Mrs

First name:

Last name:

Platform: CBC News Network

Program: CBC News

Subject: Flags for support of the unborn

Message: Sad that all those flags placed on the lawn of the parliament building last week was not new worthy. Why? Shouldnt support for these unwanted babies be news worthy?

E-mail address:

Address:

City:

Province / state:

Country:

Postal / zip code:

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca> Fri, Oct 17, 2014 at 10:45 AM
To:
Cc: Jennifer McGuire <jennifer.mcguire@cbc.ca>
Bcc: Amanda Pyle <amanda.pyle@cbc.ca>, Bob Campbell <bob.campbell@cbc.ca>, Gino Apponi <gino.apponi@cbc.ca>, Jack Nagler <jack.nagler@cbc.ca>, Office of the General Manager and Editor in Chief <officeofgm@cbc.ca>

Dear

CBC's Office of the Ombudsman is independent of CBC News management and thus has no say in day-to-day decision-making about which stories should be covered. The CBC Ombudsman has a mandate to determine whether information content the CBC has produced fully respects CBC's journalism policy. However, I have shared your email with Jennifer McGuire, General Manager and Editor in Chief of CBC News, along with the request that you be provided with a response.

Sincerely,

Esther Enkin

CBC Ombudsman
ombudsman@cbc.ca
www.cbc.ca/ombudsman

CBC Radio-Canada

New on my website: subscribe to reviews
[Quoted text hidden]

Fri, Oct 17, 2014 at 12:01 PM

To: CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca>

Thank you!

[Quoted text hidden]

CBC Radio-Canada

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca>

Your concerns about CBC News coverage choices

1 message

Jack Nagler <jack.nagler@cbc.ca> Wed, Nov 26, 2014 at 12:26 PM
To: "Ombudsman, CBC" <ombudsman@cbc.ca>, Jennifer McGuire <jennifer.mcguire@cbc.ca>

Dear

Thank you for your Oct. 16th email to the CBC Ombudsman in which you say CBC failed to cover a news event you believe to be significant. Jennifer McGuire has asked me to reply on her behalf. Please accept my apologies for the delayed response.

The event in question was a pro-life demonstration on Parliament Hill in which 100,000 blue and pink flags were planted to represent the number of abortions performed in Canada each year.

"Sad that all those flags placed on the lawn of the parliament building last week was not new worthy," you wrote. "Why? Shouldnt support for these unwanted babies be news worthy?"

I regret that you are disappointed with CBC News. But in fact, we did make note of this display on two occasions. One came on our popular politics blog from CBC News reporter Kady O'Malley the morning of the event to indicate it was happening. The other was to include a picture in our This Week in Politics photo gallery http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/photos/anti-abortion-campaign-on-parliament-hill-1.2786835 that showed the 100,000 flags.

I respect that this event has meaning for you. And I agree that the photograph is impressive. I spoke to the leaders of our Parliamentary Bureau about what went into our coverage choices that day. They noted that the size and scale of the event was similar to many events that happen on Parliament Hill on a variety of issues that receive little or no national coverage. Not every protest or demonstration is newsworthy, they told me. And they are right. I believe that the choices made about this particular event were reasonable. There's no evidence I can see that the decisions were informed by any bias or ideology, and I believe our journalists remain open to reflecting fairly and respectfully the views of Canadians who oppose abortion.

I hope this response has reassured you of the integrity of our news service. And I genuinely thank you for the feedback. It is welcome when Canadians hold the public broadcaster to account.

Sincerely,

Jack Nagler

CBC Radio-Canada

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca>

Jack Nagler replied

Parliament Hill Flag Display on October 2, 2014

3 messages

Fri, Oct 10, 2014 at 3:08 PM

To: ombudsman@cbc.ca

Date: Oct. 10, 2014 3:08 P.M.

Title: Mrs

First name:

Last name:

Platform: CBC TV

Program: News

Subject: Parliament Hill Flag Display on October 2, 2014

Message: I was disappointed that CBC had to leave it to the BBC to cover the massive WeNeedALaw Flag Display on Parliament Hill on October 3, 2014. There were nearly 100 volunteers who came from all over the country to carefully insert 100,000 pink and blue flags, one by one. They wanted to make a powerful, visual statement that every year in Canada 100,000 preborn children lose their lives to abortion. This was a massive display. You are our country's national broadcaster, why did you not broadcast this news? Instead, days later, you chose to report on the 6 women who travel from New Brunswick to Maine to kill their pre-born children? Don't close your eyes to what is happening steps away from your studio in Ottawa. Please report news instead of ignoring it.
Sincerely,

E-mail address:

Address:

City:

Province / state:

Country:

Postal / zip code:

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca> Fri, Oct 10, 2014 at 4:26 PM
To:
Cc: Jennifer McGuire <jennifer.mcguire@cbc.ca>
Bcc: Amanda Pyle <amanda.pyle@cbc.ca>, Bob Campbell <bob.campbell@cbc.ca>, Gino Apponi <gino.apponi@cbc.ca>, Jack Nagler <jack.nagler@cbc.ca>, Office of the General Manager and Editor in Chief <officeofgm@cbc.ca>

Dear

CBC's Office of the Ombudsman is independent of CBC News management and thus has no say in day-to-day

decision-making. The CBC Ombudsman has a mandate to determine whether information content the CBC has produced fully respects CBC's journalism policy. However, I have shared your email with Jennifer McGuire, General Manager and Editor in Chief of CBC News, along with the request that you be provided with a response.

Sincerely,

Esther Enkin
CBC Ombudsman
ombudsman@cbc.ca
www.cbc.ca/ombudsman

CBC Radio-Canada

New on my website: subscribe to reviews
[Quoted text hidden]

Fri, Oct 10, 2014 at 4:28 PM

To: CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca>

Dear Ms. Enkin,

Thank you so much for your reply. I look forward to a response from Ms. McGuire.

Sincerely,

[Quoted text hidden]

CBC Radio-Canada

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca>

Your concerns about CBC News coverage choices

1 message

Jack Nagler <jack.nagler@cbc.ca> Wed, Nov 26, 2014 at 11:29 AM
To: 'Ombudsman, CBC" <ombudsman@cbc.ca>, Jennifer McGuire <jennifer.mcguire@cbc.ca>

Dear

Thank you for your Oct. 10th email to the CBC Ombudsman in which you say CBC failed to cover a news event you believe to be significant. Jennifer McGuire has asked me to reply on her behalf. Please forgive the delay in my response.

Your concern centred around how CBC News treated two separate events.

The first is a pro-life demonstration on Parliament Hill in which 100,000 blue and pink flags were planted to represent the number of abortions performed in Canada each year. You say there was a "lack of coverage" on CBC about this event.

The second is the news that several New Brunswick women had travelled to Maine to have an abortion. You noted with displeasure that CBC reported on this development.

You wrote, "I was disappointed that CBC had to leave it to the BBC to cover the massive WeNeedALaw Flag Display on Parliament Hill on October 3, 2014. There were nearly 100 volunteers who came from all over the country to carefully insert 100,000 pink and blue flags, one by one. They wanted to make a powerful, visual statement that every year in Canada 100,000 preborn children lose their lives to abortion. This was a massive display. You are our country's national broadcaster, why did you not broadcast this news? Instead, days later, you chose to report on the 6 women who travel from New Brunswick to Maine to kill their pre-born children?"

I regret that you are disappointed with CBC News. But, with respect, I do not share your point of view here. Please allow me to explain why.

First, regarding the event on Parliament Hill:

It is untrue that this event went uncovered by CBC News. There were two mentions online. One came on our popular politics blog from CBC News reporter Kady O'Malley the morning of the event to indicate it was happening. The other was to include a picture in our This Week in Politics photo gallery http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/photos/anti-abortion-campaign-on-parliament-hill-1.2786835 that showed the 100,000 flags planted on Parliament Hill to symbolize the number of abortions performed in Canada each year. (Incidentally, this is the same photograph used by the BBC, which took the picture from Canadian Press).

I respect that this event has meaning for you. And I agree that the photograph is impressive. But in truth, the size and scale of the event was similar to many events that happen on Parliament Hill on a variety of issues that also receive little or no national coverage. Not every protest or demonstration is newsworthy, and there's no reason to conclude that the decisions made about this event were based on ideology or bias.

Next, the New Brunswick story:

This was not a story about whether abortion should or should not be legal. Rather, it was a story about a new phenomenon – the closure of the Morgentaler Clinic a few months earlier had prompted women to travel to Maine to procure an abortion.

The issue had taken on some prominence in the province, as the newly elected Premier-designate had weighed in, pledging to ease regulations in place that made it challenging for some women to have an abortion in a provincial hospital.

That meets a reasonable definition of news – something significant had changed (the private clinic had closed). In response, another change: some people made a surprising choice (to go to Maine). Now, the provincial government was signalling that it wanted to change public policy as a result.

In covering this story, we tried to give people information they need to draw their own conclusions about what is right. That includes pro-life supporters who may otherwise not have realized their new Premier seems intent on making it easier for New Brunswick women to have an abortion in a public hospital. Indeed, he has taken a step down this path just today.

It troubles me that you appear to feel we have an agenda -- we take very seriously our responsibility to cover controversial issues such as this with in a fair and balanced way. And we take this feedback of yours seriously as well.

I hope this response has reassured you of the integrity of our news service. And thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

Jack Nagler

Director, Journalistic Public Accountability and Engagement

CBC News

CBC Radio-Canada

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca>

Jack Nagler replied

News coverage

2 messages

Thu, Oct 9, 2014 at 8:02 PM

To: ombudsman@cbc.ca

Date: Oct. 9, 2014 8:02 P.M.

Title: Mrs

First name:

Last name:

Platform: CBC News Network

Program: National

Subject: News coverage

Message: I was extremely disappointed that the cbc did not cover the we need a law pink and blue flag demonstration on parliament hill last week. It is an example of cbc covering what it deems important. This was a very visible and moving display. And to your shame the bbc covered the story and you find not, it was even the top story for international news. shame on you!

E-mail address:

Address:

City:

Province / state:

Country:

Postal / zip code:

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca> Fri, Oct 10, 2014 at 1:26 PM
To:
Cc: Jennifer McGuire <jennifer.mcguire@cbc.ca>
Bcc: Amanda Pyle <amanda.pyle@cbc.ca>, Bob Campbell <bob.campbell@cbc.ca>, Gino Apponi <gino.apponi@cbc.ca>, Jack Nagler <jack.nagler@cbc.ca>, Office of the General Manager and Editor in Chief <officeofgm@cbc.ca>

Dear

CBC's Office of the Ombudsman is independent of CBC News management and thus has no say in day-to-day decision-making. The CBC Ombudsman has a mandate to determine whether information content the CBC has produced fully respects CBC's journalism policy. However, I have shared your email with Jennifer McGuire, General Manager and Editor in Chief of CBC News, along with the request that you be provided with a response.

Sincerely,

Esther Enkin
CBC Ombudsman
ombudsman@cbc.ca
www.cbc.ca/ombudsman

CBC Radio-Canada

New on my website: subscribe to reviews
[Quoted text hidden]

CBC Radio-Canada

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca>

Your concern about CBC coverage choices

1 message

Jack Nagler <jack.nagler@cbc.ca> Wed, Nov 26, 2014 at 10:54 AM
To: "Ombudsman, CBC" <ombudsman@cbc.ca>, Jennifer McGuire <jennifer.mcguire@cbc.ca>

Dear

Thank you for your Oct. 9th email to the CBC Ombudsman in which you say CBC failed to cover a news event you believe to be significant. Jennifer McGuire has asked me to reply on her behalf. Please forgive the delay in my response.

The event in question was a pro-life demonstration on Parliament Hill in which 100,000 blue and pink flags were planted to represent the number of abortions performed in Canada each year. You say CBC "did not cover" this event, in contrast with the BBC, which gave it coverage.

"It is an example of cbc covering what it deems important," you wrote. "Shame on you!"

I regret that you are disappointed with CBC News. But in fact, we did make note of this display on two occasions. One came on our popular politics blog from CBC News reporter Kady O'Malley the morning of the event to indicate it was happening. The other was to include a picture in our This Week in Politics photo gallery http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/photos/anti-abortion-campaign-on-parliament-hill-1.2786835 that showed the 100,000 flags.

Incidentally, that same photo was used in the same manner by BBC News. They picked it up from Canadian Press.

I respect that this event has meaning for you. And I agree that the photograph is impressive - as

you called it, a "visible and moving display." I spoke to the leaders of our Parliamentary Bureau about what went into our coverage choices that day. They noted that the size and scale of the event was similar to many events that happen on Parliament Hill on a variety of issues that receive little or no national coverage. Not every protest or demonstration is newsworthy, they told me. And they are right. I believe that the choices made about this particular event were reasonable. There's no evidence I can see that the decisions were informed by any bias or ideology, and I believe our journalists remain open to reflecting fairly and respectfully the views of Canadians who oppose abortion.

There's an implicit criticism of all media in your contention that journalists choose to cover what they think is important. It's true that we have to make choices every day about what is important to our audience, as well as what is interesting to our audience. We do it with the knowledge that our choices will not be perfect. But we try to assume that responsibility with humility and with an open mind.

I hope this response has reassured you of the integrity of our news service. And I genuinely thank you for the feedback. It is welcome when Canadians hold the public broadcaster to account.

Sincerely,

Jack Nagler

Director, Journalistic Public Accountability and Engagement,

CBC News

CBC Radio-Canada

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca>

Jack Nagler replied

Failing to report significant news

2 messages

Thu, Oct 9, 2014 at 11:59 AM

To: ombudsman@cbc.ca

Date: Oct. 9, 2014 11:59 A.M.

Title: Dr.

First name:

Last name:

Platform: CBC TV

Program: The National

Subject: Failing to report significant news

Message: Dear sir/madam,

Last week, the largest pro-life display in Canada's history took place on Parliament Hill in full view of the CBC's Ottawa studios. 100,000 blue and pink flags were placed to draw awareness to the fact that this many abortions take place every year in Canada. However, CBC failed to make any mention of this newsworthy event. That despite the fact that the BBC from the UK *did* cover the event. However, two days ago, we find a story on CBC about how six New Brunswick women had to travel two hours to Maine to procure abortions. I am perplexed as to how this one story is newsworthy and the other is not. It seems that ideology actually drives the news at CBC and, as a taxpayer, I'm find that very regrettable.

Thank you for your time.

Yours sincerely,

E-mail address:

Address:

City:

Province / state:

Country:

Postal / zip code:

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca> Fri, Oct 10, 2014 at 1:02 PM
To:
Cc: Jennifer McGuire <jennifer.mcguire@cbc.ca>
Bcc: Amanda Pyle <amanda.pyle@cbc.ca>, Bob Campbell <bob.campbell@cbc.ca>, Gino Apponi <gino.apponi@cbc.ca>, Jack Nagler <jack.nagler@cbc.ca>, Office of the General Manager and Editor in Chief

<officeofgm@cbc.ca>

Dear

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Sincerely,

Esther Enkin
CBC Ombudsman
ombudsman@cbc.ca
www.cbc.ca/ombudsman

CBC Radio-Canada

New on my website: subscribe to reviews
[Quoted text hidden]

CBC Radio-Canada

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca>

Your concerns about CBC News coverage choices

1 message

Office of the General Manager and Editor in Chief <officeofgm@cbc.ca> Wed, Nov 5, 2014 at 12:13 PM
To: CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca>, Jennifer McGuire <jennifer.mcguire@cbc.ca>

Dear

Thank you for your Oct. 9th email to the CBC Ombudsman in which you say CBC failed to report significant news. Jennifer McGuire has asked me to reply on her behalf.

Your concern centred around how CBC News treated two separate events. The first is a pro-life demonstration on Parliament Hill in which 100,000 blue and pink flags were planted to represent the number of abortions performed in Canada each year. You say CBC did not cover this event, in contrast with the BBC, which did. The second is the news that several New Brunswick women had travelled to Maine to have an abortion. CBC reported on this development.

You said you were perplexed by the juxtaposition of these two editorial choices. "It seems that ideology actually drives the news at CBC and, as a taxpayer, I'm find that very regrettable," you wrote.

I regret that you are disappointed with CBC News. But, with respect, I do not share your point of view here. Please allow me to explain why.

First, regarding the event on Parliament Hill:

It is untrue that this event went uncovered by CBC News. There were two mentions online. One came on our popular politics blog from CBC News reporter Kady O'Malley the morning of the event to indicate it was happening. The other was to include a picture in our This Week in

Politics photo gallery http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/photos/anti-abortion-campaign-on-parliament-hill-1.2786835 that showed the 100,000 flags planted on Parliament Hill to symbolize the number of abortions performed in Canada each year.

Incidentally, that same photo was used in the same manner by BBC News. They picked it up from Canadian Press.

I respect that this event has meaning for you. And I agree that the photograph is impressive. But in truth, the size and scale of the event was similar to many events that happen on Parliament Hill on a variety of issues that also receive little or no national coverage. Not every protest or demonstration is newsworthy, and there's no reason to conclude that the decisions made about this event were based on ideology or bias.

Next, the New Brunswick story:

This was not a story about whether abortion should or should not be legal. Rather, it was a story about a new phenomenon – the closure of the Morgentaler Clinic a few months earlier had prompted women to travel to Maine to procure an abortion.

The issue had taken on some prominence in the province, as the newly elected Premier-designate had weighed in, pledging to ease regulations in place that made it challenging for some women to have an abortion in a provincial hospital.

That meets a reasonable definition of news – something significant had changed (the private clinic had closed). In response, another change: some people made a surprising choice (to go to Maine). Now, the provincial government was signalling that it wanted to change public policy as a result.

In covering this story, we tried to give people information they need to draw their own conclusions about what is right. That includes pro-life supporters who may otherwise not have realized their new Premier seems intent on making it easier for New Brunswick women to have an abortion in a public hospital.

I hope this response has reassured you of the integrity of our news service.

Sincerely,

Jack Nagler

Director, Journalistic Public Accountability and Engagement

CBC News

CBC Radio-Canada

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca>

Jack Nagler replied

Coverage

2 messages

Thu, Oct 9, 2014 at 2:39 PM

To: ombudsman@cbc.ca

Date: Oct. 9, 2014 2:39 P.M.

Title:

First name:

Last name:

Platform: CBC News Network

Program: National news

Subject: Coverage

Message: I am thoroughly disappointed that there was no coverage of the 100,000 flags at the parliamentary buildings in Ottawa last week. It's very concerning that other countries published the story as a top story however Canadian CBC completely ignored it. Your liberalism is evident . I would like a complete explanation as to why the story was ignored.
Your prompt response is much appreciated.

E-mail address:

Address:

City:

Province / state:

Country:

Postal / zip code:

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca> Fri, Oct 10, 2014 at 1:12 PM
To:
Cc: Jennifer McGuire <jennifer.mcguire@cbc.ca>
Bcc: Amanda Pyle <amanda.pyle@cbc.ca>, Bob Campbell <bob.campbell@cbc.ca>, Gino Apponi <gino.apponi@cbc.ca>, Jack Nagler <jack.nagler@cbc.ca>, Office of the General Manager and Editor in Chief <officeofgm@cbc.ca>

Dear

CBC's Office of the Ombudsman is independent of CBC News management and thus has no say in day-to-day decision-making. The CBC Ombudsman has a mandate to determine whether information content the CBC has produced fully respects CBC's journalism policy. However, I have shared your email with Jennifer McGuire, General Manager and Editor in Chief of CBC News, along with the request that you be provided with a response.

Sincerely,

Esther Enkin
CBC Ombudsman
ombudsman@cbc.ca
www.cbc.ca/ombudsman

CBC Radio-Canada

New on my website: subscribe to reviews
[Quoted text hidden]

CBC Radio-Canada

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca>

Your concerns about CBC News coverage choices

1 message

Jack Nagler <jack.nagler@cbc.ca> Thu, Nov 6, 2014 at 9:32 AM
To: "Ombudsman, CBC" <ombudsman@cbc.ca>, Jennifer McGuire <jennifer.mcguire@cbc.ca>

Dear

Thank you for your Oct. 9th email to the CBC Ombudsman in which you say CBC failed to cover a news event you believe to be significant. Jennifer McGuire has asked me to reply on her behalf.

The event in question was a pro-life demonstration on Parliament Hill in which 100,000 blue and pink flags were planted to represent the number of abortions performed in Canada each year. You say CBC "ignored" this event, in contrast with "other countries", which did. (By this I presume you mean the BBC). "Your liberalism is evident," you wrote.

I regret that you are disappointed with CBC News. But in fact, we did make note of this display on two occasions. One came on our popular politics blog from CBC News reporter Kady O'Malley the morning of the event to indicate it was happening. The other was to include a picture in our This Week in Politics photo gallery http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/photos/anti-abortion-campaign-on-parliament-hill-1.2786835 that showed the 100,000 flags.

Incidentally, that same photo was used in the same manner by BBC News. They picked it up from Canadian Press.

I respect that this event has meaning for you. And I agree that the photograph is impressive. I spoke to the leaders of our Parliamentary Bureau about what went into our coverage choices that day. They noted that the size and scale of the event was similar to many events that happen on Parliament Hill on a variety of issues that receive little or no national coverage. Not every protest or demonstration is newsworthy, they told me. And they are right. I believe that the choices made about this particular event were reasonable. There's no evidence I can see that the decisions were informed by any bias or ideology, and I believe our journalists remain open to reflecting fairly and respectfully the views of Canadians who oppose abortion.

I hope this response has reassured you of the integrity of our news service. And I genuinely thank you for the feedback. It is welcome when Canadians hold the public broadcaster to account.

Sincerely,

Jack Nagler

Director, Journalistic Public Accountability and Engagement,

CBC News

CBC Radio-Canada

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca>

Jack Nagler replied

Re: Prolife Display @ Parliament Hill

2 messages

Thu, Oct 9, 2014 at 6:20 PM

To: ombudsman@cbc.ca

Date: Oct. 9, 2014 6:20 P.M.

Title: Mrs.

First name:

Last name:

Platform: CBC News Network

Program: News

Subject: Re: Prolife Display @ Parliament Hill

Message: Very upset about lack of coverage on the prolife display at Parliament Hill this past week. Journalism at it's best. How lopsided and liberal can we get? Even though it is legal- you have many viewers who are in support of life- at every age. I don't want to hear about how the New Bruinswick regulations are an offence to women and their rights, but SOME people do, so you covered it.

E-mail address:

Address:

City:

Province / state:

Country:

Postal / zip code:

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca> Fri, Oct 10, 2014 at 1:19 PM
To:
Cc: Jennifer McGuire <jennifer.mcguire@cbc.ca>
Bcc: Amanda Pyle <amanda.pyle@cbc.ca>, Bob Campbell <bob.campbell@cbc.ca>, Gino Apponi <gino.apponi@cbc.ca>, Jack Nagler <jack.nagler@cbc.ca>, Office of the General Manager and Editor in Chief <officeofgm@cbc.ca>

Dear

CBC's Office of the Ombudsman is independent of CBC News management and thus has no say in day-to-day decision-making. The CBC Ombudsman has a mandate to determine whether information content the CBC has produced fully respects CBC's journalism policy. However, I have shared your email with Jennifer McGuire, General Manager and Editor in Chief of CBC News, along with the request that you be provided with a response.

Sincerely,

Esther Enkin
CBC Ombudsman
ombudsman@cbc.ca
www.cbc.ca/ombudsman

CBC Radio-Canada

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A0059225_13-000041

CBC Radio-Canada

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca>

Your concerns about CBC News coverage choices

1 message

Jack Nagler <jack.nagler@cbc.ca> Thu, Nov 6, 2014 at 2:56 PM
To: "Ombudsman, CBC" <ombudsman@cbc.ca>, Jennifer McGuire <jennifer.mcguire@cbc.ca>

Dear

Thank you for your Oct. 9th email to the CBC Ombudsman in which you say CBC failed to report significant news. Jennifer McGuire has asked me to reply on her behalf.

Your concern centred around how CBC News treated two separate events.

The first is a pro-life demonstration on Parliament Hill in which 100,000 blue and pink flags were planted to represent the number of abortions performed in Canada each year. You say there was a "lack of coverage" on CBC about this event.

The second is the news that several New Brunswick women had travelled to Maine to have an abortion. You noted with displeasure that CBC reported on this development, asking "How lopsided and liberal can you get?"

I regret that you are disappointed with CBC News. But, with respect, I do not share your point of view here. Please allow me to explain why.

First, regarding the event on Parliament Hill:

It is untrue that this event went uncovered by CBC News. There were two mentions online. One came on our popular politics blog from CBC News reporter Kady O'Malley the morning of the event to indicate it was happening. The other was to include a picture in our This Week in

Politics photo gallery http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/photos/anti-abortion-campaign-on-parliament-hill-1.2786835 that showed the 100,000 flags planted on Parliament Hill to symbolize the number of abortions performed in Canada each year.

I respect that this event has meaning for you. And I agree that the photograph is impressive. But in truth, the size and scale of the event was similar to many events that happen on Parliament Hill on a variety of issues that also receive little or no national coverage. Not every protest or demonstration is newsworthy, and there's no reason to conclude that the decisions made about this event were based on ideology or bias.

Next, the New Brunswick story:

This was not a story about whether abortion should or should not be legal. Rather, it was a story about a new phenomenon – the closure of the Morgentaler Clinic a few months earlier had prompted women to travel to Maine to procure an abortion.

The issue had taken on some prominence in the province, as the newly elected Premier-designate had weighed in, pledging to ease regulations in place that made it challenging for some women to have an abortion in a provincial hospital.

That meets a reasonable definition of news – something significant had changed (the private clinic had closed). In response, another change: some people made a surprising choice (to go to Maine). Now, the provincial government was signalling that it wanted to change public policy as a result.

In covering this story, we tried to give people information they need to draw their own conclusions about what is right. That includes pro-life supporters who may otherwise not have realized their new Premier seems intent on making it easier for New Brunswick women to have an abortion in a public hospital.

It troubles me that you appear to feel we have an agenda -- we take very seriously our responsibility to cover controversial issues such as this with in a fair and balanced way. And we take this feedback of yours seriously as well.

I hope this response has reassured you of the integrity of our news service. And thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

Jack Nagler

Director, Journalistic Public Accountability and Engagement

CBC News

CBC Radio-Canada

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca>

Jack Nagler replied

no coverage of the pro life event on parliament hill

2 messages

Fri, Oct 17, 2014 at 10:56 AM

To: ombudsman@cbc.ca

Date: Oct. 17, 2014 10:56 A.M.

Title: Mrs.

First name:

Last name:

Platform: CBC News Network

Program: CBC News

Subject: no coverage of the pro life event on parliament hill

Message: CBC News has a responsibility to the public to inform on both sides of the pro life / pro abortion issue to Canadians.

E-mail address:

Address:

City:

Province / state:

Country:

Postal / zip code:

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca> Fri, Oct 17, 2014 at 11:11 AM
To:
Cc: Jennifer McGuire <jennifer.mcguire@cbc.ca>
Bcc: Amanda Pyle <amanda.pyle@cbc.ca>, Bob Campbell <bob.campbell@cbc.ca>, Gino Apponi <gino.apponi@cbc.ca>, Jack Nagler <jack.nagler@cbc.ca>, Office of the General Manager and Editor in Chief <officeofgm@cbc.ca>

Dear

CBC's Office of the Ombudsman is independent of CBC News management and thus has no say in day-to-day decision-making about which stories should be covered. The CBC Ombudsman has a mandate to determine whether information content the CBC has produced fully respects CBC's journalism policy. However, I have shared your email with Jennifer McGuire, General Manager and Editor in Chief of CBC News, along with the request that you be provided with a response.

Sincerely,

Esther Enkin

CBC Ombudsman
ombudsman@cbc.ca
www.cbc.ca/ombudsman

CBC Radio-Canada

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A0059225_18-000046

CBC Radio-Canada

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca>

Your concern about CBC News coverage choices

1 message

Jack Nagler <jack.nagler@cbc.ca> Wed, Nov 26, 2014 at 12:45 PM
To: "Ombudsman, CBC" <ombudsman@cbc.ca>, Jennifer McGuire <jennifer.mcguire@cbc.ca>

Dear

Thank you for your Oct. 17th email to the CBC Ombudsman in which you say CBC failed to cover a news event you believe to be significant. Jennifer McGuire has asked me to reply on her behalf.

The event in question was a pro-life demonstration on Parliament Hill in which 100,000 blue and pink flags were planted to represent the number of abortions performed in Canada each year.

"CBC News has a responsibilty to the public to inform both sides of the pro-life/pro-abortion issue to Canadians", you wrote.

I regret that you are disappointed with CBC News. But in fact, we did make note of this display on two occasions. One came on our popular politics blog from CBC News reporter Kady O'Malley the morning of the event to indicate it was happening. The other was to include a picture in our This Week in Politics photo gallery http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/photos/anti-abortion-campaign-on-parliament-hill-1.2786835 that showed the 100,000 flags.

I respect that this event has meaning for you. And I agree that the photograph is impressive. I spoke to the leaders of our Parliamentary Bureau about what went into our coverage choices that day. They noted that the size and scale of the event was similar to many events that happen on Parliament Hill on a variety of issues that receive little or no national coverage. Not every protest or demonstration is newsworthy, they told me. And they are right. I believe that the choices made about this particular event were reasonable. There's no evidence I can see that the decisions were informed by any bias or ideology, and I believe our journalists remain open to reflecting fairly and respectfully the views of Canadians who oppose abortion.

I hope this response has reassured you of the integrity of our news service. And I genuinely thank you for the feedback. It is welcome when Canadians hold the public broadcaster to account.

Sincerely,

Jack Nagler
Director, Journalistic Public Accountability and Engagement
CBC News

CBC Radio-Canada

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca>

Jade Nogler redacted

Journalistic sins of commission and omission.

2 messages

Thu, Oct 9, 2014 at 12:37 PM

To: ombudsman@cbc.ca

Date: Oct. 9, 2014 12:37 P.M.

Title:

First name:

Last name:

Platform: CBC News Network

Program: News

Subject: Journalistic sins of commission and omission.

Message: It is very disappointing to see a station that is supported with tax payers money to only show one sided views on something. As a Canadian, I believe in freedom of speech and also sharing both sides of a conversation. It has been apparent though, that CBC continues to only show one side of a conversation when it comes to abortion. Last week the lawns at parliament hill were covered with 100,00 flags signifying the 100,00 abortions that take place every year in Canada, and to promote legislation for pre-born humans from the lack of abortion laws in Canada. This is legislation that no matter if you are pro-life or pro-choice that a majority of Canadians who are aware of the lack of gestational laws in Canada would like to see a gestational limit in place. The media were advised about what was occurring on Parliament Hill and were informed of the press conference that day. To their credit, all the major networks came out to the flag display. While not all covered the press conference, the cameras were rolling.
However on the flip side CBC will make a story of women going down to Maine to have abortions.
As a Canadian, I am very disappointed on your one sidedness to this issue and would love to see BOTH sides to this important issue be address by your station.

Thanks

E-mail address:

Address:

City:

Province / state:

Country:

Postal / zip code:

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca> Fri, Oct 10, 2014 at 1:06 PM
To:
Cc: Jennifer McGuire <jennifer.mcguire@cbc.ca>
Bcc: Amanda Pyle <amanda.pyle@cbc.ca>, Bob Campbell <bob.campbell@cbc.ca>, Gino Apponi

<gino.apponi@cbc.ca>, Jack Nagler <jack.nagler@cbc.ca>, Office of the General Manager and Editor in Chief <officeofgm@cbc.ca>

Dear

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Sincerely,

Esther Enkin
CBC Ombudsman
ombudsman@cbc.ca
www.cbc.ca/ombudsman

CBC Radio-Canada

New on my website: subscribe to reviews
[Quoted text hidden]

CBC Radio-Canada

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca>

Your concerns about CBC News coverage choices

1 message

Jack Nagler <jack.nagler@cbc.ca> Wed, Nov 5, 2014 at 12:28 PM
To: "Ombudsman, CBC" <ombudsman@cbc.ca>, Jennifer McGuire <jennifer.mcguire@cbc.ca>

Dear

Thank you for your Oct. 9th email to the CBC Ombudsman in which you say CBC failed to report significant news. Jennifer McGuire has asked me to reply on her behalf.

Your concern centred around how CBC News treated two separate events.

The first is a pro-life demonstration on Parliament Hill in which 100,000 blue and pink flags were planted to represent the number of abortions performed in Canada each year. You say CBC did not cover this event.

The second is the news that several New Brunswick women had travelled to Maine to have an abortion. CBC reported on this development.

You were unhappy about the juxtaposition of these two editorial choices. "As a Canadian, I am very disappointed on your one sidedness to this issue and would love to see BOTH sides to this important issue be address by your station," you wrote. .

I regret that you are disappointed with CBC News. But, with respect, I do not share your point of view here. Please allow me to explain why.

First, regarding the event on Parliament Hill:

It is untrue that this event went uncovered by CBC News. There were two mentions online. One came on our popular politics blog from CBC News reporter Kady O'Malley the morning of the event to indicate it was happening. The other was to include a picture in our This Week in Politics photo gallery http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/photos/anti-abortion-campaign-on-parliament-hill-1.2786835 that showed the 100,000 flags planted on Parliament Hill to symbolize the number of abortions performed in Canada each year.

I respect that this event has meaning for you. And I agree that the photograph is impressive. But in truth, the size and scale of the event was similar to many events that happen on Parliament Hill on a variety of issues that also receive little or no national coverage. Not every protest or demonstration is newsworthy, and there's no reason to conclude that the decisions made about this event were based on ideology or bias.

Next, the New Brunswick story:

This was not a story about whether abortion should or should not be legal. Rather, it was a story about a new phenomenon – the closure of the Morgentaler Clinic a few months earlier had prompted women to travel to Maine to procure an abortion.

The issue had taken on some prominence in the province, as the newly elected Premier-designate had weighed in, pledging to ease regulations in place that made it challenging for some women to have an abortion in a provincial hospital.

That meets a reasonable definition of news – something significant had changed (the private clinic had closed). In response, another change: some people made a surprising choice (to go to Maine). Now, the provincial government was signalling that it wanted to change public policy as a result.

In covering this story, we tried to give people information they need to draw their own conclusions about what is right. That includes pro-life supporters who may otherwise not have realized their new Premier seems intent on making it easier for New Brunswick women to have an abortion in a public hospital.

I hope this response has reassured you of the integrity of our news service.

Sincerely,

A0059225_24-000052

Jack Nagler

Director, Journalistic Public Accountability and Engagement

CBC News

A0059225_25-000053

CBC Radio-Canada

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca>

Jack Nagler replied

Pro-abortion bias

2 messages

Thu, Oct 9, 2014 at 3:53 PM

To: ombudsman@cbc.ca

Date: Oct. 9, 2014 3:53 P.M.

Title: Mr.

First name:

Last name:

Platform: CBC News Network

Program: CBC News

Subject: Pro-abortion bias

Message: The pro-abortion bias of the CBC has become axiomatic. While the majority of people in Atlantic Canada do not support the public funding of abortion, the CBC continues to publish article after article putting pressure on the government to fund the medically unnecessary procedure. Public opinion is completed disregarded, and the pro-life movement is completely ignored.

Last week, one of the largest pro-life demonstrations in Canadian history took place on Parliament Hill. Even the BBC took note of the protest. But the CBC did not say a single word. How is this possible? How can one of the largest political movements in Canada today (the pro-life movement) be completely ignored by this news agency?

Why does every CBC so-called "news" report concerning abortion turn out to be a blatantly ideological pro-abortion editorial? What happened to journalistic objectivity? At the very least, the CBC could pretend to be somewhat unbiased in their approach, rather than shamelessly pushing a pro-abortion ideology. I am boycotting all CBC media until these questions are addressed.

I know that there are many Canadian who are also upset about this. You can see www.facebook.com/weneedaLAW/posts/676988295753702 for more details.

E-mail address:

Address:

City:

Province / state:

Country:

Postal / zip code:

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca> Fri, Oct 10, 2014 at 1:15 PM
To: '
Cc: Jennifer McGuire <jennifer.mcguire@cbc.ca>
Bcc: Amanda Pyle <amanda.pyle@cbc.ca>, Bob Campbell <bob.campbell@cbc.ca>, Gino Apponi

<gino.apponi@cbc.ca>, Jack Nagler <jack.nagler@cbc.ca>, Office of the General Manager and Editor in Chief <officeofgm@cbc.ca>

Dear

CBC's Office of the Ombudsman is independent of CBC News management and thus has no say in day-to-day decision-making. The CBC Ombudsman has a mandate to determine whether information content the CBC has produced fully respects CBC's journalism policy. However, I have shared your email with Jennifer McGuire, General Manager and Editor in Chief of CBC News, along with the request that you be provided with a response.

Sincerely,

Esther Enkin
CBC Ombudsman
ombudsman@cbc.ca
www.cbc.ca/ombudsman

CBC Radio-Canada

New on my website: subscribe to reviews
[Quoted text hidden]

CBC Radio-Canada

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca>

Your concerns about CBC News coverage choices

1 message

Jack Nagler <jack.nagler@cbc.ca> Thu, Nov 6, 2014 at 9:51 AM
To: "Ombudsman, CBC" <ombudsman@cbc.ca>, Jennifer McGuire <jennifer.mcguire@cbc.ca>

Dear

Thank you for your Oct. 9th email to the CBC Ombudsman in which you say CBC failed to cover a news event you believe to be significant. Jennifer McGuire has asked me to reply on her behalf.

The event in question was a pro-life demonstration on Parliament Hill in which 100,000 blue and pink flags were planted to represent the number of abortions performed in Canada each year. You say CBC "did not say a single word" about this event, in contrast with the BBC, which gave it coverage.

"The pro-abortion bias of the CBC has become axiomatic," you wrote. "What happened to journalistic objectivity? At the very least, the CBC could pretend to be somewhat unbiased in their approach, rather than shamelessly pushing a pro-abortion ideology."

I regret that you are disappointed with CBC News. But in fact, we did make note of this display on two occasions. One came on our popular politics blog from CBC News reporter Kady O'Malley the morning of the event to indicate it was happening. The other was to include a picture in our This Week in Politics photo gallery http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/photos/anti-abortion-campaign-on-parliament-hill-1.2786835 that showed the 100,000 flags.

Incidentally, that same photo was used in the same manner by BBC News. They picked it up from Canadian Press.

I respect that this event has meaning for you. And I agree that the photograph is impressive. I spoke to the leaders of our Parliamentary Bureau about what went into our coverage choices that day. They noted that the size and scale of the event was similar to many events that happen on Parliament Hill on a variety of issues that receive little or no national coverage. Not every protest or demonstration is newsworthy, they told me. And they are right. I believe that the choices made about this particular event were reasonable. There's no evidence I can see that the decisions were informed by any bias or ideology, and I believe our journalists remain open to reflecting fairly and respectfully the views of Canadians who oppose abortion.

I hope this response has reassured you of the integrity of our news service. And I genuinely thank you for the feedback. It is welcome when Canadians hold the public broadcaster to account.

Sincerely,

Jack Nagler

Director, Journalistic Public Accountability and Engagement,

CBC News

CBC Radio-Canada

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca>

Jack Nagler replied

PRE-BORN HUMAN RIGHTS

2 messages

Thu, Oct 9, 2014 at 7:52 PM

To: ombudsman@cbc.ca

Date: Oct. 9, 2014 7:52 P.M.

Title: Mr.

First name:

Last name:

Platform: CBC News Network

Program: NEWS CAST

Subject: PRE-BORN HUMAN RIGHTS

Message: Despite the placing of 100,000 pink and blue flags in the lawn in front of the parliament buildings on Oct 2/2014- in full public view there was no coverage of this on the news. Media were advised about this event and of the press conference later in that day. It was for the most part ignored.
Yet there was a long article about women from New Brunswick having to go to the USA for their abortions. This was not even a news article but just an expression of opinion.
This is becoming the expected response to the pro-life activities. The CBC is not giving equal coverage to the issue of pre-born rights and as they are supposed to be giving unbiased news they are failing in this regard.

E-mail address:

Address:

City:

Province / state:

Country:

Postal / zip code:

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca> Fri, Oct 10, 2014 at 1:24 PM
To:
Cc: Jennifer McGuire <jennifer.mcguire@cbc.ca>
Bcc: Amanda Pyle <amanda.pyle@cbc.ca>, Bob Campbell <bob.campbell@cbc.ca>, Gino Apponi <gino.apponi@cbc.ca>, Jack Nagler <jack.nagler@cbc.ca>, Office of the General Manager and Editor in Chief <officeofgm@cbc.ca>

Dear

CBC's Office of the Ombudsman is independent of CBC News management and thus has no say in day-to-day decision-making. The CBC Ombudsman has a mandate to determine whether information content the CBC has produced fully respects CBC's journalism policy. However, I have shared your email with Jennifer McGuire,

General Manager and Editor in Chief of CBC News, along with the request that you be provided with a response.

Sincerely,

Esther Enkin
CBC Ombudsman
ombudsman@cbc.ca
www.cbc.ca/ombudsman

CBC Radio-Canada

New on my website: subscribe to reviews
[Quoted text hidden]

CBC Radio-Canada

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca>

Your concerns about CBC News coverage choices

1 message

Jack Nagler <jack.nagler@cbc.ca> Wed, Nov 26, 2014 at 10:45 AM
To: "Ombudsman, CBC" <ombudsman@cbc.ca>, Jennifer McGuire <jennifer.mcguire@cbc.ca>

Dear

Thank you for your Oct. 9th email to the CBC Ombudsman in which you say CBC failed to report significant news. Jennifer McGuire has asked me to reply on her behalf. Please forgive the delay in time before I responded.

Your concern centred around how CBC News treated two separate events.

The first is a pro-life demonstration on Parliament Hill in which 100,000 blue and pink flags were planted to represent the number of abortions performed in Canada each year. You say there was "no coverage of this on the news."

The second is the news that several New Brunswick women had travelled to Maine to have an abortion. You noted with displeasure that CBC reported on this development, and suggested that CBC is "failing to give unbiased news" on the issue of abortion.

I regret that you are disappointed with CBC News. But, with respect, I do not share your point of view here. Please allow me to explain why.

First, regarding the event on Parliament Hill:

It is untrue that this event went uncovered by CBC News. There were two mentions online. One came on our popular politics blog from CBC News reporter Kady O'Malley the morning of the event to indicate it was happening. The other was to include a picture in our This Week in Politics photo gallery http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/photos/anti-abortion-campaign-on-parliament-hill-1.2786835 that showed the 100,000 flags planted on Parliament Hill to symbolize the number of abortions performed in Canada each year.

I respect that this event has meaning for you. And I agree that the photograph is impressive. But in truth, the size and scale of the event was similar to many events that happen on Parliament Hill on a variety of issues that also receive little or no national coverage. Not every protest or demonstration is newsworthy, and there's no reason to conclude that the decisions made about this event were based on ideology or bias.

Next, the New Brunswick story:

This was not a story about whether abortion should or should not be legal, or an examination of human rights for the pre-born. Rather, it was a story about a new phenomenon – the closure of the Morgentaler Clinic a few months earlier had prompted women to travel to Maine to procure an abortion.

The issue had taken on some prominence in the province, as the newly elected Premier-designate had weighed in, pledging to ease regulations in place that made it challenging for some women to have an abortion in a provincial hospital.

That meets a reasonable definition of news – something significant had changed (the private clinic had closed). In response, another change: some people made a surprising choice (to go to Maine). Now, the provincial government was signalling that it wanted to change public policy as a result.

In covering this story, we tried to give people information they need to draw their own conclusions about what is right. That includes pro-life supporters who may otherwise not have realized their new Premier seems intent on making it easier for New Brunswick women to have

an abortion in a public hospital. Indeed, he seems to have moved forward on this very issue today.

It troubles me that you appear to feel we have an agenda -- we take very seriously our responsibility to cover controversial issues such as this with in a fair and balanced way. And we take this feedback of yours seriously as well.

I hope this response has reassured you of the integrity of our news service. And thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

Jack Nagler

Director, Journalistic Public Accountability and Engagement

CBC News

CBC Radio-Canada

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca>

Jack Nagler replied

Parliament Hill coverage of the Anti Abortion Group. WeNEEDalaw.ca

2 messages

Thu, Oct 9, 2014 at 6:29 PM

To: ombudsman@cbc.ca

Date: Oct. 9, 2014 6:29 P.M.

Title: Mr.

First name:

Last name:

Platform: CBC TV

Program: The National

Subject: Parliament Hill coverage of the Anti Abortion Group. WeNEEDalaw.ca

Message: There appears to be a concerted effort to not have any news coverage about anything Christian and that starts with Coverage from the BBC about the flags covering our Parliament Hill and yet our National News Broadcaster(self acclaimed) did not think it necessary to cover it at all. This does not even cover the Christians being massacred by ISIS in the towns they take over.

E-mail address:

Address:

City:

Province / state:

Country:

Postal / zip code:

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca> Fri, Oct 10, 2014 at 1:20 PM
To:
Cc: Jennifer McGuire <jennifer.mcguire@cbc.ca>
Bcc: Amanda Pyle <amanda.pyle@cbc.ca>, Bob Campbell <bob.campbell@cbc.ca>, Gino Apponi <gino.apponi@cbc.ca>, Jack Nagler <jack.nagler@cbc.ca>, Office of the General Manager and Editor in Chief <officeofgm@cbc.ca>

Dear

CBC's Office of the Ombudsman is independent of CBC News management and thus has no say in day-to-day decision-making. The CBC Ombudsman has a mandate to determine whether information content the CBC has produced fully respects CBC's journalism policy. However, I have shared your email with Jennifer McGuire, General Manager and Editor in Chief of CBC News, along with the request that you be provided with a response.

Sincerely,

Esther Enkin
CBC Ombudsman
ombudsman@cbc.ca
www.cbc.ca/ombudsman

CBC Radio-Canada

New on my website: subscribe to reviews
[Quoted text hidden]

CBC Radio-Canada

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca>

Your concern about CBC News choices

1 message

Jack Nagler <jack.nagler@cbc.ca> Wed, Nov 26, 2014 at 10:34 AM
To: "Ombudsman, CBC" <ombudsman@cbc.ca>, Jennifer McGuire <jennifer.mcguire@cbc.ca>

Dear

Thank you for your Oct. 9th email to CBC Ombudsman Esther Enkin expressing concern about coverage choices at CBC News.

Jennifer McGuire asked me to reply on her behalf. Please accept my apologies for the delay in doing so.

You wrote, "There appears to be a concerted effort to not have any news coverage about anything Christian and that starts with Coverage from the BBC about the flags covering our Parliament Hill and yet our National News Broadcaster(self acclaimed) did not think it necessary to cover it at all." And you added an additional concern that CBC has not covered massacres of Christians by the group ISIS.

I regret that you are disappointed with CBC News. But I disagree with your claim. We have on many occasions reported on the threat to Christians from ISIS. One relatively recent example of many I found in a cursory Google search is this article from a few weeks ago.

http://www.cbc.ca/news/world/isis-war-crimes-in-iraq-include-mass-executions-sex-slavery-un-says-1.2785054

It is very fair for you to ask whether we have given this issue enough coverage. But to suggest we have ignored it would be incorrect.

It is a similar case with the pro-life demonstration you mentioned.

The event in question took place on Parliament Hill. 100,000 blue and pink flags were planted to represent the number of abortions performed in Canada each year.

In fact, we made note of this display on two occasions. One came on our popular politics blog from CBC News reporter Kady O'Malley the morning of the event to indicate it was happening. The other was to include a picture in our This Week in Politics photo gallery http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/photos/anti-**abortion**-campaign-on-parliament-hill-1.2786835 **that showed the 100,000 flags.**

Incidentally, that same photo was used in the same manner by BBC News. They picked it up from Canadian Press.

I respect that this event has meaning for you. And I agree that the photograph is impressive. I spoke to the leaders of our Parliamentary Bureau about what went into our coverage choices that day. They noted that the size and scale of the event was similar to many events that happen on Parliament Hill on a variety of issues that receive little or no national coverage. Not every protest or demonstration is newsworthy, they told me. And they are right. I believe that the choices made about this particular event were reasonable. There's no evidence I can see that the decisions were informed by any bias or ideology, and I believe our journalists remain open to reflecting fairly and respectfully the views of Canadians who oppose abortion.

I hope this response has reassured you of the integrity of our news service. And I genuinely thank you for the feedback. It is welcome when Canadians hold the public broadcaster to account.

Sincerely,

Jack Nagler

Director, Journalistic Public Accountability and Engagement,

CBC Radio-Canada

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca>

Jack Nagler replied

Politics

2 messages

Thu, Oct 9, 2014 at 10:28 PM

To: ombudsman@cbc.ca

Date: Oct. 9, 2014 10:28 P.M.

Title: Ms.

First name:

Last name:

Platform: CBC News Network

Program: CBC News Network

Subject: Politics

Message: Hi,

As a Canadian citizen, I am concerned that at times, the news reports provided by our national broadcasting corporation omit certain events, leaving Canadians uninformed about important issues. I am thinking specifically about 100,000 blue and pink flags which were displayed on Parliament Hill on October 3rd to represent approximately 100,000 abortions which occur every year in Canada. I do not wish to express a political stance on this issue but to point out that by omitting significant events such as this one from the news reports, the CBC is indirectly expressing their own political stance and ignoring the wide diversity of Canadians.
Behind the scenes of course, the politics driving this biased journalism is very strong. However, I hope I speak for most Canadians by saying that I wish we could trust the CBC to accurately reports on all important events no matter whose political views are displayed by the stories.

Thanks,

Esther

E-mail address:

Address:

City:

Province / state:

Country:

Postal / zip code:

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca> Fri, Oct 10, 2014 at 1:27 PM
To:
Cc: Jennifer McGuire <jennifer.mcguire@cbc.ca>
Bcc: Amanda Pyle <amanda.pyle@cbc.ca>, Bob Campbell <bob.campbell@cbc.ca>, Gino Apponi <gino.apponi@cbc.ca>, Jack Nagler <jack.nagler@cbc.ca>, Office of the General Manager and Editor in Chief

<officeofgm@cbc.ca>

Dear

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Sincerely,

Esther Enkin
CBC Ombudsman
ombudsman@cbc.ca
www.cbc.ca/ombudsman

CBC Radio-Canada

New on my website: subscribe to reviews
[Quoted text hidden]

CBC Radio-Canada

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca>

your concerns about CBC coverage choices

1 message

Jack Nagler <jack.nagler@cbc.ca> Wed, Nov 26, 2014 at 11:04 AM
To: "Ombudsman, CBC" <ombudsman@cbc.ca>, Jennifer McGuire <jennifer.mcguire@cbc.ca>

Dear

Thank you for your Oct. 9th email to the CBC Ombudsman in which you say CBC failed to cover a news event you believe to be significant. Jennifer McGuire has asked me to reply on her behalf. Please forgive the delay in my response.

The event in question was a pro-life demonstration on Parliament Hill in which 100,000 blue and pink flags were planted to represent the number of abortions performed in Canada each year. You say CBC did not cover this event, and felt that was a choice that did not serve the public interest.

"I do not wish to express a political stance on this issue but to point out that by omitting significant events such as this one from the news reports, the CBC is indirectly expressing their own political stance and ignoring the wide diversity of Canadians," you wrote. "Behind the scenes of course, the politics driving this biased journalism is very strong,"

I regret that you are disappointed with CBC News. But in fact, we did make note of this display on two occasions. One came on our popular politics blog from CBC News reporter Kady O'Malley the morning of the event to indicate it was happening. The other was to include a picture in our This Week in Politics photo gallery http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/photos/anti-abortion-campaign-on-parliament-hill-1.2786835 that showed the 100,000 flags.

I respect that this event has meaning for you. And I agree that the photograph is impressive. I spoke to the leaders of our Parliamentary Bureau about what went into our coverage choices

that day. They noted that the size and scale of the event was similar to many events that happen on Parliament Hill on a variety of issues that receive little or no national coverage. Not every protest or demonstration is newsworthy, they told me. And they are right. I believe that the choices made about this particular event were reasonable. There's no evidence I can see that the decisions were informed by any bias or ideology, and I believe our journalists remain open to reflecting fairly and respectfully the views of Canadians who oppose abortion.

I hope this response has reassured you of the integrity of our news service. And I genuinely thank you for the feedback. It is welcome when Canadians hold the public broadcaster to account.

Sincerely,

Jack Nagler

Director, Journalistic Public Accountability and Engagement,

CBC News

CBC Radio-Canada

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca>

Jack Nagler replied

lack of coverage

2 messages

Fri, Oct 10, 2014 at 5:57 PM

To: ombudsman@cbc.ca

Date: Oct. 10, 2014 5:57 P.M.

Title: mrs

First name:

Last name:

Platform: CBC News Network

Program: news broadcasts

Subject: lack of coverage

Message: I would like to express my great disappointment at the lack of coverage of the huge and impressive display on parliament hill last week of 100,000 pink and blue flags, representing aborted boys and girls. We know CBC was there together with other news broadcasters but absolutely nothing was reported. This event was massive and represents the views of alot of voting canadians. They had a right to see and hear about it from you.

E-mail address:

Address:

City:

Province / state:

Country:

Postal / zip code:

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca> Tue, Oct 14, 2014 at 11:32 AM
To:
Cc: Jennifer McGuire <jennifer.mcguire@cbc.ca>
Bcc: Amanda Pyle <amanda.pyle@cbc.ca>, Bob Campbell <bob.campbell@cbc.ca>, Gino Apponi <gino.apponi@cbc.ca>, Jack Nagler <jack.nagler@cbc.ca>, Office of the General Manager and Editor in Chief <officeofgm@cbc.ca>

Dear

CBC's Office of the Ombudsman is independent of CBC News management and thus has no say in day-to-day decision-making. The CBC Ombudsman has a mandate to determine whether information content the CBC has produced fully respects CBC's journalism policy. However, I have shared your email with Jennifer McGuire, General Manager and Editor in Chief of CBC News, along with the request that you be provided with a response.

Sincerely,

Esther Enkin
CBC Ombudsman
ombudsman@cbc.ca
www.cbc.ca/ombudsman

CBC Radio-Canada

New on my website: subscribe to reviews
[Quoted text hidden]

A0059228_15-000072

CBC Radio-Canada

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca>

Your concerns about CBC News coverage choices

1 message

Jack Nagler <jack.nagler@cbc.ca> Wed, Nov 26, 2014 at 11:22 AM
To "Ombudsman, CBC" <ombudsman@cbc.ca>, Jennifer McGuire <jennifer.mcguire@cbc.ca>

Dear

Thank you for your Oct. 10th email to the CBC Ombudsman in which you say CBC failed to cover a news event you believe to be significant. Jennifer McGuire has asked me to reply on her behalf. Please forgive the delay in my response.

The event in question was a pro-life demonstration on Parliament Hill in which 100,000 blue and pink flags were planted to represent the number of abortions performed in Canada each year. You say "absolutely nothing was reported" on CBC .

"This event was massive and represents the views of alot of voting canadians," you wrote. "They had a right to see and hear about it from you."

I regret that you are disappointed with CBC News. But in fact, we did make note of this display on two occasions. One came on our popular politics blog from CBC News reporter Kady O'Malley the morning of the event to indicate it was happening. The other was to include a picture in our This Week in Politics photo gallery http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/photos/anti-abortion-campaign-on-parliament-hill-1.2786835 that showed the 100,000 flags.

I respect that this event has meaning for you. And I agree that the photograph is impressive. I spoke to the leaders of our Parliamentary Bureau about what went into our coverage choices that day. They noted that the size and scale of the event was similar to many events that happen on Parliament Hill on a variety of issues that receive little or no national coverage. Not every protest or demonstration is newsworthy, they told me. And they are right. I believe that the choices made

about this particular event were reasonable. There's no evidence I can see that the decisions were informed by any bias or ideology, and I believe our journalists remain open to reflecting fairly and respectfully the views of Canadians who oppose abortion.

I hope this response has reassured you of the integrity of our news service. And I genuinely thank you for the feedback. It is welcome when Canadians hold the public broadcaster to account.

Sincerely,

Jack Nagler

Director, Journalistic Public Accountability and Engagement,
CBC News

CBC Radio-Canada

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca>

Jack Nagler replied

100,000 flags on parliament hill

2 messages

Thu, Oct 9, 2014 at 2:03 PM

To: ombudsman@cbc.ca

Date: Oct. 9, 2014 2:03 P.M.

Title: Mrs.

First name:

Last name:

Platform: CBC News Network

Program: national news

Subject: 100,000 flags on parliament hill

Message: I would like to know why there was no coverage on the 100,000 flags on Parliament Hill on October 2nd. These 100,000 flags represent the 100,000 babies that are killed in Canada each year due to fact that Canada has no law on abortion. A woman can have an abortion up to full term pregnancy, she can kill it without the father's consent, a young girl as young as 13 can have abortion without her parents consent (though parents need to sign for her to get her ears pierced). This event on the hill was meant to make politicians aware of the fact that Canadians want a law restricting abortion. MP's were peering out of the windows in the building on the hill to see what was going on, but there was NOTHING on the news about this. What a warped presentation of news we have. How is this NOT news?? Why are you so afraid to discuss and present the other side of the topic...the side that the majority of Canadians represent. At least 75% of Canadians would like to see some restrictions on abortions, the majority of people don't even realize that we have no law, and when they find out they are horrified. Please do not be so afraid of publicizing the other side of the debate. We live in a democratic country and our tax dollars go towards your station, present all the news, not just the ones people aren't afraid to talk about. We are so disappointed!

E-mail address:

Address:

City:

Province / state:

Country:

Postal / zip code:

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca> Fri, Oct 10, 2014 at 1:09 PM
To:
Cc: Jennifer McGuire <jennifer.mcguire@cbc.ca>
Bcc: Amanda Pyle <amanda.pyle@cbc.ca>, Bob Campbell <bob.campbell@cbc.ca>, Gino Apponi <gino.apponi@cbc.ca>, Jack Nagler <jack.nagler@cbc.ca>, Office of the General Manager and Editor in Chief <officeofgm@cbc.ca>

Dear

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Sincerely,

Esther Enkin
CBC Ombudsman
ombudsman@cbc.ca
www.cbc.ca/ombudsman

CBC Radio-Canada

New on my website: subscribe to reviews
[Quoted text hidden]

CBC Radio-Canada

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca>

Your concerns about CBC News coverage choices

1 message

Jack Nagler <jack.nagler@cbc.ca> Wed, Nov 5, 2014 at 12:47 PM
To: "Ombudsman, CBC" <ombudsman@cbc.ca>, Jennifer McGuire <jennifer.mcguire@cbc.ca>

Dear

Thank you for your Oct. 9th email to the CBC Ombudsman in which you say CBC failed to report significant news. Jennifer McGuire has asked me to reply on her behalf.

Your concern centred around a pro-life demonstration on Parliament Hill in which 100,000 blue and pink flags were planted to represent the number of abortions performed in Canada each year. You say CBC did not cover this event.

I regret that you are disappointed with CBC News. But, with respect, I do not share your point of view here. Please allow me to explain why.

It is untrue that this event went uncovered by CBC News. There were two mentions online. One came on our popular politics blog from CBC News reporter Kady O'Malley the morning of the event to indicate it was happening. The other was to include a picture in our This Week in Politics photo gallery http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/photos/anti-abortion-campaign-on-parliament-hill-1.2786835 that showed the 100,000 flags planted on Parliament Hill to symbolize the number of abortions performed in Canada each year.

I respect that this event has meaning for you. And I agree that the photograph is impressive. I spoke to the leaders of our Parliamentary Bureau about what went into our coverage choices that day. They noted that the size and scale of the event was similar to many events that happen on Parliament Hill on a variety of issues that receive little or no national coverage. Not every protest or demonstration is newsworthy, they told me. And they are right. I believe that the choices made about this particular event were reasonable. There's no evidence I can see that

the decisions were informed by any bias or ideology, and I believe our journalists remain open to reflecting fairly and respectfully the views of Canadians who oppose abortion.

I hope this response has reassured you of the integrity of our news service. And I genuinely thank you for the feedback. It is welcome when Canadians hold the public broadcaster to account.

Sincerely,

Jack Nagler

Director, Journalistic Public Accountability and Engagement

CBC News

CBC Radio-Canada

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca>

Jade Nogler replied

Article: "Abortion clinics in Maine see 'spike' in New Brunswick clients"

3 messages

Thu, Oct 9, 2014 at 2:06 PM

To: ombudsman@cbc.ca

Date: Oct. 9, 2014 2:06 P.M.

Title: Mr.

First name:

Last name:

Platform: CBC News Network

Program: All News Programs

Subject: Article: "Abortion clinics in Maine see 'spike' in New Brunswick clients"

Message: My complaint is as follows:

Just last week Thursday there were 100,000 pink and blue flags within a five minute walk from CBC's Ottawa bureau, and in full view from their plush studios overlooking Parliament Hill only blocks away. 100,000 pink and blue flags receives no mention on the CBC News but six women travel from New Brunswick to Maine to kill their pre-born child and we get a 1000 word diatribe on how oppressive New Brunswick regulations are to women's 'rights'? (http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/abortion-clinics-in-maine-see-spike-in-new-brunswick-clients-1.2789090)

Does it not say something about Canada's "national broadcaster" when the BBC in London, England covers an event on Parliament Hill as a "top news photograph in the world" (http://www.bbc.com/news/in-pictures-29474567), including a caption acknowledging the purpose of the 100,000 flags, while the CBC chooses to ignore it?

The rights of pre-born Canadians are of real concern to Canadians, of /millions/ of Canadians. Will the CBC ignore this indefinitely?

To be clear, the women this article sheds light on need sympathy, just not the kind that involves making it easier to dismember, decapitate and disembowel their pre-born children.

Sincerely,
a very concerned citizen,

E-mail address:

Address:

City:

Province / state:

Country:

Postal / zip code:

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca> Fri, Oct 10, 2014 at 1:10 PM
To:
Cc: Jennifer McGuire <jennifer.mcguire@cbc.ca>
Bcc: Amanda Pyle <amanda.pyle@cbc.ca>, Bob Campbell <bob.campbell@cbc.ca>, Gino Apponi <gino.apponi@cbc.ca>, Jack Nagler <jack.nagler@cbc.ca>, Office of the General Manager and Editor in Chief <officeofgm@cbc.ca>

Dear

CBC's Office of the Ombudsman is independent of CBC News management and thus has no say in day-to-day decision-making. The CBC Ombudsman has a mandate to determine whether information content the CBC has produced fully respects CBC's journalism policy. However, I have shared your email with Jennifer McGuire, General Manager and Editor in Chief of CBC News, along with the request that you be provided with a response.

Sincerely,

Esther Enkin
CBC Ombudsman
ombudsman@cbc.ca
www.cbc.ca/ombudsman

CBC Radio-Canada

New on my website: subscribe to reviews
[Quoted text hidden]

Sat, Oct 11, 2014 at 7:53 PM
To: CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca>

Thank you.
[Quoted text hidden]

CBC Radio-Canada

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca>

Your concerns about CBC News coverage choices

1 message

Jack Nagler <jack.nagler@cbc.ca> Wed, Nov 5, 2014 at 12:51 PM
To: "Ombudsman, CBC" <ombudsman@cbc.ca>, Jennifer McGuire <jennifer.mcguire@cbc.ca>

Dear

Thank you for your Oct. 9th email to the CBC Ombudsman in which you say CBC failed to report significant news. Jennifer McGuire has asked me to reply on her behalf.

Your concern centred around how CBC News treated two separate events.

The first is a pro-life demonstration on Parliament Hill in which 100,000 blue and pink flags were planted to represent the number of abortions performed in Canada each year. You say CBC did not cover this event, while the BBC did.

The second is the news that several New Brunswick women had travelled to Maine to have an abortion. CBC reported on this development.

You were unhappy about the juxtaposition of these two editorial choices. "As a Canadian, I am very disappointed on your one sidedness to this issue and would love to see BOTH sides to this important issue be address by your station," you wrote. .

I regret that you are disappointed with CBC News. But, with respect, I do not share your point of view here. Please allow me to explain why.

First, regarding the event on Parliament Hill:

It is untrue that this event went uncovered by CBC News. There were two mentions online. One came on our popular politics blog from CBC News reporter Kady O'Malley the morning of the event to indicate it was happening. The other was to include a picture in our This Week in

Politics photo gallery http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/photos/anti-abortion-campaign-on-parliament-hill-1.2786835 that showed the 100,000 flags planted on Parliament Hill to symbolize the number of abortions performed in Canada each year.

Incidentally, the same photo was used in the same manner by BBC News. They picked it up from Canadian Press.

I respect that this event has meaning for you. And I agree that the photograph is impressive. But in truth, the size and scale of the event was similar to many events that happen on Parliament Hill on a variety of issues that also receive little or no national coverage. Not every protest or demonstration is newsworthy, and there's no reason to conclude that the decisions made about this event were based on ideology or bias.

Next, the New Brunswick story:

This was not a story about whether abortion should or should not be legal. Rather, it was a story about a new phenomenon – the closure of the Morgentaler Clinic a few months earlier had prompted women to travel to Maine to procure an abortion.

The issue had taken on some prominence in the province, as the newly elected Premier-designate had weighed in, pledging to ease regulations in place that made it challenging for some women to have an abortion in a provincial hospital.

That meets a reasonable definition of news – something significant had changed (the private clinic had closed). In response, another change: some people made a surprising choice (to go to Maine). Now, the provincial government was signalling that it wanted to change public policy as a result.

In covering this story, we tried to give people information they need to draw their own conclusions about what is right. That includes pro-life supporters who may otherwise not have realized their new Premier seems intent on making it easier for New Brunswick women to have an abortion in a public hospital.

I hope this response has reassured you of the integrity of our news service.

Sincerely,

Jack Nagler

Director, Journalistic Public Accountability and Engagement

CBC News

CBC Radio-Canada

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca>

Jack Nagler replied

100,000 flags. 100,000 abortions.

2 messages

Thu, Oct 9, 2014 at 2:44 PM

To: ombudsman@cbc.ca

Date: Oct. 9, 2014 2:44 P.M.

Title:

First name:

Last name:

Platform: CBC News Network

Program: News

Subject: 100,000 flags. 100,000 abortions.

Message: Dear CBC,

Last week Thursday there was 100,000 flags on Parliament Hill! I`m not sure how you missed the amazing sight of the colourful flags covering the ground. Each of these flags represent one child per year that is killed by Canadians! This deserves mention on the news!

The event must have been worth mentioning because even BBC in London, England showed a photo of the event as well as an explanation of what the flags meant.

Please, CBC, display the need for our country to protect pre-born children. They don`t deserve death.

Sincerely,
A Concerned Citizen

E-mail address:

Address:

City:

Province / state:

Country:

Postal / zip code:

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca> Fri, Oct 10, 2014 at 1:14 PM
To:
Cc: Jennifer McGuire <jennifer.mcguire@cbc.ca>
Bcc: Amanda Pyle <amanda.pyle@cbc.ca>, Bob Campbell <bob.campbell@cbc.ca>, Gino Apponi <gino.apponi@cbc.ca>, Jack Nagler <jack.nagler@cbc.ca>, Office of the General Manager and Editor in Chief <officeofgm@cbc.ca>

Dear

CBC's Office of the Ombudsman is independent of CBC News management and thus has no say in day-to-day decision-making. The CBC Ombudsman has a mandate to determine whether information content the CBC has produced fully respects CBC's journalism policy. However, I have shared your email with Jennifer McGuire, General Manager and Editor in Chief of CBC News, along with the request that you be provided with a response.

Sincerely,

Esther Enkin
CBC Ombudsman
ombudsman@cbc.ca
www.cbc.ca/ombudsman

CBC Radio-Canada

New on my website: subscribe to reviews
[Quoted text hidden]

CBC Radio-Canada

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca>

Your concerns about CBC News coverage choices

1 message

Jack Nagler <jack.nagler@cbc.ca> Thu, Nov 6, 2014 at 9:42 AM
To: "Ombudsman, CBC" <ombudsman@cbc.ca>, Jennifer McGuire <jennifer.mcguire@cbc.ca>

Dear

Thank you for your Oct. 9th email to the CBC Ombudsman in which you say CBC failed to cover a news event you believe to be significant. Jennifer McGuire has asked me to reply on her behalf.

The event in question was a pro-life demonstration on Parliament Hill in which 100,000 blue and pink flags were planted to represent the number of abortions performed in Canada each year. You say CBC "missed" this event, in contrast with the BBC, which did.

I regret that you are disappointed with CBC News. But in fact, we did make note of this display on two occasions. One came on our popular politics blog from CBC News reporter Kady O'Malley the morning of the event to indicate it was happening. The other was to include a picture in our This Week in Politics photo gallery http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/photos/anti-abortion-campaign-on-parliament-hill-1.2786835 that showed the 100,000 flags.

Incidentally, that same photo was used in the same manner by BBC News. They picked it up from Canadian Press.

I respect that this event has meaning for you. And I agree that the photograph is impressive. I spoke to the leaders of our Parliamentary Bureau about what went into our coverage choices that day. They noted that the size and scale of the event was similar to many events that happen on Parliament Hill on a variety of issues that receive little or no national coverage. Not every protest or demonstration is newsworthy, they told me. And they are right. I believe that the choices made about this particular event were reasonable. There's no evidence I can see that the decisions were informed by any bias or ideology, and I believe our journalists remain open

to reflecting fairly and respectfully the views of Canadians who oppose abortion.

I hope this response has reassured you of the integrity of our news service. And I genuinely thank you for the feedback. It is welcome when Canadians hold the public broadcaster to account.

Sincerely,

Jack Nagler

Director, Journalistic Public Accountability and Engagement,

CBC News

CBC Radio-Canada

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca>

Jack Nagler replied

100,000 flags. 100,000 abortions.

2 messages

Thu, Oct 9, 2014 at 5:10 PM

To: ombudsman@cbc.ca

Date: Oct. 9, 2014 5:10 P.M.

Title: Mrs.

First name:

Last name:

Platform: CBCNews.ca

Program: News

Subject: 100,000 flags. 100,000 abortions.

Message: Dear CBC Ombudsman,

I was extremely moved by the recent display of 100 000 flags on Parliament Hill representing the lives of 100 000 humans lost through the procedure of abortion. May I ask why this story was not broadcast on any CBC network? There were 100,000 pink and blue flags within a five minute walk from CBC's Ottawa bureau, and in full view from their studios overlooking Parliament Hill only blocks away. While pre-born human rights activists work hard to engage the culture and build public support by donating their time, energy, talents and money, abortion supporters sit at home and let the taxpayer funded CBC do all the work for them. As a taxpayer I am perplexed when BBC in London, England covers an event on Parliament Hill as a "top news story in the world" and our own CBC chooses to ignore it. Please consider that many Canadians believe strongly in human rights and do not support your one sided agenda with regards to pre born children..

E-mail address:

Address:

City:

Province / state:

Country:

Postal / zip code:

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca> Fri, Oct 10, 2014 at 1:17 PM
To:
Cc: Jennifer McGuire <jennifer.mcguire@cbc.ca>
Bcc: Amanda Pyle <amanda.pyle@cbc.ca>, Bob Campbell <bob.campbell@cbc.ca>, Gino Apponi <gino.apponi@cbc.ca>, Jack Nagler <jack.nagler@cbc.ca>, Office of the General Manager and Editor in Chief <officeofgm@cbc.ca>

Dear

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Sincerely,

Esther Enkin
CBC Ombudsman
ombudsman@cbc.ca
www.cbc.ca/ombudsman

CBC Radio-Canada

New on my website: subscribe to reviews
[Quoted text hidden]

CBC Radio-Canada

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca>

Your concerns about CBC coverage choices

1 message

Jack Nagler <jack.nagler@cbc.ca> Thu, Nov 6, 2014 at 10:44 AM
To: "Ombudsman, CBC" <ombudsman@cbc.ca>, Jennifer McGuire <jennifer.mcguire@cbc.ca>

Dear

Thank you for your Oct. 9th email to the CBC Ombudsman in which you say CBC failed to cover a news event you believe to be significant. Jennifer McGuire has asked me to reply on her behalf.

The event in question was a pro-life demonstration on Parliament Hill in which 100,000 blue and pink flags were planted to represent the number of abortions performed in Canada each year. You say CBC "chose to ignore" this event, in contrast with the BBC, which covered it.

I regret that you are disappointed with CBC News. But in fact, we did make note of this display on two occasions. One came on our popular politics blog from CBC News reporter Kady O'Malley the morning of the event to indicate it was happening. The other was to include a picture in our This Week in Politics photo gallery http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/photos/anti-abortion-campaign-on-parliament-hill-1.2786835 that showed the 100,000 flags.

Incidentally, that same photo was used in the same manner by BBC News. They picked it up from Canadian Press.

I respect that this event has meaning for you. And I agree that the photograph is impressive. I spoke to the leaders of our Parliamentary Bureau about what went into our coverage choices that day. They noted that the size and scale of the event was similar to many events that happen on Parliament Hill on a variety of issues that receive little or no national coverage. Not every protest or demonstration is newsworthy, they told me. And they are right. I believe that the

choices made about this particular event were reasonable. There's no evidence I can see that the decisions were informed by any bias or ideology, and I believe our journalists remain open to reflecting fairly and respectfully the views of Canadians who oppose abortion.

I hope this response has reassured you of the integrity of our news service. And I genuinely thank you for the feedback. It is welcome when Canadians hold the public broadcaster to account.

Sincerely,

Jack Nagler

Director, Journalistic Public Accountability and Engagement,

CBC News

CBC Radio-Canada

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca>

Jack Nagler replied

Subjective & selective reporting

2 messages

Thu, Oct 9, 2014 at 6:00 PM

To: ombudsman@cbc.ca

Date: Oct. 9, 2014 6:00 P.M.

Title:

First name:

Last name:

Platform: CBC News Network

Program: Print & website

Subject: Subjective & selective reporting

Message: Our tax dollars are a huge portion of CBC's budget. They are to report the news unbiasedly representing the large and diverse population that pays for it's existence. I am lodging a complaint of the continued slant in support of anti-life, non- tradition marriage, and anti- Christian groups & stories. It is long past time for them to be a balanced, accurate, and objective reporting network or lose all public funding.

(Specifically referring to story about women from Maritimes havin to go out of province for abortions but nothing of the 100,000 flags on parliament hill)

E-mail address:

Address:

City:

Province / state:

Country:

Postal / zip code:

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca> Fri, Oct 10, 2014 at 1:18 PM

To:
Cc: Jennifer McGuire <jennifer.mcguire@cbc.ca>
Bcc: Amanda Pyle <amanda.pyle@cbc.ca>, Bob Campbell <bob.campbell@cbc.ca>, Gino Apponi <gino.apponi@cbc.ca>, Jack Nagler <jack.nagler@cbc.ca>, Office of the General Manager and Editor in Chief <officeofgm@cbc.ca>

Dear

CBC's Office of the Ombudsman is independent of CBC News management and thus has no say in day-to-day decision-making. The CBC Ombudsman has a mandate to determine whether information content the CBC has produced fully respects CBC's journalism policy. However, I have shared your email with Jennifer McGuire, General Manager and Editor in Chief of CBC News, along with the request that you be provided with a response.

Sincerely,

Esther Enkin
CBC Ombudsman
ombudsman@cbc.ca
www.cbc.ca/ombudsman

CBC Radio-Canada

New on my website: subscribe to reviews
[Quoted text hidden]

A0059229_10-000093

CBC Radio-Canada

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca>

Your concerns about CBC coverage choices

1 message

Jack Nagler <jack.nagler@cbc.ca> Thu, Nov 6, 2014 at 11:08 AM
To: "Ombudsman, CBC" <ombudsman@cbc.ca>, Jennifer McGuire <jennifer.mcguire@cbc.ca>

Dear

Thank you for your Oct. 9th email to the CBC Ombudsman in which you say CBC failed to report significant news. Jennifer McGuire has asked me to reply on her behalf.

Your concern centred around how CBC News treated two separate events.

The first is a pro-life demonstration on Parliament Hill in which 100,000 blue and pink flags were planted to represent the number of abortions performed in Canada each year. You say CBC did not cover this event.

The second is the news that several New Brunswick women had travelled to Maine to have an abortion. CBC reported on this development.

You called this juxtaposition "subjective and selective reporting." You wrote to lodge a complaint against "the continued slant in support of anti-life, non-tradition marriage, and anti-Christian groups & stories."

I regret that you are disappointed with CBC News. But, with respect, I do not share your point of view here. Please allow me to explain why.

First, regarding the event on Parliament Hill:

It is untrue that this event went uncovered by CBC News. There were two mentions online. One came on our popular politics blog from CBC News reporter Kady O'Malley the morning of the event to indicate it was happening. The other was to include a picture in our This Week in Politics photo gallery http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/photos/anti-abortion-campaign-on-parliament-hill-1.2786835 that showed the 100,000 flags planted on Parliament Hill to symbolize the number of abortions performed in Canada each year.

I respect that this event has meaning for you. And I agree that the photograph is impressive. But in truth, the size and scale of the event was similar to many events that happen on Parliament Hill on a variety of issues that also receive little or no national coverage. Not every protest or demonstration is newsworthy, and there's no reason to conclude that the decisions made about this event were based on ideology or bias.

Next, the New Brunswick story:

This was not a story about whether abortion should or should not be legal. Rather, it was a story about a new phenomenon – the closure of the Morgentaler Clinic a few months earlier had prompted women to travel to Maine to procure an abortion.

The issue had taken on some prominence in the province, as the newly elected Premier-designate had weighed in, pledging to ease regulations in place that made it challenging for some women to have an abortion in a provincial hospital.

That meets a reasonable definition of news – something significant had changed (the private clinic had closed). In response, another change: some people made a surprising choice (to go to Maine). Now, the provincial government was signalling that it wanted to change public policy as a result.

In covering this story, we tried to give people information they need to draw their own conclusions about what is right. That includes pro-life supporters who may otherwise not have realized their new Premier seems intent on making it easier for New Brunswick women to have an abortion in a public hospital.

It troubles me that you feel we have an agenda -- we take very seriously our responsibility to cover controversial issues such as this with in a fair and balanced way. And we take this feedback of yours seriously as well.

I hope this response has reassured you of the integrity of our news service. And thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

Jack Nagler

Director, Journalistic Public Accountability and Engagement

CBC News

CBC Radio-Canada

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca>

Jack Nagler replied

biased news coverage

2 messages

Thu, Oct 9, 2014 at 12:44 PM

To: ombudsman@cbc.ca

Date: Oct. 9, 2014 12:44 P.M.

Title:

First name:

Last name:

Platform: CBC News Network

Program: lack thereof

Subject: biased news coverage

Message: I watched and listened to CBC a week ago to see how you would cover the placement of thousands of flags on parliament hill. I was disappointed (but not surprised) to see that it wasn't worthy of CBC. Our tax dollars support your programming and you owe Canadians an unbiased news report. Had that display been a LGBT event you would have been all over it. I'm fed up.
may I suggest that you read this. http://www.weneedalaw.ca/blog/471-journalistic-sins-of-commission-and-omission

E-mail address:

Address:

City:

Province / state:

Country:

Postal / zip code:

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca> Fri, Oct 10, 2014 at 1:07 PM

To:
Cc: Jennifer McGuire <jennifer.mcguire@cbc.ca>
Bcc: Amanda Pyle <amanda.pyle@cbc.ca>, Bob Campbell <bob.campbell@cbc.ca>, Gino Apponi <gino.apponi@cbc.ca>, Jack Nagler <jack.nagler@cbc.ca>, Office of the General Manager and Editor in Chief <officeofgm@cbc.ca>

Dear

CBC's Office of the Ombudsman is independent of CBC News management and thus has no say in day-to-day decision-making. The CBC Ombudsman has a mandate to determine whether information content the CBC has produced fully respects CBC's journalism policy. However, I have shared your email with Jennifer McGuire, General Manager and Editor in Chief of CBC News, along with the request that you be provided with a response.

Sincerely,

Esther Enkin
CBC Ombudsman
ombudsman@cbc.ca
www.cbc.ca/ombudsman

CBC Radio-Canada

New on my website: subscribe to reviews
[Quoted text hidden]

A0059229_15-000098

CBC Radio-Canada

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca>

Your concerns about CBC News coverage choices.

1 message

Jack Nagler <jack.nagler@cbc.ca> Wed, Nov 5, 2014 at 12:38 PM
To: "Ombudsman, CBC" <ombudsman@cbc.ca>, Jennifer McGuire <jennifer.mcguire@cbc.ca>

Dear

Thank you for your Oct. 9th email to the CBC Ombudsman in which you say CBC failed to report a news event you believe to be significant. Jennifer McGuire has asked me to reply on her behalf.

The event in question was a pro-life demonstration on Parliament Hill in which 100,000 blue and pink flags were planted to represent the number of abortions performed in Canada each year. You say CBC did not cover this event.

I regret that you are disappointed with CBC News. But in fact, we did make note of this display on two occasions. One came on our popular politics blog from CBC News reporter Kady O'Malley the morning of the event to indicate it was happening. The other was to include a picture in our This Week in Politics photo gallery http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/photos/anti-abortion-campaign-on-parliament-hill-1.2786835 that showed the 100,000 flags.

I respect that this event has meaning for you. And I agree that the photograph is impressive. I spoke to the leaders of our Parliamentary Bureau about what went into our coverage choices that day. They noted that the size and scale of the event was similar to many events that happen on Parliament Hill on a variety of issues that receive little or no national coverage. Not every protest or demonstration is newsworthy, they told me. And they are right. I believe that the choices made about this particular event were reasonable. There's no evidence I can see that the decisions were informed by any bias or ideology, and I believe our journalists remain open to reflecting fairly and respectfully the views of Canadians who oppose abortion.

I hope this response has reassured you of the integrity of our news service. And I genuinely thank you for the feedback. It is welcome when Canadians hold the public broadcaster to account.

Sincerely,

Jack Nagler

Director, Journalistic Public Accountability and Engagement,

CBC News

CBC Radio-Canada

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca>

Ignorant by choice

2 messages

Fri, Oct 17, 2014 at 10:23 PM

To: ombudsman@cbc.ca

Date: Oct. 17, 2014 10:23 P.M.

Title:

First name:

Last name:

Platform: CBCNews.ca

Program: News

Subject: Ignorant by choice

Message: I agree with everything this article states. http://www.weneedalaw.ca/blog/471-journalistic-sins-of-commission-and-omission I am appalled that this story would be completely ignored by the Canadian press while it is highlighted in the BBC under WORLD NEWS. Not only for CBC to ignore this story of the flags on Parliament Hill but then to report a story about abortion in such a way (about Canadians going to Maine) is a "slap in the face" for the flag story. I am extremely disappointed that the flags on Parliament did not receive the press it deserved from an organization such as CBC. I am normally a huge fan of CBC, but this really is disheartening and causes me to question other news from this organization.

Thanks for your time and consideration of my complaint.
Sincerely,

E-mail address:

Address:

City:

Province / state:

Country:

Postal / zip code:

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca> Mon, Oct 20, 2014 at 10:49 AM
To:
Cc: Jennifer McGuire <jennifer.mcguire@cbc.ca>
Bcc: Amanda Pyle <amanda.pyle@cbc.ca>, Bob Campbell <bob.campbell@cbc.ca>, Gino Apponi <gino.apponi@cbc.ca>, Jack Nagler <jack.nagler@cbc.ca>, Office of the General Manager and Editor in Chief <officeofgm@cbc.ca>

Dear

CBC's Office of the Ombudsman is independent of CBC News management and thus has no say in day-to-day decision-making about which stories should be covered. The CBC Ombudsman has a mandate to determine whether information content the CBC has produced fully respects CBC's journalism policy. However, I have shared your email with Jennifer McGuire, General Manager and Editor in Chief of CBC News, along with the request that you be provided with a response.

Sincerely,

Esther Enkin
CBC Ombudsman
ombudsman@cbc.ca
www.cbc.ca/ombudsman

CBC Radio-Canada

New on my website: subscribe to reviews
[Quoted text hidden]

CBC Radio-Canada

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca>

PINK AND WHITE FLAGS ON PARLIAMENT HILL TO COMMEMORATE 100,000 ABORTIONS IN CANADA IN ONE YEAR

2 messages

Fri, Oct 10, 2014 at 3:09 AM

To: ombudsman@cbc.ca

Date: Oct. 10, 2014 3:09 A.M.

Title: Ms.

First name:

Last name:

Platform: CBC TV

Program: THE NATIONAL

Subject: PINK AND WHITE FLAGS ON PARLIAMENT HILL TO COMMEMORATE 100,000 ABORTIONS IN CANADA IN ONE YEAR

Message: I WONDER WHY THE BBC PUBLISHES A PHOTO OF 100,000 PINK AND WHITE FLAGS PLANTED ON PARLIAMENT HILL TO COMMEMORATE BABIES WHO DIED BECAUSE OF ABORTION IN CANADA IN ONE YEAR WHEN THERE WAS NO MENTION OF IT ON THE NATIONAL NEWS BROADCAST. I LIKE TO BE FATIHFUL TO THE CBC AND WATCH CANADIAN NEWS BUT I WONDER WHY THERE IS AN AGENDA TO OMIT NEWS ABOUT PRO-LIFE GROUPS IN A POSITIVE TONE. THIS INCLUDES THE OMISSION OF STORIES OF PEOPLE WHO DO NOT WISH TO BE EUTHANIZED EVEN THOUGH THEY HAVE CANCER OR ALS WHEN MANY STORIES WERE GIVEN OF THOSE WHO DID WISH TO BE EUTHANIZED. YOU ARE A NATIONAL NEWS BROADCAST AND SHOULD COVER ALL VIEWPOINTS.

E-mail address:

Address:

City:

Province / state:

Country:

Postal / zip code:

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca> Fri, Oct 10, 2014 at 1:29 PM
To:
Cc: Jennifer McGuire <jennifer.mcguire@cbc.ca>
Bcc: Amanda Pyle <amanda.pyle@cbc.ca>, Bob Campbell <bob.campbell@cbc.ca>, Gino Apponi <gino.apponi@cbc.ca>, Jack Nagler <jack.nagler@cbc.ca>, Office of the General Manager and Editor in Chief <officeofgm@cbc.ca>

Dear

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decision-making. The CBC Ombudsman has a mandate to determine whether information content the CBC has produced fully respects CBC's journalism policy. However, I have shared your email with Jennifer McGuire, General Manager and Editor in Chief of CBC News, along with the request that you be provided with a response.

Sincerely,

Esther Enkin
CBC Ombudsman
ombudsman@cbc.ca
www.cbc.ca/ombudsman

CBC Radio-Canada

New on my website: subscribe to reviews

[Quoted text hidden]

CBC Radio-Canada

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca>

your concerns about CBC News coverage choices

1 message

Jack Nagler <jack.nagler@cbc.ca> Wed, Nov 26, 2014 at 11:16 AM
To: "Ombudsman, CBC" <ombudsman@cbc.ca>, Jennifer McGuire <jennifer.mcguire@cbc.ca>

Dear

Thank you for your Oct. 10th email to the CBC Ombudsman in which you say CBC failed to cover a news event you believe to be significant. Jennifer McGuire has asked me to reply on her behalf. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding.

The event in question was a pro-life demonstration on Parliament Hill in which 100,000 blue and pink flags were planted to represent the number of abortions performed in Canada each year. You say CBC made no mention of this event, in contrast with the BBC, which published a photograph.

"I LIKE TO BE FATIHFUL TO THE CBC AND WATCH CANADIAN NEWS," you wrote. BUT I WONDER WHY THERE IS AN AGENDA TO OMIT NEWS ABOUT PRO-LIFE GROUPS IN A POSITIVE TONE.

I regret that you are disappointed with CBC News. But in fact, we did make note of this display on two occasions. One came on our popular politics blog from CBC News reporter Kady O'Malley the morning of the event to indicate it was happening. The other was to include a picture in our This Week in Politics photo gallery http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/photos/anti-abortion-campaign-on-parliament-hill-1.2786835 that showed the 100,000 flags.

Incidentally, that same photo was used in the same manner by BBC News. They picked it up from Canadian Press.

I respect that this event has meaning for you. And I agree that the photograph is impressive. I spoke to the leaders of our Parliamentary Bureau about what went into our coverage choices that day. They noted that the size and scale of the event was similar to many events that happen on Parliament Hill on a variety of issues that receive little or no national coverage. Not every protest or demonstration is newsworthy, they told me. And they are right. I believe that the choices made about this particular event were reasonable. There's no evidence I can see that the decisions were informed by any bias or ideology, and I believe our journalists remain open to reflecting fairly and respectfully the views of Canadians who oppose abortion.

I hope this response has reassured you of the integrity of our news service. And I genuinely thank you for the feedback. It is welcome when Canadians hold the public broadcaster to account.

Sincerely,

Jack Nagler

Director, Journalistic Public Accountability and Engagement,

CBC News

CBC Radio-Canada

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca>

Jack Nagler replied

No coverage on 100,000 flags on Parliament Hill

2 messages

Mon, Oct 20, 2014 at 1:25 AM

To: ombudsman@cbc.ca

Date: Oct. 20, 2014 1:25 A.M.

Title:

First name:

Last name:

Platform: CBC TV

Program: CBC News

Subject: No coverage on 100,000 flags on Parliament Hill

Message: I think it is agregious that you did not cover this news story. When 100,000 flags ate placed by many volunteers on Parliament Hill im Ottawa and you turn a blind eye to it you show that you are not committed to reporting news. Just because you don't agree with the political views of the quiet protesters doesn't mean that you should fail to report it.
Sincerely,

E-mail address:

Address:

City:

Province / state:

Country:

Postal / zip code:

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca> Mon, Oct 20, 2014 at 10:51 AM
To: '
Cc: Jennifer McGuire <jennifer.mcguire@cbc.ca>
Bcc: Amanda Pyle <amanda.pyle@cbc.ca>, Bob Campbell <bob.campbell@cbc.ca>, Gino Apponi <gino.apponi@cbc.ca>, Jack Nagler <jack.nagler@cbc.ca>, Office of the General Manager and Editor in Chief <officeofgm@cbc.ca>

Dear

CBC's Office of the Ombudsman is independent of CBC News management and thus has no say in day-to-day decision-making about which stories should be covered. The CBC Ombudsman has a mandate to determine whether information content the CBC has produced fully respects CBC's journalism policy. However, I have shared your email with Jennifer McGuire, General Manager and Editor in Chief of CBC News, along with the request that you be provided with a response.

Sincerely,

Esther Enkin
CBC Ombudsman
ombudsman@cbc.ca
www.cbc.ca/ombudsman

CBC Radio-Canada

New on my website: subscribe to reviews
[Quoted text hidden]

CBC Radio-Canada

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca>

Your concerns about CBC News coverage choices

1 message

Jack Nagler <jack.nagler@cbc.ca> Wed, Nov 26, 2014 at 1:02 PM
To: "Ombudsman, CBC" <ombudsman@cbc.ca>, Jennifer McGuire <jennifer.mcguire@cbc.ca>

Dear

Thank you for your Oct. 19th email to the CBC Ombudsman in which you say CBC failed to cover a news event you believe to be significant. Jennifer McGuire has asked me to reply on her behalf. I'm sorry it has taken me so long to respond.

The event in question was a pro-life demonstration on Parliament Hill in which 100,000 blue and pink flags were planted to represent the number of abortions performed in Canada each year. You accused us of not covering the story:

"When 100,000 flags ate placed by many volunteers on Parliament Hill (in) Ottawa and you turn a blind eye to it you show that you are not committed to reporting news. Just because you don't agree with the political views of the quiet protesters doesn't mean that you should fail to report it."

I regret that you are disappointed with CBC News. But in fact, we did make note of this display on two occasions. One came on our popular politics blog from CBC News reporter Kady O'Malley the morning of the event to indicate it was happening. The other was to include a picture in our This Week in Politics photo gallery http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/photos/anti-abortion-campaign-on-parliament-hill-1.2786835 that showed the 100,000 flags.

I must also take exception with your assumption that our journalists "don't agree" with the protesters on Parliament Hill. First, I can assure you that our staff is composed of people whose views cover the spectrum on this and most other issues. But more importantly, there is a professional ethic among responsible journalists to look past their own personal views and make decisions on coverage which reflect the needs of the audience, not anyone's personal agenda.

Back to the incident in question: I respect that this pro-life event has meaning for you. And I agree that the photograph of the flags is impressive. I spoke to the leaders of our Parliamentary Bureau about what went into our coverage choices that day. They noted that the size and scale of the event was similar to many events that happen on Parliament Hill on a variety of issues that receive little or no national coverage. Not every protest or demonstration is newsworthy, they told me. And they are right. I believe that the choices made about this particular event were reasonable. There's no evidence I can see that the decisions were informed by any bias or

ideology, and I believe our journalists remain open to reflecting fairly and respectfully the views of Canadians who oppose abortion.

I hope this response has reassured you of the integrity of our news service. And I genuinely thank you for the feedback. It is welcome when Canadians hold the public broadcaster to account.

Sincerely,

Jack Nagler

CBC Radio-Canada

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca>

Jack Nagler replied

Abortion clinics in Maine see 'spike' in New Brunswick clients

2 messages

Thu, Oct 9, 2014 at 12:36 PM

To: ombudsman@cbc.ca

Date: Oct. 9, 2014 12:37 P.M.

Title: Mr.

First name:

Last name:

Platform: CBCNews.ca

Program: article

Subject: Abortion clinics in Maine see 'spike' in New Brunswick clients

Message: Hello:
I am writing to express my disappointment with the CBC. The CBC chose to write an article about an abortion clinic in Maine that had 6 women go there and it chose not to cover probably the largest pro-life display in Canada which is just a five minute walk from CBC's Ottawa bureau at the Parliament Buildings. There were 100,000 pink and blue flags planted in the front lawn of the Parliament Buildings that represented the 100,000 aborted children annually in Canada. Shame on the CBC! I do understand that not all people are, or will become pro-life but I feel the CBC can do a better job covering both sides of the issue! Hopefully we will see more balanced coverage from our publicly funded CBC!!!!

E-mail address:

Address:

City:

Province / state:

Country:

Postal / zip code:

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca> Fri, Oct 10, 2014 at 1:05 PM
To:
Cc: Jennifer McGuire <jennifer.mcguire@cbc.ca>
Bcc: Amanda Pyle <amanda.pyle@cbc.ca>, Bob Campbell <bob.campbell@cbc.ca>, Gino Apponi <gino.apponi@cbc.ca>, Jack Nagler <jack.nagler@cbc.ca>, Office of the General Manager and Editor in Chief <officeofgm@cbc.ca>

Dear

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General Manager and Editor in Chief of CBC News, along with the request that you be provided with a response.

Sincerely,

Esther Enkin
CBC Ombudsman
ombudsman@cbc.ca
www.cbc.ca/ombudsman

CBC Radio-Canada

New on my website: subscribe to reviews
[Quoted text hidden]

CBC Radio-Canada

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca>

Your concerns about CBC News coverage choices

1 message

Jack Nagler <jack.nagler@cbc.ca> Wed, Nov 5, 2014 at 12:21 PM
To: "Ombudsman, CBC" <ombudsman@cbc.ca>, Jennifer McGuire <jennifer.mcguire@cbc.ca>

Dear

Thank you for your Oct. 9th email to the CBC Ombudsman in which you say CBC failed to report a news event you believe to be significant. Jennifer McGuire has asked me to reply on her behalf.

The event in question was a pro-life demonstration on Parliament Hill in which 100,000 blue and pink flags were planted to represent the number of abortions performed in Canada each year. You say CBC did not cover this event.

I regret that you are disappointed with CBC News. But in fact, we did make note of this display on two occasions. One came on our popular politics blog from CBC News reporter Kady O'Malley the morning of the event to indicate it was happening. The other was to include a picture in our This Week in Politics photo gallery http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/photos/anti-abortion-campaign-on-parliament-hill-1.2786835 that showed the 100,000 flags.

I respect that this event has meaning for you. And I agree that the photograph is impressive. I spoke to the leaders of our Parliamentary Bureau about what went into our coverage choices that day. They noted that the size and scale of the event was similar to many events that happen on Parliament Hill on a variety of issues that receive little or no national coverage. Not every protest or demonstration is newsworthy, they told me. And they are right. I believe that the choices made about this particular event were reasonable. There's no evidence I can see that the decisions were informed by any bias or ideology, and I believe our journalists remain open to reflecting fairly and respectfully the views of Canadians who oppose abortion.

I hope this response has reassured you of the integrity of our news service. And I genuinely thank you for the feedback. It is welcome when Canadians hold the public broadcaster to account.

Sincerely,

Jack Nagler

Director, Journalistic Public Accountability and Engagement,

CBC News

CBC Radio-Canada

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca>

Sins of Ommission - Massive Pro-Life Display on Parliament Hill

2 messages

Thu, Oct 16, 2014 at 3:40 PM

To: ombudsman@cbc.ca

Date: Oct. 16, 2014 3:40 P.M.

Title: Ms.

First name:

Last name:

Platform: CBC News Network

Program: CBC News

Subject: Sins of Ommission - Massive Pro-Life Display on Parliament Hill

Message: A week ago, 100,000 pink and blue flags blanketed huge swaths of the lawn in front of Canada's Parliament buildings. Eighty volunteers carefully installed the flags, one by one. The volunteers wanted to make a powerful, visual statement that every year in Canada 100,000 pre-born children lose their lives to abortion. The massive display was probably the largest pro-life display in Canadian history.

It says something about our "national broadcaster" when the BBC in London, England covers an event on Parliament Hill as a "top news story in the world" and the CBC chooses to ignore it. 100,000 pink and blue flags receives no mention on the CBC News, but six women travel from New Brunswick to Maine to kill their pre-born child and we get a 1000 word diatribe on how oppressive New Brunswick regulations are to women's rights? The pressure mounting on newly elected New Brunswick premier Brian Gallant to do away with Regulation 84-20, which outlines the process whereby abortions can be publicly funded, is not coming from the residents of New Brunswick. In fact, polling shows that 73% of Atlantic Canadians do not support public funding of abortion. No, the pressure is coming from the liberal-elite dominating our main-stream media.

Canadians should expect, even demand, that our national broadcasting company would report news. Instead we are fed a daily dose of regressive ideologies that certainly don't reflect our broad cultural mosaic including its Judeo-Christian heritage. Where has the fairness that has constituted Canada as a democratic nation gone? I for one, am standing on guard for Canada.

E-mail address:

Address:

City:

Province / state:

Country:

Postal / zip code:

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca> Fri, Oct 17, 2014 at 10:44 AM
To:

Cc: Jennifer McGuire <jennifer.mcguire@cbc.ca>
Bcc: Amanda Pyle <amanda.pyle@cbc.ca>, Bob Campbell <bob.campbell@cbc.ca>, Gino Apponi <gino.apponi@cbc.ca>, Jack Nagler <jack.nagler@cbc.ca>, Office of the General Manager and Editor in Chief <officeofgm@cbc.ca>

Dear

CBC's Office of the Ombudsman is independent of CBC News management and thus has no say in day-to-day decision-making about which stories should be covered. The CBC Ombudsman has a mandate to determine whether information content the CBC has produced fully respects CBC's journalism policy. However, I have shared your email with Jennifer McGuire, General Manager and Editor in Chief of CBC News, along with the request that you be provided with a response.

Sincerely,

Esther Enkin
CBC Ombudsman
ombudsman@cbc.ca
www.cbc.ca/ombudsman

CBC Radio-Canada

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CBC Radio-Canada

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca>

Your concerns about CBC News coverage choices

1 message

Jack Nagler <jack.nagler@cbc.ca> Wed, Nov 26, 2014 at 12:17 PM
To: "Ombudsman, CBC" <ombudsman@cbc.ca>, Jennifer McGuire <jennifer.mcguire@cbc.ca>

Dear

Thank you for your October 16th email to the CBC Ombudsman in which you say CBC failed to report significant news. Jennifer McGuire has asked me to reply on her behalf.

Your concern centred around how CBC News treated two separate events.

The first is a pro-life demonstration on Parliament Hill in which 100,000 blue and pink flags were planted to represent the number of abortions performed in Canada each year. The second is the news that several New Brunswick women had travelled to Maine to have an abortion.

"It says something about our "national broadcaster" when the BBC in London, England covers an event on Parliament Hill as a "top news story in the world" and the CBC chooses to ignore it," you wrote. "100,000 pink and blue flags receives no mention on the CBC News, but six women travel from New Brunswick to Maine to kill their pre-born child and we get a 1000 word diatribe on how oppressive New Brunswick regulations are to women's rights?"

I regret that you are disappointed with CBC News. But, with respect, I do not share your point of view here. Please allow me to explain why.

First, regarding the event on Parliament Hill:

It is untrue that this event went uncovered by CBC News. There were two mentions online. One came on our popular politics blog from CBC News reporter Kady O'Malley the morning of the event to indicate it was happening. The other was to include a picture in our This Week in Politics photo gallery http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/photos/anti-abortion-campaign-on-parliament-hill-1.2786835 that showed the 100,000 flags planted on Parliament Hill to symbolize the number of abortions performed in Canada each year. (Incidentally, the BBC's coverage consisted of the same photograph, which it took from the Canadian Press).

I respect that this event has meaning for you. And I agree that the photograph is impressive. But in truth, the size and scale of the event was similar to many events that happen on Parliament Hill on a variety of issues that also receive little or no national coverage. Not every protest or demonstration is newsworthy, and there's no reason to conclude that the decisions made about this event were based on ideology or bias.

Next, the New Brunswick story:

This was not even a story about whether abortion should or should not be legal. Rather, it was a story about a new phenomenon – the closure of the Morgentaler Clinic a few months earlier had prompted women to travel to Maine to procure an abortion.

The issue had taken on some prominence in the province, as the newly elected Premier-designate had weighed in, pledging to ease regulations in place that made it challenging for some women to have an abortion in a provincial hospital.

That meets a reasonable definition of news – something significant had changed (the private clinic had closed). In response, another change: some people made a surprising choice (to go to Maine). Now, the provincial government was signalling that it wanted to change public policy as a result.

In covering this story, we tried to give people information they need to draw their own conclusions about what is right. That includes pro-life supporters who may otherwise not have realized their new Premier seems intent on making it easier for New Brunswick women to have an abortion in a public hospital. Indeed, he took another step down that path just today.

You called the article a "diatribe on how oppressive New Brunswick regulations are to women's rights." I can't agree with that. But I agree that it would have benefitted from being more explicit about explaining why the regulations exist currently, and making it clearer that the issue at hand was about the debate over abortion access in New Brunswick, not about the broader debate over whether abortion should be banned altogether. I have had conversations with my colleagues in New Brunswick about my concerns.

You also suggest that the new Premier was under pressure to make this move because of pressure from "liberal elites" in the media, not from any public concern among his constituents. I won't presume to speculate on what motivates Brian Gallant to adopt the positions he espouses. But I do know it is our responsibility to report on his intentions, and to do so fairly so that people can make up their own minds

It troubles me that you appear to feel we have an agenda -- we take very seriously our responsibility to cover controversial issues such as this with in a fair and balanced way. And we take this feedback of yours seriously as well.

I hope this response has reassured you of the integrity of our news service. And thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

Jack Nagler

Director, Journalistic Public Accountability and Engagement

CBC News

CBC Radio-Canada

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca>

Jack Nagler replied

biased coverage

2 messages

Mon, Oct 13, 2014 at 11:22 PM

To: ombudsman@cbc.ca

Date: Oct. 13, 2014 11:22 P.M.

Title:

First name:

Last name:

Platform: CBC TV

Program: The National

Subject: biased coverage

Message: Why do you cover the fact that 6 women from NB choose an abortion in the USA, but ignore the fact that over 80 pro-life volunteers participated in a demonstration of over 100,000 pink & blue flags on parliament hill last week? Your coverage should be balanced and without bias. It's not.

E-mail address:

Address:

City:

Province / state:

Country:

Postal / zip code:

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca> Tue, Oct 14, 2014 at 11:35 AM
To:
Cc: Jennifer McGuire <jennifer.mcguire@cbc.ca>
Bcc: Amanda Pyle <amanda.pyle@cbc.ca>, Bob Campbell <bob.campbell@cbc.ca>, Gino Apponi <gino.apponi@cbc.ca>, Jack Nagler <jack.nagler@cbc.ca>, Office of the General Manager and Editor in Chief <officeofgm@cbc.ca>

Dear

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Sincerely,

Esther Enkin
CBC Ombudsman
ombudsman@cbc.ca
www.cbc.ca/ombudsman

CBC Radio-Canada

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A0059230_12-000122

CBC Radio-Canada

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca>

Jack Nagler replied

Biased Reporting

2 messages

Thu, Oct 9, 2014 at 4:47 PM

To: ombudsman@cbc.ca

Date: Oct. 9, 2014 4:47 P.M.

Title: Mrs

First name:

Last name:

Platform: CBC News Network

Program: News

Subject: Biased Reporting

Message: 100,000 blue and white flags on Parliament Hill gets no attention from you, but 6 New Brunswick women travelling to Maine to kill their babies while bemoaning the fact how dangerous New Brunswick is for women wanting abortions does?! Shame on you for being so biased and supporting the murder of babies! Journalists should be unbiased and report the news as it becomes available and not pick and choose whatever they think is politically correct!

100,000 babies a year get aborted in Canada; what a loss of life! Yet you choose not to report on it. Shameful!

E-mail address:

Address:

City:

Province / state:

Country:

Postal / zip code:

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca> Fri, Oct 10, 2014 at 1:16 PM

To:
Cc: Jennifer McGuire <jennifer.mcguire@cbc.ca>
Bcc: Amanda Pyle <amanda.pyle@cbc.ca>, Bob Campbell <bob.campbell@cbc.ca>, Gino Apponi <gino.apponi@cbc.ca>, Jack Nagler <jack.nagler@cbc.ca>, Office of the General Manager and Editor in Chief <officeofgm@cbc.ca>

Dear

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Sincerely,

Esther Enkin
CBC Ombudsman
ombudsman@cbc.ca
www.cbc.ca/ombudsman

CBC Radio-Canada

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A0059230_14-000124

CBC Radio-Canada

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca>

Your concerns about CBC News coverage choices

1 message

Jack Nagler <jack.nagler@cbc.ca> Thu, Nov 6, 2014 at 10:00 AM
To: "Ombudsman, CBC" <ombudsman@cbc.ca>, Jennifer McGuire <jennifer.mcguire@cbc.ca>

Dear

Thank you for your Oct. 9th email to the CBC Ombudsman in which you say CBC failed to report significant news. Jennifer McGuire has asked me to reply on her behalf.

Your concern centred around how CBC News treated two separate events.

The first is a pro-life demonstration on Parliament Hill in which 100,000 blue and pink flags were planted to represent the number of abortions performed in Canada each year. You say CBC chose not to report on it.

The second is the news that several New Brunswick women had travelled to Maine to have an abortion. CBC reported on this development.

You described these two editorial choices as shameful. "Journalists should be unbiased and report the news as it becomes available and not pick and choose whatever they think is politically correct," you wrote.

I regret that you are disappointed with CBC News. But, with respect, I do not share your point of view here. Please allow me to explain why.

First, regarding the event on Parliament Hill:

It is untrue that this event went uncovered by CBC News. There were two mentions online. One came on our popular politics blog from CBC News reporter Kady O'Malley the morning of the event to indicate it was happening. The other was to include a picture in our This Week in Politics photo gallery http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/photos/anti-abortion-campaign-on-parliament-hill-1.2786835 that showed the 100,000 flags planted on Parliament Hill to symbolize the number of abortions performed in Canada each year.

I respect that this event has meaning for you. And I agree that the photograph is impressive. But in truth, the size and scale of the event was similar to many events that happen on Parliament Hill on a variety of issues that also receive little or no national coverage. Not every protest or demonstration is newsworthy, and there's no reason to conclude that the decisions made about this event were based on ideology or bias.

Next, the New Brunswick story:

This was not a story about whether abortion should or should not be legal. Rather, it was a story about a new phenomenon – the closure of the Morgentaler Clinic a few months earlier had prompted women to travel to Maine to procure an abortion.

The issue had taken on some prominence in the province, as the newly elected Premier-designate had weighed in, pledging to ease regulations in place that made it challenging for some women to have an abortion in a provincial hospital.

That meets a reasonable definition of news – something significant had changed (the private clinic had closed). In response, another change: some people made a surprising choice (to go to Maine). Now, the provincial government was signalling that it wanted to change public policy as a result.

In covering this story, we tried to give people information they need to draw their own conclusions about what is right. That includes pro-life supporters who may otherwise not have realized their new Premier seems intent on making it easier for New Brunswick women to have an abortion in a public hospital.

I hope this response has reassured you of the integrity of our news service.

Sincerely,

Jack Nagler

Director, Journalistic Public Accountability and Engagement

CBC News

CBC Radio-Canada

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca>

Jack Nagler replied

Why was there no coverage of this event?

2 messages

Thu, Oct 9, 2014 at 12:17 PM

To: ombudsman@cbc.ca

Date: Oct. 9, 2014 12:17 P.M.

Title:

First name:

Last name:

Platform: CBC News Network

Program: News coverage

Subject: Why was there no coverage of this event?

Message: A week ago, 100,000 pink and blue flags blanketed huge swaths of the lawn in front of Canada's Parliament buildings. The massive display was probably the largest pro-life display in Canadian history. It was an initiative of WeNeedaLAW.ca a public awareness campaign with a goal of building support for legislation protecting pre-born children.

The media (your station being one of them) were advised about what was occurring on Parliament Hill and were informed of the press conference that day. However, your station never once released a clip, article or anything about this event.

In the future, please cover all news. Not just the ones that will enhance your position that you so clearly have.

E-mail address:

Address:

City:

Province / state:

Country:

Postal / zip code:

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca> Fri, Oct 10, 2014 at 1:03 PM
To:
Cc: Jennifer McGuire <jennifer.mcguire@cbc.ca>
Bcc: Amanda Pyle <amanda.pyle@cbc.ca>, Bob Campbell <bob.campbell@cbc.ca>, Gino Apponi <gino.apponi@cbc.ca>, Jack Nagler <jack.nagler@cbc.ca>, Office of the General Manager and Editor in Chief <officeofgm@cbc.ca>

Dear

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decision-making. The CBC Ombudsman has a mandate to determine whether information content the CBC has produced fully respects CBC's journalism policy. However, I have shared your email with Jennifer McGuire, General Manager and Editor in Chief of CBC News, along with the request that you be provided with a response.

Sincerely,

Esther Enkin
CBC Ombudsman
ombudsman@cbc.ca
www.cbc.ca/ombudsman

CBC Radio-Canada

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A0059230_19-000129

CBC Radio-Canada

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca>

Your concerns about CBC News coverage choices

1 message

Jack Nagler <jack.nagler@cbc.ca> Wed, Nov 5, 2014 at 12:18 PM
To: "Ombudsman, CBC" <ombudsman@cbc.ca>, Jennifer McGuire <jennifer.mcguire@cbc.ca>
Bcc: ombudsman@cbc.ca

Dear

Thank you for your Oct. 9th email to the CBC Ombudsman in which you say CBC failed to report a news event you believe to be significant. Jennifer McGuire has asked me to reply on her behalf.

The event in question was a pro-life demonstration on Parliament Hill in which 100,000 blue and pink flags were planted to represent the number of abortions performed in Canada each year. You say CBC did not cover this event.

I regret that you are disappointed with CBC News. But in fact, we did make note of this display on two occasions. One came on our popular politics blog from CBC News reporter Kady O'Malley the morning of the event to indicate it was happening. The other was to include a picture in our This Week in Politics photo gallery http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/photos/anti-abortion-campaign-on-parliament-hill-1.2786835 that showed the 100,000 flags.

I respect that this event has meaning for you. And I agree that the photograph is impressive. I spoke to the leaders of our Parliamentary Bureau about what went into our coverage choices that day. They noted that the size and scale of the event was similar to many events that happen on Parliament Hill on a variety of issues that receive little or no national coverage. Not every protest or demonstration is newsworthy, they told me. And they are right. I believe that the choices made about this particular event were reasonable. There's no evidence I can see that the decisions were informed by any bias or ideology, and I believe our journalists remain open to reflecting fairly and respectfully the views of Canadians who oppose abortion.

I hope this response has reassured you of the integrity of our news service. And I genuinely thank you for the feedback. It is welcome when Canadians hold the public broadcaster to account.

Sincerely,

Jack Nagler

Director, Journalistic Public Accountability and Engagement,

CBC News

CBC Radio-Canada

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca>

Your concerns about CBC News coverage choices

1 message

Jack Nagler <jack.nagler@cbc.ca> Wed, Nov 5, 2014 at 12:21 PM
To: "Ombudsman, CBC" <ombudsman@cbc.ca>, Jennifer McGuire <jennifer.mcguire@cbc.ca>

Dear

Thank you for your Oct. 9th email to the CBC Ombudsman in which you say CBC failed to report a news event you believe to be significant. Jennifer McGuire has asked me to reply on her behalf.

The event in question was a pro-life demonstration on Parliament Hill in which 100,000 blue and pink flags were planted to represent the number of abortions performed in Canada each year. You say CBC did not cover this event.

I regret that you are disappointed with CBC News. But in fact, we did make note of this display on two occasions. One came on our popular politics blog from CBC News reporter Kady O'Malley the morning of the event to indicate it was happening. The other was to include a picture in our This Week in Politics photo gallery http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/photos/anti-abortion-campaign-on-parliament-hill-1.2786835 that showed the 100,000 flags.

I respect that this event has meaning for you. And I agree that the photograph is impressive. I spoke to the leaders of our Parliamentary Bureau about what went into our coverage choices that day. They noted that the size and scale of the event was similar to many events that happen on Parliament Hill on a variety of issues that receive little or no national coverage. Not every protest or demonstration is newsworthy, they told me. And they are right. I believe that the choices made about this particular event were reasonable. There's no evidence I can see that the decisions were informed by any bias or ideology, and I believe our journalists remain open to reflecting fairly and respectfully the views of Canadians who oppose abortion.

I hope this response has reassured you of the integrity of our news service. And I genuinely thank you for the feedback. It is welcome when Canadians hold the public broadcaster to account.

Sincerely,

Jack Nagler

Director, Journalistic Public Accountability and Engagement,

CBC News

CBC Radio-Canada

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca>

CBC - Making News or Reporting News?

2 messages

Thu, Oct 9, 2014 at 1:14 PM

To: ombudsman@cbc.ca

Date: Oct. 9, 2014 1:14 P.M.

Title: Mr.

First name:

Last name:

Platform: CBC News Network

Program: Print / TV / Web

Subject: CBC - Making News or Reporting News?

Message: Good Afternoon,

A week ago "WENEEDALAW" planted over 100,000 flags into the ground at Parliament Hill! This was incredible, and brought much attention in other countries...

I want to know why CBC and by the way steps away from the Hill, and knew about this event..... were able to ignore it? A few days later all that was seen in the mainstream press was a black and white photo in one print news outlet and this interview with an elected official. It says something about our “national broadcaster” when the BBC in London, England covers an event on Parliament Hill as a “top news story in the world” and again like I said earlier CBC chooses to ignore it.

I wan't to know who makes this decision and we are all aware the CBC is not like the other broadcasters and that is fair. But at least report news to Canadians who are paying for CBC to alive.

God Bless.

https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.672917142827484.1073741857.136036533182217&type=3

E-mail address:

Address:

City:

Province / state:

Country:

Postal / zip code:

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca> Fri, Oct 10, 2014 at 1:08 PM
To:

Cc: Jennifer McGuire <jennifer.mcguire@cbc.ca>
Bcc: Amanda Pyle <amanda.pyle@cbc.ca>, Bob Campbell <bob.campbell@cbc.ca>, Gino Apponi <gino.apponi@cbc.ca>, Jack Nagler <jack.nagler@cbc.ca>, Office of the General Manager and Editor in Chief <officeofgm@cbc.ca>

Dear

CBC's Office of the Ombudsman is independent of CBC News management and thus has no say in day-to-day decision-making. The CBC Ombudsman has a mandate to determine whether information content the CBC has produced fully respects CBC's journalism policy. However, I have shared your email with Jennifer McGuire, General Manager and Editor in Chief of CBC News, along with the request that you be provided with a response.

Sincerely,

Esther Enkin
CBC Ombudsman
ombudsman@cbc.ca
www.cbc.ca/ombudsman

CBC Radio-Canada

New on my website: subscribe to reviews
[Quoted text hidden]

CBC Radio-Canada

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca>

Your concerns about CBC News coverage choices

1 message

Jack Nagler <jack.nagler@cbc.ca> Wed, Nov 5, 2014 at 12:44 PM
To: "Ombudsman, CBC" <ombudsman@cbc.ca>, Jennifer McGuire <jennifer.mcguire@cbc.ca>

Dear

Thank you for your Oct. 9th email to the CBC Ombudsman in which you say CBC failed to report significant news. Jennifer McGuire has asked me to reply on her behalf.

Your concern centred around a pro-life demonstration on Parliament Hill in which 100,000 blue and pink flags were planted to represent the number of abortions performed in Canada each year. You say CBC did not cover this event, in contrast with the BBC, which did.

I regret that you are disappointed with CBC News. But, with respect, I do not share your point of view here. Please allow me to explain why.

It is untrue that this event went uncovered by CBC News. There were two mentions online. One came on our popular politics blog from CBC News reporter Kady O'Malley the morning of the event to indicate it was happening. The other was to include a picture in our This Week in Politics photo gallery http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/photos/anti-abortion-campaign-on-parliament-hill-1.2786835 that showed the 100,000 flags planted on Parliament Hill to symbolize the number of abortions performed in Canada each year.

Incidentally, that same photo was used in the same manner by BBC News. They picked it up from Canadian Press.

I respect that this event has meaning for you. And I agree that the photograph is impressive. I spoke to the leaders of our Parliamentary Bureau about what went into our coverage choices

that day. They noted that the size and scale of the event was similar to many events that happen on Parliament Hill on a variety of issues that receive little or no national coverage. Not every protest or demonstration is newsworthy, they told me. And they are right. I believe that the choices made about this particular event were reasonable. There's no evidence I can see that the decisions were informed by any bias or ideology, and I believe our journalists remain open to reflecting fairly and respectfully the views of Canadians who oppose abortion.

I hope this response has reassured you of the integrity of our news service. And I genuinely thank you for the feedback. It is welcome when Canadians hold the public broadcaster to account.

Sincerely,

Jack Nagler

Director, Journalistic Public Accountability and Engagement

CBC News

CBC Radio-Canada

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca>

Jack Nagler replied

BBC Coverage

3 messages

Thu, Oct 9, 2014 at 2:39 PM

To: ombudsman@cbc.ca

Date: Oct. 9, 2014 2:39 P.M.

Title:

First name:

Last name:

Platform: CBC News Network

Program: News

Subject: BBC Coverage

Message: My complaint is as follows:

Just last week Thursday there were 100,000 pink and blue flags within a five minute walk from CBC's Ottawa bureau, and in full view from their plush studios overlooking Parliament Hill only blocks away. 100,000 pink and blue flags receives no mention on the CBC News but six women travel from New Brunswick to Maine to kill their pre-born child and we get a 1000 word diatribe on how oppressive New Brunswick regulations are to women's 'rights'? (http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/abortion-clinics-in-maine-see-spike-in-new-brunswick-clients-1.2789090)

Does it not say something about Canada's "national broadcaster" when the BBC in London, England covers an event on Parliament Hill as a "top news photograph in the world" (http://www.bbc.com/news/in-pictures-29474567), including a caption acknowledging the purpose of the 100,000 flags, while the CBC chooses to ignore it?

The rights of pre-born Canadians are of real concern to Canadians, of /millions/ of Canadians. Will the CBC ignore this indefinitely?

To be clear, the women this article sheds light on need sympathy, just not the kind that involves making it easier to dismember, decapitate and disembowel their pre-born children.

Sincerely,
concerned citizens,

E-mail address:

Address:

City:

Province / state:

Country:

Postal / zip code:

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca> Fri, Oct 10, 2014 at 1:13 PM
To:
Cc: Jennifer McGuire <jennifer.mcguire@cbc.ca>
Bcc: Amanda Pyle <amanda.pyle@cbc.ca>, Bob Campbell <bob.campbell@cbc.ca>, Gino Apponi <gino.apponi@cbc.ca>, Jack Nagler <jack.nagler@cbc.ca>, Office of the General Manager and Editor in Chief <officeofgm@cbc.ca>

Dear

CBC's Office of the Ombudsman is independent of CBC News management and thus has no say in day-to-day decision-making. The CBC Ombudsman has a mandate to determine whether information content the CBC has produced fully respects CBC's journalism policy. However, I have shared your email with Jennifer McGuire, General Manager and Editor in Chief of CBC News, along with the request that you be provided with a response.

Sincerely,

Esther Enkin
CBC Ombudsman
ombudsman@cbc.ca
www.cbc.ca/ombudsman

CBC Radio-Canada

New on my website: subscribe to reviews
[Quoted text hidden]

Fri, Oct 10, 2014 at 1:36 PM

To: CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca>

Hi Esther,

Thanks for this helpful response. It is appreciated. Thank you also for passing on our email.

Regards,

[Quoted text hidden]

--
The horse is made ready for the day of battle, but victory rests with the Lord. Proverbs 21:31

CBC Radio-Canada

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca>

CBC headline gripping but misleading

1 message

We Need a Law <info@weneedalaw.ca> Fri, Dec 12, 2014 at 1:27 PM
Reply-To: We Need a Law <info@weneedalaw.ca>
To: "David Bazay (CBC)" <ombudsman@cbc.ca>

View online

For Immediate Release

Taxpayer funded broadcaster attempts to malign anti-abortion display ten weeks after it occurred

The following is a statement from Mike Schouten, the director of WeNeedaLAW.ca.

On October 2, 2014 nearly one hundred volunteers from across Canada gathered on Parliament Hill to plant 100,000 pink and blue flags. This was the largest anti-abortion display our country has ever seen. The flags, each one of them, represent one abortion every year in Canada. The display captured both national and international attention.

The visually stunning display was both educational and political. Canada is one of only three countries in the world that affords no legal protection for children before birth. The magnitude of this injustice is such that these abortions eradicate enough Canadian pre-born children to fill 5,000 classrooms each year.

The massive flag display took place over ten weeks ago and today our taxpayer-funded broadcaster decided to finally write something about it. The headline – 'Anti-abortion protest bent rules on Parliament Hill' – is gripping but misleading. In fact, without the deceptive headline there is really nothing to the story. The article is simply a detailed account of the process we walked through as we sought and received permission to use the grounds on Parliament Hill as a backdrop to our message highlighting the 100,000 abortions happening every year in Canada.

The matter of abortion is Canada is far from settled. An Angus Reid poll from 2009 found that 92% of Canadians assume there is federal legislation restricting abortion. In 2010 another Angus Reid poll showed that 43% of Canadians wrongly assume that abortion can only be performed in the first trimester of pregnancy. The 100,000 pink and blue flags resulted in thousands of conversations, both on Parliament Hill, across the country and online, in which people could be informed as to the stark reality that Canada has no restrictions on abortion.

WeNeedaLAW.ca has a mission to build support for legal protection for pre-born children. The 100,000 flags on Parliament Hill on October 2nd were a testament to the reality of how grave an injustice abortion is, and a message to our lawmakers that it is their responsibility to pass laws that protect all members of the Canadian family, no matter how small.

-30-

For further comment, please contact:

André Schutten, Legal Counsel for WeNeedaLAW.ca
andre@arpacanada.ca
613.297.5172

Mike Schouten, Director for WeNeedaLAW.ca
mike@weneedalaw.ca
778.321.2457

Contact Information

Niki Pennings, Assistant to the Director & Media Relations

905.577.5875

niki@weneedalaw.ca

If this email address is no longer valid, please contact us
with corrections at info@weneedalaw.ca or Unsubscribe WeNeedaLAW.ca, PO Box 1377 Stn B , Ottawa, K1P 5R4

- Forwarded message ----------
From:
Date: Wed, Dec 17, 2014 at 12:45 PM
Subject: RE: CBC Moderation of Comments
To: CBC Feedback <cbcfeedback@cbc.ca>

(Please see below for context in the form of previous emails as the following is the continuation of that correspondence.)

Hi,

Thanks for your reply. While I fail to understand and so disagree with the decision to disable my comment, I am much more disappointed that rationale is not provided for moderation decisions, and would like to know why, as I could not find an explanation on the website. The CBC is not a private corporation. The majority of its funding comes from Canadian taxpayers via the government and as such, it should be answerable to the public, even in such a small matter as disabling comments.

On a practical level, I understand that many thousands of comments are moderated each day but to give reasoning for disabling a comment would not be difficult or time-consuming, if in fact there is a clear violation of terms (even a single number next to the "disabled" notification denoting the specific violation would be sufficient ~ no back-and-forth necessary). Not only would it make certain that moderation is fair and transparent, it would help commentators (like myself) to better understand and follow the guidelines. It's in my best interest to follow the guidelines and I'm trying to follow the guidelines but I cannot do so if I find it impossible to pinpoint my error. I scrutinized my content based on the Submission Guidelines and could find no reason for disabling it. It was on topic, introduced original thoughts, was respectful, etc., and much more so than many of the other comments surrounding it.

The media and the journalism profession are the great champions not only of free speech, but of transparency and accountability (which the CBC 'takes very seriously'). All are compromised by this current policy. And so I'm asking for an explanation as to why rationale is not provided for moderation decisions, and I'm asking to have this policy reconsidered.

Thank you again for your time. I look forward to your response!

Sincerely,

From: cbcfeedback@cbc.ca
Date: Mon, 15 Dec 2014 14:37:38 -0500
Subject: CBC Moderation of Comments
To:

Hi

I forwarded your email to the moderation contact here and it was confirmed that your comments were correctly moderated.

Please have a look at our FAQ's (below) where we advise that we do not provide rationales for moderation decisions.

http://www.cbc.ca/help/faq/view/category/moderation#faq_body

Thank you for contacting us,

Julie
CBC Audience Relations

My name on cbc.ca) and I was commenting on an article on cbc.ca (http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/anti-abortion-protest-bent-rules-on-parliament-hill-1.2870209). My comment was approved by the moderator and it appeared as a post shortly after I submitted it. However, about 10 minutes, 4 likes and one reply later, the content was disabled. I thought this odd as it was clearly approved to begin with. After a tweak (trying to guess as to why it had been disabled), I tried re-posting. This time, the content was just disabled. I'd like to know why on both counts.

I phoned the CBC and the operator directed me to send an email to this address which would be forwarded to the moderator, who would be able to explain the reason.

Thank you very much. I appreciate your time and look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

Please find below the content of my comments; also find attached screen shots of the comments having been disabled.

First Comment:

Kudos to the organizers of this display and thank you CBC/Dean Beeby for now bringing much attention to it, even in the form of criticism. It shows perfectly the missing logic in the pro-choice camp. Why the outrage at the demonstration? If abortion should remain legal and freely accessible, isn't it a positive to show the results of all you've been fighting for? The flags are just representing clumps of cells, no?

O but wait... the colours kind of hit home, don't they? And the massive number - 100,000! - stated visually makes you uncomfortable, doesn't it? But why, if they aren't really children? WHY??? Doesn't make sense, does it? Please, think about it. Why does pointing out the truth in such a visually-powerful way get such a negative reaction? Because it confirms what science, logic and our own consciences are telling us already: we all, every one of us, know that we have been and are killing children and we want to be able to continue."

Second Comment:

Kudos to the organizers of this display and thank you CBC/Dean Beeby for now bringing much attention to it. It shows perfectly the missing logic in the pro-choice camp. Why the outrage at the demonstration? If abortion should remain legal and freely accessible, isn't it a positive to show the results of all you've been fighting for? The flags are just representing clumps of cells, no?

O but wait... the colours kind of hit home, don't they? And the massive number - 100,000! - stated visually

makes you uncomfortable, doesn't it? But why, if they aren't really children? WHY??? Doesn't make sense, does it? Please, think about it. Why does pointing out the truth in such a visually-powerful way get such a negative reaction? Because it confirms what science, logic and our own consciences are telling us already: we all, every one of us, know that we have been and are killing children and we want to be able to continue."

- Forwarded message ----------
From:
Date: Wed, Dec 17, 2014 at 12:35 PM
Subject: Programming Feedback: Flag display on Parliament Hill bent the rules
To: cbcfeedback@cbc.ca

a-subject: Flag display on Parliament Hill bent the rules
b-comment: Really? What a confused, bumbling story - It was technically not OK to plant flags, but it was OK and approved and Mulcair said it wasn't OK. Whew! What about the figure of 100,000? Did any of your lazy reporters or editors actually check that? Did you ask Mulcair what he thought about that number? It looks to me like you deliberately skewed and missed the real story here.
I can't wait for the Hockey Night in Canada deal to finally put an end to the misery that is the CBC.
c-email:
current_time: 12:28:32
d-first-name:
d-last-name:
d-location: Greely
d-province: ON
formid: Programming Feedback
h-encountered-problem: CBC News Network
i-programAirTime_day: 02
i-programAirTime_month: October
i-programAirTime_time: 12:00 AM
i-programAirTime_year: 2014
timestamp: 2014-12-17 12:35:04 EST

Forwarded message ----------
From:
Date: Mon, Dec 15, 2014 at 5:53 PM
Subject: Re: Programming Feedback: Comments policy
To: CBC Feedback <cbcfeedback@cbc.ca>

Thank you, Julie. I've had a good look at those info pages. I guess my issue is, I can't see why my comment would be disabled, and although I appreciate that it wouldn't be feasible for the moderators to engage with every unhappy poster individually, I don't like having no recourse. Many outlandish comments are allowed. The nature of the offensiveness of mine, making it unacceptable, is not clear to me. It was:

"Thank God we've now got 6 billion live humans in the world. Hopefully that number will double within the next decade or so. People, people everywhere, and not a bite to eat."

If you can't engage with me about this issue, however, I do understand.

From: CBC Feedback
Sent: Monday, December 15, 2014 9:23 AM
To:
Subject: Re: Programming Feedback: Comments policy

Hi

Here are links to the FAQ's for "Commenting":

http://www.cbc.ca/help/faq/view/category/commenting

and "Moderation":

http://www.cbc.ca/help/faq/view/category/moderation

Hope that helps,

Julie
CBC Audience Relations

On Fri, Dec 12, 2014 at 7:22 PM, wrote:
a-subject: Comments policy
b-comment: This article

http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/anti-abortion-protest-bent-rules-on-parliament-hill-1.2870209?cmp=rss

was about the Parliament Hill anti-abortion flag display piece. The discussion predictably quickly became one about abortion. I posted a "pro-choice" comment, as follows:

"Thank God we've now got 6 billion live humans in the world. Hopefully that number will double within the next decade or so. People, people everywhere, and not a bite to eat."

I see it has been labelled "Content disabled." Does that mean the post was not allowed? If so, I would really like to know on what basis, since it doesn't slander anyone and uses no profanity and isn't even rude -- just ironical. Is it because it used the word "God"? It would be helpful to know what the criteria are for exclusion. Thank you!
c-email:
current_time: 18:51:07
d-first-name:
d-last-name:
d-location: Vancouver
d-province: BC
e-telephone:
formid: Programming Feedback
h-encountered-problem: CBC.ca
i-programAirTime_day: 12
i-programAirTime_month: December
i-programAirTime_time: 04:00 PM
i-programAirTime_year: 2014
timestamp: 2014-12-12 19:22:28 EST

Forwarded message ----------
From:
Date: Sun, Dec 14, 2014 at 9:23 AM
Subject: Programming Feedback: Pro-life flags on Parliament Hill
To: cbcfeedback@cbc.ca

a-subject: Pro-life flags on Parliament Hill
b-comment: Where was the CBC when the incident actually happened?

Pathetic coverage. How long with the CBC sit back and allow this government to foist is perverted morality on Canadians? Enough of their discrimination, fanatical pro-life morality, xenophobia, culture of fear, and promulgation of a class of perpetually working poor, wealth being diverted to a small percentage of Canadians?

Shameful coverage of news in Canada. Superficial and deliberately avoiding anything that might upset the Harper government.

Cowards
c-email:
current_time: 09:19:29
d-first-name:
d-last-name:
d-location: Orangeville
d-province: ON
formid: Programming Feedback
h-encountered-problem: CBC News Network
i-programAirTime_day: 14
i-programAirTime_month: December
i-programAirTime_time: 12:00 AM
i-programAirTime_year: 2014
timestamp: 2014-12-14 09:23:52 EST

Forwarded message ----------
From:
Date: Sat, Dec 13, 2014 at 12:22 AM
Subject: Programming Feedback: You censored the following statement which was a response to a demand from another commenter that is arbitrary, and quite ridiculous.
To: cbcfeedback@cbc.ca

a-subject: You censored the following statement which was a response to a demand from another commenter that is arbitrary, and quite ridiculous.
b-comment: Hello:

You censored the following statement which was a response to a demand from another commenter that is arbitrary, and quite ridiculous.

If you are going to do this, you should post guidelines that inform your invited commenters that a) certain immature, arrogant people will be allowed to insult you or goad you in various ways, will be strangely allowed but also b) when you respond to their goading or arrogance in kind – but no more in degree – will be blocked by the CBC censorer.

Quite inexplicably, unless in a case of bias and again is just another example of the kind of prejudicial news organization the CBC has become, now that it is being run by the Harper Conservative clan.

http://www.cbc.ca/1.2870209#vf-1207800000671

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hvnbnd
Shame on CBC for their bias programming, once again opinion.
Here is a portion of the letter from the organizers the WNAL team:
Unfortunately, the CBC has chosen to focus on the efforts we made to secure permission, suggesting that it was done inappropriately. Not only did we get permission, we followed the expectations outlined rigorously. The RCMP and MPs on the Hill all showed their appreciation for how positive and peaceful the display was.

Our mission is to build support for legal protection for pre-born children. The 100,000 flags on Parliament Hill were a testament to the reality of how grave an injustice abortion is, and a message to our lawmakers that it is their responsibility to pass laws that protect all citizens of Canada, no matter where they live.

Whether you agree or not on the issue we are supposed to have freedom of speech in this country. That's what Canada was built on. Those that do not agree do not need to take a bullish stand and demean others. This was a peaceful display not a march, not a rally not a we're right you're wrong attitude but a display to raise awareness.

The Phantom of the Opera
@hvnbnd

"Our mission is to build support"

Then just do it legally...

...like everyone else has to...

Dean (The one who got here first)

@The Phantom of the Opera

Legal? Where did you get the idea that something illegal has taken place?

You should have the courtesy to retract what you just said.

The Phantom of the Opera

@Dean (The one who got here first)

"You should have the courtesy to retract what you just said."

Typical conservative deflective discourse:

- never properly address any or all of the relevant points
- insult the commenter
- tell us what to do, what to say, and what to think
- when we don't - like - do all that - pout, to make us feel guilty
- when we figure it out, and don't feel guilty, pout some more

Always the same formula. Like parrots mimicking their master's words...

---

c-email:
current_time: 00:19:27
d-first-name:
d-last-name:
d-location: Hicktown
d-province: ON
formid: Programming Feedback
h-encountered-problem: CBC.ca
i-programAirTime_day: 12
i-programAirTime_month: December
i-programAirTime_time: 12:00 AM
i-programAirTime_year: 2014
timestamp: 2014-12-13 00:22:33 EST

- Forwarded message ----------
From:
Date: Fri, Dec 12, 2014 at 8:16 AM
Subject: Programming Feedback: anti-abortion flags parliament hill
To: cbcfeedback@cbc.ca

a-subject: anti-abortion flags parliament hill
b-comment: Could Hannah Thibodeau perhaps save her outrage for the lack of Abortion laws in Canada, that allow for nearly full term abortions to be conducted here, as in CHINA?!!! The fact that an anti-abortion group planted flags on the lawn of parliament hill, is a red herring.
c-email:
current_time: 08:09:03
d-first-name:
d-last-name:
d-location: Canada
d-province: QC
e-telephone:
formid: Programming Feedback
h-encountered-problem: CBC News Network
i-programAirTime_day: 12
i-programAirTime_month: December
i-programAirTime_time: 08:00 AM
i-programAirTime_year: 2014
timestamp: 2014-12-12 08:16:01 EST

Forwarded message ----------
From: **CBC Feedback** <cbcfeedback@cbc.ca>
Date: Mon, Nov 3, 2014 at 3:12 PM
Subject: Re:
To:

Hello

The photos of flags are still online. Please google the following: 100,000 flags on parliament hill CBC photos and it should bring them up or
cut and paste this link:
https://www.google.ca/webhp?sourceid=chrome-instant&ion=1&espv=2&ie=UTF-8#q=100%2C000%20flags%20on%20parliament%20hill%20cbc%20photos and you should see the photos.

Enjoy the photos!

Nicole Morrison-Argue
CBCAudience Relations

On Fri, Oct 10, 2014 at 12:03 AM, wrote:
Thanks for your response....tried the URL you advised...but I must be googling wrong...haven't seen hide nor tail.

BC viewer

Sent from my iPad

On Oct 7, 2014, at 12:42 PM, "CBC Feedback" <cbcfeedback@cbc.ca> wrote:

Hello,

Here is how to find the flags. Please google 100.000 flags on parliament hill cbc and

just click on photos or videos above and enjoy.

Thanks for your interest in CBC programming.

Nicole Morrison-Argue
CBC Audience Relations

Forwarded message ----------
From:
Date: Sat, Oct 11, 2014 at 2:27 PM
Subject: Programming Feedback: Flag Display at Parliament Hill
To: cbcfeedback@cbc.ca

a-subject: Flag Display at Parliament Hill
b-comment: Dear CBC,
I was saddened to learn that you ignored the display that occurred at Parliament Hill in Ottawa earlier this month. The 100,000 blue and pink flags were an eye-opening visual representing the number of babies aborted each year in Canada. And It receive no mention on the CBC News...but instead you chose to release a report on how oppressive NB regulations are and mention six women who had to travel from New Brunswick to Maine to kill their pre-born children. who cares about her province and country, , and a tax paying New Brunswicker. I request that you provide us with the news we pay you to provide, and to not let political biases run the show. The majority of NB citizens are not supportive of public funding of abortion, so please stop focusing on pro-abortion topics. There are many pro-life events, including the flag display, and CBC choosing to ignore the pro-life groups progress and news is unethical. Our tax dollars are needed in many other areas to keep our small province afloat, and we certainly do not need it going towards ending innocent life, as a form of birth control or for the convenience of the mother.I'm not saying you should start ignoring their stories, I'm just saying that if you are receiving our tax dollars to give us the news, you should be providing both sides of the story... with events and personal stories from women on both sides of the pro-abortion/pro-life views. All news reported, not your favored topics.
Sincerely,

c-email:
current_time: 13:49:53
d-first-name:
d-last-name:
d-location: Moncton
d-province: NB
formid: Programming Feedback
h-encountered-problem: CBC News Network
i-programAirTime_day: 04
i-programAirTime_month: October
i-programAirTime_time: 12:00 AM
i-programAirTime_year: 2014
timestamp: 2014-10-11 14:27:18 EDT

Forwarded message ----------
From:
Date: Fri, Oct 10, 2014 at 10:47 PM
Subject: Programming Feedback: What happennd to the coverage of the 10,000 aborted babies the flags represented on Parliament Hill last week
To: cbcfeedback@cbc.ca

a-subject: What happennd to the coverage of the 10,000 aborted babies the flags represented on Parliament Hill last week
b-comment: The MOST VULNERABLE CANADIANS WHO are nameless, speechless, who is covering their voice. There was a huge display of flags, to represent each baby aborted. Do they not matter because they dont have a SIN number, and dont pay taxes.
c-email:
current_time: 22:38:46
d-first-name:
d-last-name:
d-location: oshawa
d-province: ON
e-telephone:
formid: Programming Feedback
h-encountered-problem: CBC News Network
i-programAirTime_day: 08
i-programAirTime_month: October
i-programAirTime_time: 08:00 AM
i-programAirTime_year: 2014
site: CBC-Mobile-Touch
timestamp: 2014-10-10 22:47:56 EDT

Forwarded message ----------
From:
Date: Thu, Oct 2, 2014 at 10:02 PM
Subject: Programming Feedback: prolife demonstration on parliament today
To: cbcfeedback@cbc.ca

a-subject: prolife demonstration on parliament today
b-comment: Why was there NO coverage on the flag display at Parliament Hill today. Why are you so afraid to represent the other side of the topic. This is so sad. Everyone should be fairly represented. If it was a protest against anything else of that visual magnitude, there would have be coverage. Very disappointed!!
c-email:
current_time: 21:58:12
d-first-name:
d-last-name:
d-location: Smithers
d-province: BC
formid: Programming Feedback
h-encountered-problem: CBC News Network
i-programAirTime_day: 02
i-programAirTime_month: October
i-programAirTime_time: 12:00 AM
i-programAirTime_year: 2014
timestamp: 2014-10-02 22:02:25 EDT

Forwarded message ----------
From:
Date: Sat, Dec 13, 2014 at 11:49 AM
Subject: Programming Feedback: Re: Parliment Hill Pro-Life Flag Event earlier this year
To: cbcfeedback@cbc.ca

a-subject: Re: Parliment Hill Pro-Life Flag Event earlier this year
b-comment: What could have motivated CBC National to air a 'small' clip about the above event stating that the planting of little flags was against the 'rules' but was fully approved by those in charge of allowing such events and so was not 'against the rules'? So is this NEWS?
Are we (CBC) upset? and want to make a point? about what? that the CBC can air pro-life news? A funny way to show so!
c-email:
current_time: 11:37:17
d-first-name:
d-last-name:
d-location: Burlington
d-province: ON
formid: Programming Feedback
h-encountered-problem: CBC TV
i-programAirTime_day: 12
i-programAirTime_month: December
i-programAirTime_time: 11:00 PM
i-programAirTime_year: 2014
timestamp: 2014-12-13 11:49:26 EST

Forwarded message ----------
From:
Date: Sun, Dec 14, 2014 at 3:28 AM
Subject: Programming Feedback: Regarding your coverage of the 100,000 blue and pink flags placed in the lawn on Parliment hill
To: cbcfeedback@cbc.ca

a-subject: Regarding your coverage of the 100,000 blue and pink flags placed in the lawn on Parliment hill
b-comment: After listening to your coverage of this event which happened a couple months ago I was confused by your obsession over if the rules had been followed. Really. Your dirty underware was showing. Regardless if you are for or against abortion the obvious fact here was.....this country has denied life to 100,000 persons....be they nurses, bricklayers, journalists. You get the point. Also this segment of the population will not pay taxes or contribute to Canafian society in any way. CBC is consistently left winged and it shows by your bias. I really dislike your news broadcasts because of this aspect of your inability to be impartial. From other news I was able to understand this silent and tasteful protest was not contrary to the rules and the RCMP as you suggested. Woe unto you who call good evil and evil good.
c-email:
current_time: 03:14:10
d-first-name:
d-last-name:
d-location: Castlegar
d-province: BC
formid: Programming Feedback
h-encountered-problem: CBC Radio
i-programAirTime_day: 09
i-programAirTime_month: December
i-programAirTime_time: 08:00 AM
i-programAirTime_year: 2014
timestamp: 2014-12-14 03:28:56 EST

- Forwarded message ----------
From:
Date: Mon, Oct 20, 2014 at 4:03 PM
Subject: Programming Feedback: Abortion clinics in main see spike in
To: cbcfeedback@cbc.ca

a-subject: Abortion clinics in main see spike in
b-comment: Why do our tax dollars have to support a one sided programming ? Tihis news was given high priority. While NO mention was made of the Pink and blue flags representing the babies aborted each year found no place in your programming has anyone in your media ever watched a 31/2lb person in an incubator grow and get bigger each day. They are not fetuss they are little persons why not at least give mention of thei memorial of these little people whose lives have been plucked out and discarded .the right to choose starts.before conception
c-email:
current_time: 15:50:30
d-first-name:
d-last-name:
d-location: Regina
d-province: SK
e-telephone:
formid: Programming Feedback
h-encountered-problem: CBC TV
i-programAirTime_day: 01
i-programAirTime_month: October
i-programAirTime_time: 12:00 AM
i-programAirTime_year: 2014
timestamp: 2014-10-20 16:03:10 EDT

Forwarded message ----------
From:
Date: Fri, Oct 3, 2014 at 12:32 AM
Subject: Accessibility Feedback: Broadcast
To: accessibility@cbc.ca, cbcfeedback@cbc.ca

issue-summary: I was wondering where the news went regarding the blue and pink flag display went to that was taken place in Ottawa today. My daughter and a few friends were at the display and mentioned that alot of pictures and interviews where done. CBC was one of a few media there. I have been watching your news and to my very great disappointment you did not even mention it. I am wondering what ever happened to truth about what is going on in our great country.
phone:
subject: Flag display
z_debug_flashver: 15.0.0
contact-type: email
lastname:
current_time: 00:27:14
firstname:
feedback-type: Broadcast
timestamp: 2014-10-03 00:32:50 EDT
z_referer: http://www.cbc.ca/help/contact/
email:
province: Alberta

Forwarded message ----------
From:
Date: Sat, Dec 13, 2014 at 12:29 AM
Subject: Programming Feedback: Disturbing abortion coverage
To: cbcfeedback@cbc.ca

a-subject: Disturbing abortion coverage
b-comment: I know it's only about killing a hundred thousand children before they can draw a breath, but to reduce the story to a false claim about lawn maintenance is reminiscent of the indifference of the nazis. Human indiffernce is not new, but this coverage was revolting. Shame on the CBC for its complicity in this ongoing crime against humanity.
c-email:
current_time: 00:24:04
d-first-name:
d-last-name:
d-location: Brampton
d-province: ON
e-telephone:
formid: Programming Feedback
h-encountered-problem: CBC News Network
i-programAirTime_day: 13
i-programAirTime_month: December
i-programAirTime_time: 12:00 AM
i-programAirTime_year: 2014
timestamp: 2014-12-13 00:29:49 EST

CBC Radio-Canada

DEAN BEEBY <dean.beeby@cbc.ca>

Re: Re: Pre-born Human Rights Parliament Hill Flag Display

1 message

DEAN BEEBY <dean.beeby@cbc.ca> Mon, Dec 15, 2014 at 2:50 PM
To: Robert Russo <rob.russo@cbc.ca>, Allison Brachman <allison.brachman@cbc.ca>, Nick Gamache <nick.gamache@radio-canada.ca>, Chris Carter <chris.carter@cbc.ca>

To the letter writer's points:

1. The story does not "accuse" anyone - it documents the process by which public officials at first denied permission, based on the rules, then provided special permission for an event that was technically against the posted rules. It's about gate-keeping by public officials, not about gate-crashing by an interest group.

2. I sent in my ATIA request to RCMP the day of the event (Oct. 2), asking for information. The RCMP took two months to respond, hence the delay in reporting this story.

3. I gave the departmental bureaucrats, the minister's office and the interest group a chance to comment. All of them did, and were included in the story.

I cannot speak for CBC's coverage of other events, such as Pride parades or the Annual March for Life.

Dean Beeby, Senior Reporter
CBC Ottawa Parliamentary Bureau
613.288.6945 / c 613.297.8540
Twitter @DeanBeeby
dean.beeby@cbc.ca
www.cbc.ca

On Mon, Dec 15, 2014 at 11:39 AM, Robert Russo <rob.russo@cbc.ca> wrote:

> This should be dealt with relatively easily.
>
> Dean, after you're done with the CRA-Charity piece in a day or two, sketch out some of your thoughts on this and Chris and I will draft a response.
>
> RR
>
> Rob Russo
> Ottawa Bureau Chief
>
> CBC Radio-Canada
>
> 613.288.6609
> www.cbcnews.ca
>
> On Mon, Dec 15, 2014 at 11:35 AM, DEAN BEEBY <dean.beeby@cbc.ca> wrote:
>
> > fyi
> >
> > Dean Beeby, Senior Reporter
> > CBC Ottawa Parliamentary Bureau
> > 613.288.6945 / c 613.297.8540
> > Twitter @DeanBeeby

dean.beeby@cbc.ca
www.cbc.ca

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **CBC Ombudsman** <ombudsman@cbc.ca>
Date: Mon, Dec 15, 2014 at 11:17 AM
Subject: Re: Re: Pre-born Human Rights Parliament Hill Flag Display
To:
Cc: DEAN BEEBY <dean.beeby@cbc.ca>, Spencer Walsh <spencer.walsh@cbc.ca>, Jennifer McGuire <jennifer.mcguire@cbc.ca>

Dear

I write to acknowledge receipt of your email, which I will bring to Esther Enkin's attention on her return to the office.

The first step in the process is to share your complaint with the relevant programmers, who have the right and responsibility to respond. I have therefore shared your email with Jennifer McGuire, General Manager and Editor in Chief of CBC News. If you are not satisfied with the response you receive you may ask Ms. Enkin to review the matter.

Programmers are asked to try to reply within twenty working days.

Sincerely,

Laura Marshall
Assistant to Esther Enkin

Esther Enkin
CBC Ombudsman
ombudsman@cbc.ca
www.cbc.ca/ombudsman

CBC Radio-Canada

New on my website: subscribe to reviews

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From:
Date: Dec 12, 2014 11:44 PM
Subject: Re: Pre-born Human Rights Parliament Hill Flag Display
To: "dean.beeby@cbc.ca" <dean.beeby@cbc.ca>, "esther.enkin@cbc.ca" <esther.enkin@cbc.ca>
Cc: "spencer.walsh@cbc.ca" <spencer.walsh@cbc.ca>

As a regular viewer of CBC Television, listener of CBC Radio and reader of CBC News online, I have previously valued the commitment of our national public broadcaster to provide fair and balanced coverage of breaking news stories and issues across the country.

I am, however, greatly disappointed with how the CBC reported today on the public authorization process to grant the Association for Reformed Political Action permission to stage a pre-born human rights display on Parliament Hill. Both radio and online news coverage of the authorization process was clearly biased against advocates of pre-born human rights, accusing public officials and the Association of Reformed Political Action of breaking rules. As the Association for Reformed Political Action notes in a communique responding to the coverage, the CBC, reporting two months after the display was organized, is trying to turn a powerful image documenting the plight of pre-born children in Canada into a story of bending rules.

The CBC does not investigate public obscenity complaints or special exemptions

made for supporters of gender and sexual diversity rights at Pride parades across the country and was silent when two topless abortion advocates protested at the Annual March for Life in Ottawa in May this year.

It seems clear when it comes to the issue of abortion, the CBC is unwilling to provide fair and balanced coverage.

CBC Radio-Canada

DEAN BEEBY <dean.beeby@cbc.ca>

Fwd: Complaint against CBCNews.ca

1 message

Chris Carter <chris.carter@cbc.ca> Tue, Dec 16, 2014 at 11:14 AM
To: Robert Russo <rob.russo@cbc.ca>, DEAN BEEBY <dean.beeby@cbc.ca>

Here's a second complainant to the flag story, so we'll have to offer a response to him as well. Similar (one might say coordinated) complaint, but we'll have to tailor the reply to his specific objections.

See below.

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Gary Graves** <gary.graves@cbc.ca>
Date: Tue, Dec 16, 2014 at 11:07 AM
Subject: Fwd: Complaint against CBCNews.ca
To: Chris Carter <chris.carter@cbc.ca>, Robert Russo <rob.russo@cbc.ca>

FYI Date for reply is Jan 9

/G

Gary Graves
Executive Producer
http://CBCNews.ca
Tel: +1. 416.205.7836

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Office of the General Manager and Editor in Chief** <officeofgm@cbc.ca>
Date: 16 December 2014 at 10:18
Subject: Fwd: Complaint against CBCNews.ca
To: Gary Graves <gary.graves@cbc.ca>

Hi Gary,
Here is the first of two letters on the 100,000 flags protest on Parliament Hill.
Please aim for January 9 as a due date for both.
Thank you,
Katy

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **CBC Ombudsman** <ombudsman@cbc.ca>
Date: Mon, Dec 15, 2014 at 11:14 AM
Subject: Re: Complaint against CBCNews.ca
To:
Cc: Jennifer McGuire <jennifer.mcguire@cbc.ca>

Dear

I write to acknowledge receipt of your email, which I will bring to Esther Enkin's attention on her return to the office.

The first step in the process is to share your complaint with the relevant programmers, who have the right and responsibility to respond. I have therefore shared your email with Jennifer McGuire, General Manager and Editor in Chief of CBC News. If you are not satisfied with the response you receive you may ask Ms. Enkin to review

the matter.

Programmers are asked to try to reply within twenty working days.

Sincerely,

Laura Marshall
Assistant to Esther Enkin

Esther Enkin
CBC Ombudsman
ombudsman@cbc.ca
www.cbc.ca/ombudsman

CBC Radio-Canada

New on my website: subscribe to reviews

On Fri, Dec 12, 2014 at 5:55 PM, wrote:

> Dear Ms. Enkin,
>
> I have a concern about a story posted on CBCNews.ca on Friday, December 12, 2014. The story is entitled "Anti-abortion protest bent rules on Parliament Hill" and the subtitle is "Striking anti-abortion display of 100,000 flags on Parliament Hill technically against the rules." Right now, the story is posted at: http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/anti-abortion-protest-bent-rules-on-parliament-hill-1.2870209 .
>
> On October 2 of this year an organization known as the Association for Reformed Political Action (ARPA) placed thousands of pink and blue flags on Parliament Hill. The flags represented unborn children who had been aborted. This silent protest was reported by the *National Post*, and the Sun News Network. As far as I can tell, CBCNews.ca did not report the story.
>
> Today, more than two months later, it is finally a news story on CBCNews.ca. However, instead of the story being about a unique political protest, the story is about ARPA's protest being "against the rules." That is the implication from the title and subtitle, anyway. Anyone who carefully reads the details provided in the article will see that ARPA, in fact, worked with the proper authorities to ensure that their protest complied with all necessary requirements. But this story was crafted to make it appear that ARPA had done something wrong.
>
> The October 2 protest was not news, according to CBCNews.ca. Strangely, though, CBC News filed an Access to Information request (according to today's article) to look into the process of obtaining permission for the protest. So the protest itself is not news, but ARPA's efforts to fully comply with the expectations of the committee that governs these matters is news. Worse, their full and complete compliance with the committee's requirements is portrayed in some sense as breaking the rules ("technically against the rules").
>
> According to the CBC website, "CBC-Radio-Canada is fully committed to maintaining accuracy, integrity, balance, impartiality and fairness in its journalism." In my view, by ignoring the October 2 protest, and then manufacturing a story about the protest violating the rules, CBC has disregarded its stated commitment to "balance, impartiality and

fairness in its journalism." Instead, this situation demonstrates a commitment to pro-choice advocacy on the abortion issue by spiking an important news item about a pro-life protest on Parliament Hill, and subsequently trying to create the impression that the protest is clouded by possible ethical infractions.

For many years my two main news sources have been CBCNews.ca and the *National Post*. I normally check CBCNews.ca at least two or three times each day. I don't expect to like or agree with everything that's posted on the site. Every news source has limitations. But I believe that the situation described above is demonstrating a degree of bias that I'm not willing to overlook.

If I am incorrect, and CBCNews.ca did cover the October 2 protest in its national ("Canada") news section, I will retract my complaint. Otherwise I would like my complaint to go through the normal process.

Thank you.

Chris Carter
Senior Producer, Politics
www.CBCNews.ca/politics

T: 613-288-6986
M: 613-293-4922
chris.carter@cbc.ca
@carter_c

CBC Radio-Canada

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca>

Jack Nagler replied

Your concerns about CBC News coverage choices

1 message

Jack Nagler <jack.nagler@cbc.ca> Wed, Nov 26, 2014 at 12:52 PM
To: "Ombudsman, CBC" <ombudsman@cbc.ca>, Jennifer McGuire <jennifer.mcguire@cbc.ca>

Dear

Thank you for your Oct. 17th email to the CBC Ombudsman in which you say CBC failed to report significant news. Jennifer McGuire has asked me to reply on her behalf. Please forgive how long it has taken me to respond.

Your concern centred around how CBC News treated two separate events.

The first is a pro-life demonstration on Parliament Hill in which 100,000 blue and pink flags were planted to represent the number of abortions performed in Canada each year. "I am appalled that this story would be completely ignored by the Canadian press while it is highlighted in the BBC under WORLD NEWS," you wrote.

The second is the news that several New Brunswick women had travelled to Maine to have an abortion. "Not only for CBC to ignore this story of the flags on Parliament Hill but then to report a story about abortion in such a way (about Canadians going to Maine) is a "slap in the face" for the flag story," you said.

I regret that you are disappointed with CBC News. But, with respect, I do not share your point of view here. Please allow me to explain why.

First, regarding the event on Parliament Hill:

It is untrue that this event went uncovered by CBC News. There were two mentions online. One came on our popular politics blog from CBC News reporter Kady O'Malley the morning of the event to indicate it was happening. The other was to include a picture in our This Week in Politics photo gallery http://www.cbc.ca/

news/politics/photos/anti-abortion-campaign-on-parliament-hill-1.2786835 that showed the 100,000 flags planted on Parliament Hill to symbolize the number of abortions performed in Canada each year. (Incidentally, this same photograph was the one published by the BBC, which took the photo from Canadian Press).

I respect that this event has meaning for you. And I agree that the photograph is impressive. But in truth, the size and scale of the event was similar to many events that happen on Parliament Hill on a variety of issues that also receive little or no national coverage. Not every protest or demonstration is newsworthy, and there's no reason to conclude that the decisions made about this event were based on ideology or bias.

Next, the New Brunswick story:

This was not a story about whether abortion should or should not be legal. Rather, it was a story about a new phenomenon – the closure of the Morgentaler Clinic a few months earlier had prompted women to travel to Maine to procure an abortion.

The issue had taken on some prominence in the province, as the newly elected Premier-designate had weighed in, pledging to ease regulations in place that made it challenging for some women to have an abortion in a provincial hospital.

That meets a reasonable definition of news – something significant had changed (the private clinic had closed). In response, another change: some people made a surprising choice (to go to Maine). Now, the provincial government was signalling that it wanted to change public policy as a result.

In covering this story, we tried to give people information they need to draw their own conclusions about what is right. That includes pro-life supporters who may otherwise not have realized their new Premier seems intent on making it easier for New Brunswick women to have an abortion in a public hospital. Indeed, he took a step down that path just today.

It troubles me that you appear to feel we have an agenda -- we take very seriously our responsibility to cover controversial issues such as this with in a fair and balanced way. And we take this feedback of yours seriously as well.

I hope this response has reassured you of the integrity of our news service. And thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

Jack Nagler

Director, Journalistic Public Accountability and Engagement

CBC News

CBC Radio-Canada

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca>

Your concerns about CBC News coverage choices.

1 message

Jack Nagler <jack.nagler@cbc.ca> Wed, Nov 26, 2014 at 11:55 AM
To: "Ombudsman, CBC" <ombudsman@cbc.ca>, Jennifer McGuire <jennifer.mcguire@cbc.ca>

Dear

Thank you for your Oct. 13th email to the CBC Ombudsman in which you say CBC failed to report significant news. Jennifer McGuire has asked me to reply on her behalf. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding.

Your concern centred around how CBC News treated two separate events.

The first is a pro-life demonstration on Parliament Hill in which 100,000 blue and pink flags were planted to represent the number of abortions performed in Canada each year.

The second is the news that several New Brunswick women had travelled to Maine to have an abortion.

"Why do you cover the fact that 6 women from NB choose an abortion in the USA, but ignore the fact that over 80 pro-life volunteers participated in a demonstration of over 100,000 pink & blue flags on parliament hill last week," you asked." "Your coverage should be balanced and without bias. It's not."

I regret that you are disappointed with CBC News. But, with respect, I do not share your point of view here. Please allow me to explain why.

First, regarding the event on Parliament Hill:

It is untrue that this event went uncovered by CBC News. There were two mentions online. One came on our popular politics blog from CBC News reporter Kady O'Malley the morning of the event to indicate it was happening. The other was to include a picture in our This Week in Politics photo gallery http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/photos/anti-abortion-campaign-on-parliament-hill-1.2786835 that showed the 100,000 flags planted on Parliament Hill to symbolize the number of abortions performed in Canada each year.

A0059230_13-000135

A0059275_1-000170

I respect that this event has meaning for you. And I agree that the photograph is impressive. But in truth, the size and scale of the event was similar to many events that happen on Parliament Hill on a variety of issues that also receive little or no national coverage. Not every protest or demonstration is newsworthy, and there's no reason to conclude that the decisions made about this event were based on ideology or bias.

Next, the New Brunswick story:

This was not a story about whether abortion should or should not be legal. Rather, it was a story about a new phenomenon – the closure of the Morgentaler Clinic a few months earlier had prompted women to travel to Maine to procure an abortion.

The issue had taken on some prominence in the province, as the newly elected Premier-designate had weighed in, pledging to ease regulations in place that made it challenging for some women to have an abortion in a provincial hospital.

That meets a reasonable definition of news – something significant had changed (the private clinic had closed). In response, another change: some people made a surprising choice (to go to Maine). Now, the provincial government was signalling that it wanted to change public policy as a result.

In covering this story, we tried to give people information they need to draw their own conclusions about what is right. That includes pro-life supporters who may otherwise not have realized their new Premier seems intent on making it easier for New Brunswick women to have an abortion in a public hospital. Indeed, today he took steps to do just that.

It troubles me that you appear to feel we have an agenda -- we take very seriously our responsibility to cover controversial issues such as this with in a fair and balanced way. And we take this feedback of yours seriously as well.

I hope this response has reassured you of the integrity of our news service. And thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

Jack Nagler

Director, Journalistic Public Accountability and Engagement

CBC News

CBC Radio-Canada

CBC Ombudsman <ombudsman@cbc.ca>

Your concerns about CBC News coverage choices

1 message

Jack Nagler <jack.nagler@cbc.ca> Thu, Nov 6, 2014 at 9:39 AM
To: "Ombudsman, CBC" <ombudsman@cbc.ca>, Jennifer McGuire <jennifer.mcguire@cbc.ca>

Dear

Thank you for your Oct. 9th email to the CBC Ombudsman in which you say CBC failed to report significant news. Jennifer McGuire has asked me to reply on her behalf.

Your concern centred around how CBC News treated two separate events.

The first is a pro-life demonstration on Parliament Hill in which 100,000 blue and pink flags were planted to represent the number of abortions performed in Canada each year. You say CBC did not cover this event, in contrast with the BBC, which did.

The second is the news that several New Brunswick women had travelled to Maine to have an abortion. CBC reported on this development in a way you described as "a 1000 word diatribe on how oppressive New Brunswick regulations are to women's 'rights'".

I regret that you are disappointed with CBC News. But, with respect, I do not share your point of view here. Please allow me to explain why.

First, regarding the event on Parliament Hill:

It is untrue that this event went uncovered by CBC News. There were two mentions online. One came on our popular politics blog from CBC News reporter Kady O'Malley the morning of the event to indicate it was happening. The other was to include a picture in our This Week in Politics photo gallery http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/photos/anti-abortion-campaign-on-parliament-hill-1.2786835 that showed the 100,000 flags planted on Parliament Hill to

A0059231_3-000155

A0059276_1-000173

symbolize the number of abortions performed in Canada each year.

Incidentally, that same photo was used in the same manner by BBC News. They picked it up from Canadian Press.

I respect that this event has meaning for you. And I agree that the photograph is impressive. But in truth, the size and scale of the event was similar to many events that happen on Parliament Hill on a variety of issues that also receive little or no national coverage. Not every protest or demonstration is newsworthy, and there's no reason to conclude that the decisions made about this event were based on ideology or bias.

Next, the New Brunswick story:

This was not a story about whether abortion should or should not be legal. Rather, it was a story about a new phenomenon – the closure of the Morgentaler Clinic a few months earlier had prompted women to travel to Maine to procure an abortion.

The issue had taken on some prominence in the province, as the newly elected Premier-designate had weighed in, pledging to ease regulations in place that made it challenging for some women to have an abortion in a provincial hospital.

That meets a reasonable definition of news – something significant had changed (the private clinic had closed). In response, another change: some people made a surprising choice (to go to Maine). Now, the provincial government was signalling that it wanted to change public policy as a result.

In covering this story, we tried to give people information they need to draw their own conclusions about what is right. That includes pro-life supporters who may otherwise not have realized their new Premier seems intent on making it easier for New Brunswick women to have an abortion in a public hospital.

I hope this response has reassured you of the integrity of our news service.

Sincerely,

Jack Nagler

Director, Journalistic Public Accountability and Engagement

CBC News