[insert date]

Mr. Claude Doucet

Secretary General

CRTC

Ottawa, Ontario

K1A 0N2

Dear Mr. Doucet:

**Re: VOICES Application by Ethnic Channels Group Limited (OBCI)**

 **Broadcasting Notice of Consultation CRTC 2018-2017**

 **Application 2017-1043-4**

I am writing on behalf of **[name of organization]**. We wish to express our support for the Voices application by Ethnic Channels Group Limited.

***[Please provide a brief description of your organization and why it is interested in this process. For example, your organization may be involved in promoting cultural understanding, integrating new Canadians into Canadian society, supporting youth from your community or other matters.***

***You might explain why it is important from the perspective or your organization for new Canadians and Canadians that speak languages other than English or French to have access to Canadian programming, such as news and information, in their own language. This can be especially important for newcomers to Canada, for example.]***

***[Please indicate specifically why your organization supports the Voices Application*. *For example, you could express your support for some of the following features of the application. Please explain why these features are important to you or your organization:***

We are pleased to express our specific support for the following parts of Voices' application:

- Voices will provide programming for Canada's diverse ethnic communities in multiple languages at the same time. This proposal means that different communities will be able to access a significant amount of information and news content in their own languages on a regular basis throughout the week.

- This is an important innovation in ethnic television, which currently offers programming only in one language at a time – and is therefore limited in what it can offer to each community.

- Voices will offer 10 different language feeds in the first year of operation, 15 in the second, 20 in the third year and 25 in the fourth year. In addition to this, Voices will always offer programs in at least 25 languages each month.

- At least 90% of Voices' programming will be in third-languages and at least 90% will be ethnic programming targeted to different diverse communities.

- At least 80% of Voices' programming will consist of Canadian and international news and information programming, which is in high demand in my community. The television landscape already offers access to entertainment content in a range of languages, but television news and information content from Canada is not as available.

- Voices will be true to its mandate by ensuring at least 75% of the broadcast day and 85% of the evening broadcast period (6:00 pm to midnight) consists of Canadianprogramming for diverse Canadian audiences.

- Voices will offer at least three different regional feeds, to service different communities throughout Canada with at least 40 hours a week of local and regional programming.

- Voices will dedicate at least 60% of its total revenue to support Canadian programming, which is a substantial commitment.

- Voices will offer at least 170 hours or original Canadian programs each week.

- Voices has proposed programs that will be directly relevant to ethnic communities such as *Welcome to Canada* (to assist with integration into Canadian life), *Her Voice* (featuring women from different ethnic communities), and informative *Documentary programming*.

- Voices plans to create exciting original programs such as a multicultural performing arts series and a national multicultural broadcasting awards show.

- Voices will also provide access to other programs such as children's program and some of the world's best international entertainment and lifestyle programs.

- At a wholesale fee of $0.23 each month, Voices will be an affordable part of a cable or satellite service.

- Voices is operated by an experienced Canadian ethnic broadcast company that already provides Canadians with access to some of the most popular third-language content available in the world today.

By providing this letter, we are pleased to express our full support for the Voices application. We understand that this letter will be made publicly available through the CRTC's website.

Yours truly,

Name: [provide full name]

Title: [provide title]

Name of Organization: [provide organization name]

Address: [provide address]

E-mail address: [provide e-mail address]