



# Nelligan O'Brien Payne

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**August 10, 2010**

## **Francophone group (SOS-CBEF) supports the Commissioner of Official Language's legal recourse against CBC/Radio-Canada**

OTTAWA – Today, August 10, 2010, the Commissioner of Official Languages filed an application in Federal Court to challenge cuts to French language programming in the Windsor area. Local community organization SOS-CBEF announced that its members will be asking to be added as a party to the legal proceedings.

Today's Application comes after the Commissioner investigated over 800 complaints from the public related to CBC/Radio-Canada's decision to cancel all programs produced and broadcasted locally by the CBEF station in Windsor. (See attached 2009 media release). CBC/Radio Canada did not respond to the Commissioner's recommendations.

*"SOS-CBEF was formed to ensure a local voice for francophones affected by the CBC/Radio Canada decision. The committee has brought together students, business people, educators, retirees, and other residents. These people are very concerned that this loss could drive people to English language media and lead to a further loss of their language, culture and identity",* said Nicole Larocque, President, SOS-CBEF.

**CBEF AM 540 Windsor** delivers francophone programming to a vast area of 30,000 square kilometers – encompassing about 35,000 francophones and nearly 50,000 people who can express themselves in the French language. **It is the only French-language station available in this area.**

*"The French-language minority community should have access to the tools it needs to ensure its survival. In fact, CBC/Radio-Canada is obligated to take positive steps to promote the vitality and support the development of any affected official language minority community. The elimination of local programming in Windsor, much like the recent changes to the Canadian census, undermine the ability of this community to protect its future. Because of the importance of this service, community representatives want to support the application, and will be participating as a party to the Application",* said Sean McGee of the law firm Nelligan O'Brien Payne, lawyers for SOS-CBEF.

### **Background information:**

Attached: 2009 media release from Nelligan O'Brien Payne re legal action to order CBC/Société Radio-Canada to maintain vital French language programming.

Link to Commissioner of Official Languages media release:  
[http://www.ocol-clo.gc.ca/html/release\\_communique\\_10082010\\_e.php](http://www.ocol-clo.gc.ca/html/release_communique_10082010_e.php)

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