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Taxpayers Federation warns new Streaming Tax will make life more expensive

FRANCO TERRAZZANO

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation is criticizing the federal government for announcing a new tax on online streaming services.

“The federal government should be doing everything it can to make life more affordable and that means cutting taxes, not imposing new ones,” said Franco Terrazzano, CTF Federal Director. “Canadians have every reason to worry this new tax will mean higher prices to stream their favourite music, movies and TV shows.”

Today, the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission announced it’s “requiring on-line streaming services to contribute five per cent of their Canadian revenues to support the Canadian broadcasting system.”

“These obligations will start in the 2024-2025 broadcast year and will provide an estimated \$200 million per year in new funding,” according to the CRTC.

“As Canada’s affordability crisis remains a significant challenge, the government needs to avoid adding to this

burden,” said Graham Davies, President and CEO of the Digital Media Association, who likened the announcement to a “discriminatory tax.”

“At a time when affordability is a major concern, Canadian consumers should prepare for a new Bill C-11 fee on their bill,” warns University of Ottawa Law Professor Michael Geist.

“If the Trudeau government wants to know why this is a bad idea, all it has to do is listen to what the prime minister said in 2018, when he warned higher taxes would be passed onto consumers,” Terrazzano said.

“The reality is that taxpayers will be the ones to pay those taxes,” said Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in 2018 when asked about streaming platforms paying higher taxes. “We ... promised not to raise taxes for taxpayers who are already paying enough for their digital subscriptions and Internet.”

CANADIAN TAXPAYERS ASSOC.

The Brooks Bombers covered home plate on Sunday ahead of their game against Swift Current 57s but they didn't get a chance to take the field as the game was postponed due to weather until July 10 at 7:05 p.m. On Saturday the Bombers hosted the 57s but the game was called in the sixth inning due to wind and rain. Swift Current was leading in the sixth inning 18-13 to take the win. As of Monday the Bombers were 10th overall in the league after 17 games with five wins and 12 losses. Swift Current is in 11th with 15 games and four wins and 11 losses. The Bombers were scheduled to play the 2024 expansion team Saskatoon Berries (7-10) in Saskatoon on Tuesday. | SANDRA M STANWAY PHOTO