

## Director-General's Report

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Where has all the time gone? Summer is into its last full month and I hope all our readers have had a great summer break - we take those very seriously in the “Great

White North.”

While summer can be slow, surprisingly it has been a busy few months since our last edition of *NABAcaster*. C-Band continued to have our attention with another FCC call for public comment about a new proposal that would further reduce spectrum historically used for broadcasting. The proposal would see 370 megahertz (MHz) of the 500 MHz of satellite C-Band reserved for broadcasting be auctioned off for 5G services and that lost bandwidth be replaced by fibre.

Not surprisingly, broadcasters feel strongly that this is simply not workable and while fibre is a reasonable backup to satellite delivery, it is not as dependable as satellite (which is the primary mode for delivery in North America).

NABA's spectrum group, under the guidance of Winston Caldwell (FOX) and Robert Weller (NAB), worked very hard over a very short time to prepare and submit our views. It was an extremely well done effort by everyone involved and can be viewed on [our website](#).

NABA and the World Broadcasting Unions (WBU) were also very active over the summer producing two important documents. The first was a WBU position on C-Band and its importance for program collection and delivery around the world.

The second was a position and a press release supporting the implementation of the IP standards in SMPTE 2110 and the EBU Technical Pyramid for Media Nodes, which groups the various standards and captures all the elements required for a full IP-production facility. Many of these standards are completed but have yet to be implemented by manufacturers (with the result that building an all IP production

and network facility, as CBC/Radio-Canada is doing, is fraught with challenges). John Lee, the

NABA-TC and WBU-TC Chair, undertook this document work and found a consensus on both documents from broadcasters in North America and around the world. This can be viewed on the [WBU website](#). Bravo, John!

The Radio Committee has been occupied reinventing itself by focussing on a new agenda and renewing its leadership. Please take note of the details in the article by Jenn Hadfield.

Additionally, our Resilience & Risk Committee has taken the last few months to plan another Roundtable, hosted by Bell Media on September 24<sup>th</sup> in Toronto. The agenda has a range of material including lightning protection for crews in the field, Electrical Health and Safety (EHS), environment audits and election planning. The Roundtable provides the opportunity for operations/production and health and safety specialists to share their issues and exchange best practises. For more details, please see the article in this issue.

As this issue of *NABAcaster* goes to print, our Technical Committee and Board of Directors will meet at the end of August. Both agendas are full of timely items with the TC focussed on IP facilities, file format specifications for common metadata to be included in SMPTE IMF and BXF standards for easy implementation, spectrum issues and WRC-19, the repack, and ATSC 3.0. In other words, a very full day. Our Board has been focussed on a wider NABA strategy in this era of mega mergers and the continued development and proliferation of OTT and streaming services. NABA has always prided itself on timely and relevant action on behalf of its membership. The NABA Directors want to ensure that this relevancy is front and center as we move forward.

Speaking of relevancy, NABA will be hosting a one-day Symposium on Cybersecurity and Media over IP (MoIP) on March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020 in New York, hosted by Disney/ABC. Many of you will recall the one-day Symposiums we did a few years ago on each subject; they were timely, full of great content and very well attended. We'd like to revisit each subject for half a day to assess where we are, what have we

learned and to understand what new challenges lay ahead. Please make a note in your calendar and when registration opens later this fall, sign up early since this will be a popular event.

On the WBU front, we've had some changes in the International Media Connectivity Group (IMCG). After three years of chairing this group, John Ball has stepped down since his departure from Turner (now WarnerMedia). John is a great leader - I look forward to his return and I thank him for his guidance. We have been very fortunate to have Morwen Williams, Head of U.K. Operations for BBC Newsgathering, step up to chair this group and the twice-annual forums. Morwen is a distinguished leader in news operations and will bring both energy and experience to her role. I very much look forward to working with her. Coincidentally, the next Forum is being hosted by the BBC in their Salford/Manchester facilities on November 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>, so Morwen will be on her home turf for her first Forum as Chair. For a great recap of John's last Forum, please see our cover story.

I'd be remiss if I failed to mention that our Legal Committee at NABA along with the WBU Broadcaster Treaty Working Group are hoping for a breakthrough at the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)'s General Assembly late this September. This has been on our agenda for twenty years and I, like many of you, almost roll my eyes on this subject. But it's important that we get a global framework for signal protection in the digital age we now enjoy (or put up with). There has been a great deal of work done to create a consensus on a framework for a Treaty to move forward. Let's hope this work starts to come to fruition beginning with the WIPO GA.

As you can see, NABA has remained busy this season as we prepare for the fall. I know many of you will start next month with a trip to the IBC. I will be on a panel at the conference on Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup> talking about radio in North America and its relevancy in a connected world. If you're there and interested, please drop in for an hour. The WBU-TC will meet on the afternoon of the 15<sup>th</sup>, and there are many speakers and interesting sessions where I'm sure our paths may cross. Enjoy the last days of summer and I look forward to seeing you over the coming months. □