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Comments:

Forty years ago broadcasting regulations were introduced requiring cable companies to pay a levy on gross revenues. That money supported
volunteers producing local television in their communities. Starting at 10%, over the years it was reduced to 5% and then 3% but in 2015 that still amounted to $130 million. It was enough to support participation by thousands of individuals across Canada.

Since at the beginning growing companies had big expenses, meaning big tax deductions, the community channel levy was often the only tax they paid.
Fees were set by the regulator so income was reliable. Cable distribution turned out to be a good business, the basis for the wealth of some of Canada's richest families.

These same companies are now Canada's main internet service providers. Today's internet delivers foreign podcasts and chat rooms, mainly American, just like cable did forty years ago. Some independent individuals rocket to fleeting fame but the valuable intellectual property is controlled by a few large companies, just like the movie studios and TV networks years ago.

In fact modern information technology is so tightly centralized that the only Internet tax being proposed today is targeted at consumers to further benefit a few copyright owners who seem powerfully motivated to restrict the creativity of others.

Back in 1975, when regulators decided to foster a Canadian identity by making cable companies finance local groups, from villages to city neighbourhoods, they were onto something. It wasn't perfect, but story by story that participation has transformed our country over the years.

In those early days we were a world leader. We set an example to follow. To give Canadian citizens today the chance to work together and be outstanding on the World Wide Web, Canada needs a levy on the gross revenues of internet service providers.;