

Cable TV sale needs CRTC approval

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agreement, which was signed March 13, Hindley says they have been assured that little or no staff changes will be made.

"And as part of the sale, Shaw will be required to spend money on significant benefits for the subscribers," he says.

"And for Lakeshore, they are going to be looking at improving the quality of the cable systems."

When combined with Cablecasting's 326,000 subscribers across Canada, Shaw will move from being the number five cable operator in Canada

to number three, says Hindley. "Hopefully what this is going to mean for subscribers is more channels," he says. "That's what's usually foremost in people's minds."

Although the financial details of the proposed sale have not yet been made public, Hindley says that once the deal becomes a public document, the details will be posted in Terrace Bay, probably at the municipal office.

For now, everything hinges on the CRTC approval, which, Hindley says, could take up to a year.

"And they have turned back a few applications for purchase," he says. "So this is by no means a *fait accompli*."

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P. Richardson
Chair

D.I. McQuarrie
Director

Northern Insights —casinos no cure

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eagle and the white buffalo in the casino's logo, but not in advertisements.

On the legal front, the National Native Gaming Commission, given authority by the U.S. Congress to regulate reserve casinos, has ruled that video slot machines and keno games are illegal on reserves in Minnesota and South Dakota, because they're not allowed in gaming houses outside reserves in those states.

Frank Ducheneaux, a lobbyist for the reserve casinos' organization, the Minnesota Native Gaming Association, says "three or four or five lawsuits will drop almost immediately" to challenge the ruling. Those lawsuits are estimated to be in the court system for at least two years, costing taxpayers and the casinos nearly \$2 million in legal fees.

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