

CTV's decision to replace national news anchor and senior editor Lisa LaFlamme is a loss not only to the network's viewers, but a loss to Canadian journalism and Canadian women as well.

It is troubling that the station has not identified any concrete reasons for removing arguably one of the most talented, award-winning, and recognized women in journalism today.

In her Twitter post announcing her release from CTV, Ms LaFlamme notes she is 58 years old. Statistics Canada data show in 2021 there were approximately 7.7 million women aged 50 and over in Canada, and approximately 1.36 million in the age group 55-59:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=1710000501&pickMembers%5B0%5D=1.1&pickMembers%5B1%5D=2.3&cubeTimeFrame.startYear=2017&cubeTimeFrame.endYear=2021&referencePeriods=20170101%2C20210101>

Removing a well-known public figure in this large demographic from the national news, reportedly after more than a decade on the desk and 30+ years into her career, lowers the number and visibility of older, experienced Canadian women in powerful journalism roles and results in a loss of their perspective in determining and delivering national news.

We believe as one of Canada's largest broadcasters such a move deserves a better explanation from CTV than "changing viewer habits". Right now, it smacks of discrimination on ageism and gender.