

 <b>Save Up To 70%</b> 10 Year Level Term Life Insurance Male/Female Monthly Premiums No Nicotine	\$250,000		\$500,000		 <b>ReliaQuote</b> A Better Way to Buy Life Insurance <b>CLICK HERE FOR INSTANT QUOTES</b>	
	AGE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE		FEMALE
	35	\$10.22	\$9.14	\$16.10		\$13.92
	45	\$18.49	\$15.44	\$32.63	\$26.54	

Sample rates underwritten by Lincoln National Life Insurance Company.

Welcome, Guest

[Personalize News Home Page](#) - [Sign In](#)

**Yahoo! News** Sat, Feb 14, 2004

Search  for   Advanced

## Canada Condemns 'Racist' Conan O'Brien TV Show



Fri Feb 13, 3:26 PM ET

 [Add Entertainment - Reuters to My Yahoo!](#)

By David Ljunggren

OTTAWA (Reuters) - Canada's government on Friday condemned a show by U.S. late-night television host Conan O'Brien that insulted people in French-speaking Quebec and seemed to suggest everyone in the province was homosexual.



[Canadian Press Photo](#)

Ottawa and the province of Ontario paid \$760,000 to help O'Brien -- who appears on the NBC television network -- bring his show to Toronto for a week to boost the city's profile after a deadly SARS ([news](#) - [web sites](#)) outbreak last year.

But the federal government said O'Brien had gone far too far with the show broadcast on Thursday in which he went to Quebec, a province which has had separatist governments for much of the last 20 years and is a delicate political topic in Canada.

"We want to disassociate ourselves from the comments which were broadcast last night because we do not support them in any way," junior government minister Mauril Belanger told Parliament.

At one point in the show, Triumph the Insult Comic Dog -- a hand puppet that is a regular on the show -- said to a Quebecer: "You're French, you're obnoxious and you no speakay English." It told another: "I can smell your crotch from here."

O'Brien's team were also shown replacing street signs in the province with those that read "Quebecqueer Street" and "Rue des Pussies."

Alexa McDonough, a legislator for the left-leaning New Democrats, described the program as "racist filth" and "utterly vile" and demanded the government seek the return of the C\$1 million subsidy.

"There may be those who would say, 'Isn't this interfering with freedom of expression?' It's not interfering to say we will not publicly fund this kind of vile, vicious hatemongering," McDonough told reporters.

Belanger did not commit to asking for the money back. No one at NBC was immediately available for comment.

The complaints over the puppet's comments come on the heels of a similar uproar following criticism of European French-Canadian hockey players on CBC television by the country's best-known sports commentator, Don Cherry.

The "Late Night" show, which taped in Toronto all this week and featured guests such as Jim Carrey ([news](#)) and Mike Myers ([news](#)), was broadcast in Canada by CHUM television, which said it regretted any offense that may have been caused.

"We offer our apology and assurance that it is never our intention to air programming that offends any of our viewers," the station said in a statement.

Triumph the Insult Comic Dog has landed in trouble before, most famously when it had an altercation with rap singer Eminem ([news](#) - [web sites](#)) at a music awards show in 2002.

 [Email Story](#)

 [Post/Read Msgs \(3879\)](#)

 [Formatted Story](#)

**Ratings:** Would you recommend this story?

Not at all **1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5** Highly

**Avg Rating: 3.43, 1771 votes**

---

Next Story: [Jane Fonda Joins March Over Mexico Juarez Murders](#) (Reuters)

More [Entertainment Stories](#)

- [Janet Jackson Awarded for Charity Work](#) (AP)
  - [Former Tour de France winner Pantani found dead](#) (AFP)
  - [Dying to win an Oscar? Go grim](#) (USATODAY.com)
  - [Gibson Denies His 'Jesus' Film Anti-Semitic](#) (Reuters)
  - [Gibson Defends 'The Passion of the Chris'](#) (AP)
- 

Copyright © 2004 Reuters Limited. All rights reserved. Republication or redistribution of Reuters content is expressly prohibited without the prior written consent of Reuters. Reuters shall not be liable for any errors or delays in the content, or for any actions taken in reliance thereon.

Copyright © 2004 Yahoo! Inc. All rights reserved.

[Questions or Comments](#)

[Privacy Policy](#) - [Terms of Service](#) - [Copyright Policy](#) - [Ad Feedback](#)