



Robert A. Morin
Secretary General
Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission
Ottawa, Ont. K1A 0N2

July 7, 2008

Re: Application No.2008-0678-9 Seaside Broadcasting
Organization, Eastern Passage NS

Dear Secretary General,

325 Dalhousie, Suite 230
Ottawa, Ontario K1N 7G2
(613) 321-1440
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Executive Director / Directeur Général
Kevin Matthews

Membership Coordinator /
Coordinatrice des Adhésions
Afeisha James

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1. The National Campus and Community Radio Association/l'Association nationale des radios étudiantes et communautaires (NCRA/ANREC) supports the application of member station Seaside Broadcasting Organization CFEP-FM ("Seaside FM") to make technical amendments to its broadcasting license. Seaside FM wishes to change its frequency from 94.7 MHz to 105.9 MHz and change its authorized contours by decreasing its effective radiated power and increased its effective antenna height. These amendments are intended to address problems encountered in implementing a power increase previously approved in Broadcasting Decision CRTC 2007-389.
2. The NCRA/ANREC is a not-for profit national association working to recognize, support and encourage not-for profit, volunteer-based, public access campus and community-based broadcasters in Canada. We provide advice and advocacy for individual stations, and conduct lobbying and policy development initiatives with a view to advancing the role and increasing the effectiveness of our sector.
3. Since 2002, Seaside FM has been serving residents of Eastern Passage, which is an historic community located at the southeastern edge of Halifax Harbour, within the Halifax Regional Municipality. Eastern Passage was historically tied to the fishing industry, and is still used as a refuge for fishing vessels.
4. Eastern Passage was and continues to be the home of a substantial body of traditional east coast music. In the 1920s and 30s, a number of Eastern Passage residents were important sources of Canadian folk songs and stories to Nova Scotia folklorist Helen Creighton. Keeping this traditional music alive and contributing to its growth are among the goals of Seaside FM.
5. While Seaside FM is not the only not-for-profit broadcaster in the Halifax Regional Municipality, it is the only one that specifically covers news and events of Eastern Passage. Further, it is the only one targeted to mature residents of the region who are

National Campus and Community Radio Association
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familiar with Eastern Passage's important musical history.

6. As a testament to Seaside FM's commitment to traditional east coast music, it has already been nominated five times as "East Coast Radio Station of the Year" by the East Coast Music Association since it began operating in 2002.
7. Consistent with the *Community Radio Policy* (Public Notice CRTC 2000-13), Seaside FM is bringing local content and voices to Canadian airwaves. It is also giving effect to the *Broadcasting Act* (1991, c. 11), which calls for broadcasters to "safeguard, enrich and strengthen" the cultural fabric of Canada. As a result of the community's appreciation for its efforts in these areas, Seaside FM has developed a strong and dedicated audience during its 6 years on the air.
8. In 2007 Seaside FM made a successful application to the CRTC for an increase in power to better serve its community (Broadcasting Decision CRTC 2007-389); unfortunately, the decision could not be implemented due to interference issues. The community was naturally disappointed, as community leaders and volunteers had worked together to conduct successful funding drives, collect letters of support, and raise awareness of the station with the goal of improving Seaside FM's reception and increasing its coverage to serve a greater proportion of residents in the Halifax Regional Municipality.
9. We are pleased to note that after additional research and fundraising efforts, Seaside FM has found a technical solution that will enable it to move forward with its planned power increase. We hope this solution will be satisfactory to both the Department of Industry and the CRTC.
10. The NCRA appreciates the Commission's previous support for Seaside FM's plans to increase its power. Approving Seaside's current application will allow the intent of the Commission's previous decision to take effect. In light of this and the special role that Seaside FM plays for listeners in Eastern Passage and the Halifax Regional Municipality, the NCRA respectfully encourages the Commission to approve Seaside FM's application for amendments to its technical parameters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Matthews". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "K".

Kevin Matthews, Executive Director
for Thomas A. Richmond
Board Member,
NCRA/ANREC

cc: Seaside Broadcasting Organization