



NCRA/ANREC
325 Dalhousie, Suite 230
Ottawa, Ontario, K1N 7G2

June 20, 2011

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

Dear Secretary General:

RE: Broadcasting Notice of Consultation CRTC 2011-336, Cortes Community Radio Society Application 2011-0470-3

1. The National Campus and Community Radio Association/ l'Association nationale des radios étudiantes et communautaires (NCRA/ANREC) writes in support of the application by Cortes Community Radio Society for a broadcasting licence to operate an English-language community radio programming undertaking on Cortes Island, BC. If there is an opportunity to speak at a hearing, we would like to appear.
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 the sector.
3. Cortes Island is one of the Discovery Islands within the Georgia Straight. The Discovery Islands contain large provincial parks, reservation lands, and rural communities within Klahoose First Nation's territory. Cortes Island is inhabited by approximately 1,500 year-round and 3,000 summer residents; adjacent to Cortes Island, Quadra Island consists of approximately 2,500 year-round residents. The applicant, Cortes Community Radio Society (CCRS), seeks to broadcast to the communities of Cortes Island, Quadra Island, Savory Island, Read Island, Murelle and Rendezvous Islands, Stuart and Sonora Islands, and the village of Lund.
4. Cortes Community Radio Society (CCRS) incorporated in 2004 with 40 dedicated members whose goal was to obtain a broadcasting licence from the CRTC. CCRS has

worked hard since then to secure a tower location and obtain an Industry Canada broadcast certificate. This process involved seeking permission from land-use authorities for six (6) different potential tower site locations before finally obtaining permission to implement a tower on Thunder Rd., Cortes Island, in late 2009. CCRS endured these delays well and has gathered momentum, reporting 110 active members and volunteers in 2009. Since its inception, CCRS has put considerable time and effort into internal organizational development, which resulted in well-developed policy documents, volunteer contracts, training and outreach materials, and a variety of revenue streams.

5. In 2004, CCRS became a member of the NCRA. They have sent delegates to the regional Campus and Community Radio Conference held in 2004, and to the National Community and Campus Radio Conference in 2010, where they gained valuable training and information.

6. Life for residents of the Northern Discovery Islands depends on ferry transportation. Campbell River (36,500 residents), which is outside CCRS's proposed contours, is the nearest major urban centre to Cortes Island. Traveling there requires two ferries and approximately two hours of travel time. The region is subject to weather-related service and power interruptions, risk of forest fires, and increased summer passenger volumes that can delay ferry service. CCRS seeks to provide timely ferry information, news and other locally-relevant information, and emergency broadcasting services to all nearby island and harbour communities of the Northern Discovery Islands region. Currently, Cortes Island's only other local news source is a two-page, weekly flyer, which highlights the importance of CCRS's services.

7. CCRS is also dedicated to accessibility and diversity, to integrating the communities of the Northern Discovery Islands, and to providing opportunities for local residents to get involved. They promote their services and opportunities at regional and local events, and through advertising purchased in each of the region's community flyers. They provide training for secondary-school youth, and individuals from Cortes Island Senior's Society, the Klahoose First-Nation, and others. They also provide important community and public service information to raise awareness of local community services. They also provide business development opportunities to local businesses that have few other options for local advertising.

8. In addition to CCRS's commitment to offer local news, and cultural and educational programming for children and the Klahoose First-Nations, they are also committed to local talent development, and to promoting and showcasing local artists. CCRS currently presents concerts and events at the island's two community halls, and helps to produce and promote other community events that showcase provincial, regional, and local artists. They also provide opportunities for artists, writers and performers to participate in on-air performances and radio plays and a compilation CD, and they plan to work with local arts and music festivals and concert series to broadcast content from those events.

9. Although CCRS has been broadcasting without a licence while attempting to obtain approval for a tower site, and therefore has not adhered to the Industry Canada and CRTC

licensing and approval requirements, the NCRA/ANREC has been working with CCRS to help them become licenced as soon as possible. From our perspective, CCRS volunteers have worked diligently to complete and submit their application documents despite a significant number of obstacles, and they recognize the importance of following the proper licensing procedures.

10. We think it is significant that CCRS has trained its volunteer programmers to fulfill all current CRTC licensing requirements, and that CCRS board and staff are well-informed about required programming content and conditions of licence for community radio stations. We also believe that CCRS's outstanding accomplishments over the last several years, experience successfully providing effective broadcasting services to Cortes Island community, and ongoing community support and participation bode well for CCRS's future as a licenced community radio station. CCRS is more advanced than many new community radio stations in terms of its internal development and community involvement, and we encourage the Commission to recognize their progress.

11. The NCRA/ANREC believes that community radio services are particularly important in rural and remote communities where transportation and emergency broadcasting services, local news and information, and exposure for local artists may otherwise be lacking. In our experience, community radio can bring community members together and contribute to community development in unique and valuable ways. We therefore encourage the Commission to approve the application of CCRS and allow them to continue providing these important services.

Sincerely,



Freya Zaltz
Regulatory Affairs Director
NCRA/ANREC

Dustin Ellis
Board of Directors
NCRA/ANREC

cc: Cortes Community Radio Society

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