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Commission
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0N2

Monday May 14, 2012

Re: 2011-1475-1 CIWS-FM Technical amendment (Change
the station's low power non protected status to a protected
class A status)

Secretary General,

1. This is a letter of support for the technical amendment application of CIWS-FM WhiStle Community Radio. If there is a hearing we would like the opportunity to appear.
2. The National Campus and Community Radio Association (NCRA) is a not-for-profit group committed to volunteer-driven, non-profit, community-oriented radio across Canada. Our goals are to ensure stability and support for individual stations and the long-term growth and effectiveness of the sector. We currently have more than 80 members, including CIWS-FM.
3. WhiStle Community Radio serves Whitchurch-Stouffville, a rural community of approximately 39,000 people in the Greater Toronto Area. According to their calculations, the station's current signal strength of 50 Watts reaches about 2000 township residents, leaving a remaining 37,000 under-served.
4. The station's proposed power increase would reach the rest of their community. This would also ensure their frequency is protected from encroachment by other applicants. This is particularly important as CIWS-FM is an official emergency broadcaster in their area, registered with the Emergency Medical Services of York Region and the York Regional Police.
5. By virtue of the topography of the town, to reach the rest of Whitchurch-Stouffville, the proposed increased contours of CIWS-FM would also include other nearby communities like Aurora and Uxbridge. Because the emergency

notification systems are regional, they include information about these communities. CIWS-FM has said they would broadcast all emergency notifications that affect their broadcast area. The station also already has volunteers from these areas and says they are open to recruiting more.

6. The station is also well-known in the area for its live coverage of their local Ontario Junior Hockey League team, the Stouffville Spirit. Residents who cannot access the station over the air may access the stream online, but in the past this was limited and was often at full capacity during games. Also, given that the demographics of the area include many seniors, terrestrial broadcast is a more familiar and affordable option than online access for many. We believe this is another good reason to increase the station's coverage area to better serve local residents.

7. We also believe the station has strong community support, evidenced by the number of letters it received in regards to this application.

8. We note that the station may have been non-compliant regarding four years of annual returns. They have outlined the reasons this happened, including past management issues, analog financial data, moving premises and, potentially, an out-of-date contact remaining on file with the Commission.

9. We are told that since finding out about these concerns, the current directors have digitized their financial records, re-contacted the Commission to ensure all mailing and email addresses are up to date, assigned compliance support roles to directors, and been in touch with the NCRA to apprise themselves of best practices in compliance for the sector.

10. In addition to ensuring that all future Annual Returns are filed on time, we are also told that they have also committed to examining other station practices, so that they may not be caught unawares again.

11. Given WhiStle Community Radio's current service to its community and its strong local support, as well as the steps it has taken to ensure compliance moving forward, we encourage the Commission to approve the station's technical amendment application.

Thank you,



Shelley Robinson
Executive Director

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