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November 1, 2013

John Traversy
Secretary General
Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0N2

Re: Application No. 2013-1002-8 (Hornby Community Radio Society)

Secretary General,

1. The National Campus and Community Radio Association/l'Association nationale des radio étudiantes et communautaires ("NCRA/ANREC") supports the application of Hornby Community Radio Society ("HCRS") for a broadcasting license to operate an English-language low-power community FM radio programming undertaking on Hornby Island, BC. If there is a hearing, we may wish 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 our sector. We currently have 85 members and HCRS has recently expressed interest in joining our association.
3. Membership with the NCRA/ANREC will allow HCRS to receive regulatory support, as well as other tools, advocacy, and networking opportunities within the sector. We are told that the station intends to place regulatory compliance on the agenda for every monthly board meetings, and use that opportunity to review the NCRA/ANREC's Regulatory Support Guide. It is our understanding that they have also always filed their Annual Returns on time.
4. Hornby Island is one of the Northern Gulf Islands off the B.C. Coast. It is located in the Strait of Georgia, across the water from Vancouver Island's Comox Valley. The year-round population of the community is approximately 900 people, although in the summer months the population can increase significantly due to tourism.
5. The NCRA/ANREC understands that HCRS has been operating as a developmental station since its application was approved in August 2010. It is proudly 100 percent volunteer-run and has more than 180 members, with 40-50 on-air volunteers. These numbers, particularly in such a small community, indicate a high level of local community engagement. Hornby Island has a strong arts community, which includes many of the HCRS volunteers.

National Campus and Community Radio Association /
Association nationale des radios étudiantes et communautaires

6. HCRS believes the requested power increase would allow them to reach the majority of Hornby Island's population and foster greater community involvement. This will significantly improve the station's coverage, since currently only a portion of Hornby Island residents can receive the station's signal.

7. We are informed that HCRS' broadcast schedule is entirely locally-produced and the station is proud of the diversity of its programming, the accessibility of its facilities, as well as its connection to the local elementary school. Its relationship with the school includes providing a dedicated show for students, and opportunities for students to drop-in on other programming. They also broadcast local news and public service announcements, and maintain a good working relationship with the local fire department. They have provided informal emergency broadcasting services in the past in the context of local fires.

8. As part of its outreach to the local Aboriginal community, HCRS has also expressed interest in the NCRA/ANREC's "Resonating Reconciliation" project where they can apply for funding to help recruit and train local Aboriginal programmers to produce a 30-minute documentary on the legacy of Indian Residential Schools in their community.

9. We recognize the efforts HCRS volunteers have made over the last three years to develop an organization for this purpose, and to develop the infrastructure and capacity to carry out the goal of operating a community radio station. Therefore, we support the application by HCRS for a license to operate an English-language low-power community FM radio programming on Hornby Island so that it may continue providing this important service to the Hornby community. We encourage the Commission to approve this application.

Thank you,



Johnnie Regalado
Director,
NCRA/ANREC



Freya Zaltz
Regulatory Affairs Director
NCRA/ANREC Advisory Board

Cc: Hornby Community Radio Society

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