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November 1, 2013

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

**Re: Application No. 2013-1180-3 (Nakusp Community Radio Society)**

Secretary General,

1. The National Campus and Community Radio Association/l'Association nationale des radios étudiantes et communautaires (NCRA/ANREC) supports the application by the Nakusp Community Radio Society ("NCRS") to acquire from Nakusp Roots Music Society ("NRMS") the assets of the community radio programming undertaking CJHQ-FM and obtain a new licence in order to continue the operation of CJHQ-FM under the same terms and conditions as those in effect under the current licence. If there is a hearing, the NCRA/ANREC 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. CJHQ-FM is a member of the NCRA/ANREC.

3. Nakusp is a small community located on the shores of Upper Arrow Lake in the mountainous West Kootenay region of British Columbia. The village has a population of approximately 1,800 people. Residents of Nakusp are minimally served by local media, and CJHQ-FM provides the only locally-originating radio broadcast in the area.

4. The NCRA/ANREC believes that NCRS is an ideal organization to operate CJMQ-FM, as its sole mandate is to provide community radio service to Nakusp. Pursuant to this mandate, we are confident that NCRS is capable of ensuring that the community continues to receive the type of ongoing public-access community radio service contemplated by the Community Radio Policy. We also believe that the proposed transfer of assets and license from NRMS to NCRS will ensure that there is no disruption of the local community radio service currently enjoyed by Nakusp residents.

5. We are told that under the current management of NCRS, CJHQ-FM has filed their annual returns on time for the last two years. NCRS has also informed us they intend to make compliance a standing agenda item for their Board of Directors. As part of that effort, they intend to review the content of the NCRA/ANREC's Regulatory Support Guide at every Board meeting, ensuring that all Directors understand the station's regulatory requirements. They also intend to conduct a regulatory self-audit using materials provided by the NCRA/ANREC to identify and correct any deficiencies in their

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programming and operations. As members of the NCRA/ANREC, CJHQ-FM will also benefit from our ongoing efforts to ensure that all member stations understand the annual returns requirements and submit their completed returns on time.

6. To further ensure quality programming, community outreach, and regulatory compliance, NCRS has expressed interest in finding funding to hire station staff. The station was a past recipient of Community Radio Fund of Canada (“CRFC”) funding and will be applying again in the future, as well as looking for additional sources of revenue. The previous CRFC grant allowed CJHQ-FM to produce a multi-hour documentary on the surrounding Columbia Basin. This highly-localized and informative production was well received by the Nakusp community. NCRS also maintains a good working relationship with the local fire department, having acted as an informal emergency broadcaster in the past.

7. NCRS is committed to community radio as a vehicle for community development, information sharing and fun, and the station is constantly looking for new ways to involve local community members. One of their programmers, who produced more than 100 episodes of a blues program, was in a wheelchair and has since passed away. CJHQ-FM accommodated this volunteer by bringing production equipment and offering training at the volunteer’s home in order to ensure that he could produce his radio program. They continue to air his archived shows. This demonstrates the NCRS’ commitment to provide access and accommodation to radio airwaves for those who do not typically receive it.

8. NCRS do not currently charge a membership fee to members as they feel it is a barrier to access, and allow anyone in the community to become a member. They intend to initiate a process in the near future to strengthen and codify their membership requirements, and they intend to amend their by-laws at the next annual general meeting.

9. NCRS also has the ongoing support of Nakusp community organizations, including the Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy (“CBAL”), who are the original founders of CJHQ-FM and first received a developmental licence in 2005, prior to the involvement of NCRS. CBAL continues to provide the station's operational space, free of charge. NCRS’ board of directors formerly had a representative from the CBAL, and when she resigned, a new representative from CBAL joined the Board.

10. The NCRA/ANREC supports this proposed transfer in the interests of maintaining a community radio station in Nakusp. We support the efforts of NCRS to continue developing CJHQ-FM, and to provide local residents with an opportunity to enjoy and participate in locally-produced radio.

Thank you,



Johnnie Regalado,  
Director  
NCRA/ANREC



Freya Zaltz  
Regulatory Affairs Director  
NCRA/ANREC Advisory Board

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