



NCRA-ANREC  
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June 19, 2015

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

Secretary General,

**Re: Broadcasting Notice of Consultation CRTC 2014-0910-3 - Renewal CICR-FM  
Parrsboro, Nova Scotia**

1. I am writing on behalf of the National Campus and Community Radio Association/ l'Association nationale des radios étudiantes et communautaires ("NCRA/ANREC") in support of the application by Parrsboro Radio Society ("PRS") to renew the licence for the English-language low power community radio station CICR-FM operating out of Parrsboro, Nova Scotia.

2. The NCRA/ANREC is a not-for-profit, national association that supports, recognizes and encourages non-profit, public-access, volunteer-based campus and community broadcasters across Canada. We provide advice and advocacy to our member stations, and also conduct lobbying and policy developing initiatives throughout the campus and community radio sector with the intent of progressing the role, growth and effectiveness of this sector of Canadian broadcasting. The NCRA/ANREC's goals include ensuring stability and support for member stations, and to promoting long-term growth and effectiveness within the sector. We currently represent more than 85 members, including PRS.

3. PRS serves the town of Parrsboro in the Cumberland County of Nova Scotia on the Bay of Fundy. The region has a population of just over 1,300 residents and is separated from other nearby towns and villages. During the summers it is a tourist destination and home to the world's highest tides. The region is not currently served by any other community radio station. PRS formed out of community support for a series of special event radio broadcasts in Parrsboro. In September 2008, PRS successfully applied for an English-language low-power Type B community FM radio licence. They have been serving the Parrsboro community for the last 7 years.

4. During the terms of their current licence, PRS has provided unique opportunities for the Parrsboro community to access the airwaves. For example, PRS put together a radio program as part of the Grade 11 and 12 history curriculum. This program provided the local youth with opportunities to develop skills in broadcasting and communication through interviewing local musicians, artists associated with the local theatre, and leaders in the community. It also served to create greater awareness among the community of upcoming events. PRS's programming includes frequent information about local news, weather, sports, and events, as well as a variety of spoken word and music programs including bluegrass, old-time country, and contemporary Canadian artists.

5. We are told that PRS has had as many as 75 volunteers involved at the station and have a current membership of 35. They have received support from their local MP, MLA and Mayor for the broadcast undertakings, and have received awards and recognition for their work. The station has also received support from the local theatre company and district's Board of Trade, and estimates that as much as 60% of the local population listens to the station.

6. With respect to revenue, our understanding is that PRS operates with a relatively lean budget. They raise funds for their operations through selling local advertising, conducting weekly radio bingo, and collecting annual membership dues. PRS has also been pursuing grants at the town and county level to further build upon the long-term sustainability of their organization.

7. The NCRA/ANREC is aware that PRS has been found in apparent non-compliance with sections 8(1)(c), 8(4), 8(6) and 9(2) of the Radio Regulations. We are told by PRS that they have now submitted any unfiled or incomplete annual returns, and implemented new audio and print logging systems. We are also told that they have new directors, committees, and bookkeeper, and are working on implementing new bylaws and bookkeeping procedures. We have not yet had an opportunity to confirm in detail the steps PRS have taken to prevent future non-compliance, although we have provided information to them about best practices and have offered (and will continue to offer) support to the station in addressing these issues.

8. PRS enjoys strong community support and has developed some excellent initiatives that are clearly within the spirit of the Campus and Community Radio Policy (2010-499). We believe PRS has the potential to be a strong community radio station that serves its community well,

and for that reason we encourage the renewal of their broadcast licence.

8. We note that a balance must be achieved between the Commission's need for oversight of a non-compliant station and the burden placed upon that station in terms of additional administrative procedures. We ask that the Commission take this into account with respect to the renewal of PRS's licence and any monitoring and shortened renewal period that the Commission may see fit to impose.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Regalado', enclosed within a large, stylized oval flourish.

Johnnie Regalado  
President  
NCRA/ANREC Board of Directors

cc: Parrisboro Radio Society (CICR-FM)

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