



NCRA/ANREC
180 Metcalfe Street
Suite 608
Ottawa, Ontario, K2P 1P5

October 23, 2015

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

Secretary General,

Re.: Broadcasting Notice of Consultation CRTC 2015-0579-4

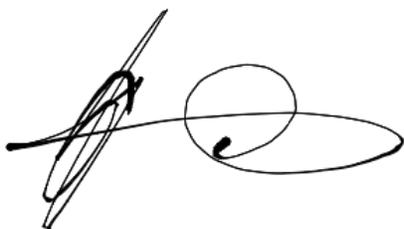
1. This is a letter of support for the application of Voice of Aurora Community Radio ("VACR") for a broadcasting licence to operate an English-language low-power FM community radio programming undertaking in Aurora, Ontario. If there is an appearing hearing, we wish to appear.
2. We are writing on behalf of the National Campus and Community Radio Association/L'Association nationale des radios étudiantes et communautaires ("NCRA/ANREC"), which is a not-for-profit national association working to recognize, support and encourage not-for profit, volunteer-based, public access campus and community-based ("c/c radio") 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 represent 89 not-for-profit radio stations.

3. VACR are new members of the NCRA/ANREC. Their membership will allow them to receive regulatory support as they develop their station, as well as other tools, advocacy, and networking opportunities within the sector.
4. Aurora is a historic town of approximately 59,000 people located in the York Region of the Greater Toronto Area ("GTA"). Many Aurora residents commute to Toronto and surrounding communities. A large auto parts factory contributes significantly to the local economy, which has also offered sponsorship for the new station. The town has sizeable Italian, Russian, Persian, Chinese and Spanish speaking communities.
5. Aurora has numerous service and community-building organizations, and an active arts community that includes a community theatre group and a number of fairs and festivals. Among the city's recreation facilities is the Aurora Family Leisure Complex, where VACR will be based. The proposed station is supported by the Aurora Town Council, which recently approved a \$10,000 budget increase to renovate a space for the station.
6. With respect to programming, we are told that VACR has developed plans for a number of unique programs. For example, the Aurora Family Leisure Complex also hosts the Aurora Youth Centre (AYC), and we are told that VACR is also planning a partnership with AYC to offer youth ages 13-18 the opportunity to broadcast five days per week, between 4-6pm. They are also planning a show about parenting hosted by a local professional, as well as business-oriented programming in collaboration with the local business community and the Chamber of Commerce. The Festival of Aurora and VACR are discussing a 'Live-Remote' broadcast from the festival. VACR is also planning a live show for local musicians to demonstrate their work, and will devote a significant proportion of their Canadian Content to music by local artists.
7. VACR reports that over 75 people have indicated interest in volunteering, and they expect this number to increase to between 110 and 140. They are planning a partnership with Sheridan College, whereby second year broadcasting students will have access to the station's broadcast studio and will work with the station's leadership to help train community members to operate the equipment. They have designated a Board member to ensure ongoing regulatory compliance. Three of their board members are 'Citizens of the Year' for the City of Aurora, and civic engagement is one of their top priorities.
8. Aurora is not currently served by any of its own local radio stations. CBC One and CBC Two broadcast from Toronto to Aurora. Aside from a number of commercial stations originating in the GTA whose signals reach Aurora, the nearest two commercially-licensed radio stations that broadcast to Aurora are adult contemporary stations from Barrie and Newmarket. Despite the selection of terrestrial radio stations, listeners in Aurora have no sources for local information. We therefore believe that Aurora would benefit from a community-access radio station like the one proposed by VACR.

9. We recognize the efforts of VACR volunteers to create a new organization for this purpose, and to begin developing the infrastructure and organizational capacity to carry out this goal. Based on our interactions with them, they appear to be well-organized and have developed a considerable amount of community support.

10. The NCRA/ANREC therefore supports the efforts of VACR to establish a community radio station and we intend to offer assistance and resources to them as they continue to develop their proposed radio service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'O' followed by a series of loops and a horizontal line.

Ophira Horwitz
Board of Directors, Regulatory Affairs Committee
NCRA/ANREC

Geneviève Dale
Board of Directors, Regulatory Affairs Committee
NCRA/ANREC

A handwritten signature in black ink, featuring a large 'B' and 'R' with '2015' written below.

Barry Rooke
Executive Director
NCRA/ANREC

cc: Voice of Aurora Community Radio

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