



325 Dalhousie, Suite 230
Ottawa, ON K1N 7G2
(613) 321-1440 | www.ncra.ca

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30th Annual NCRC - June 2010
host station Gabriola Radio
Gabriola Island, BC

Re: Broadcasting Notice of Consultation CRTC 2009-661 Review of community television policy framework

22 January 2010

Dear Secretary General,

1. The National Campus and Community Radio Association / l'Association nationale des radios étudiantes et communautaires is a non-profit group of organizations and individuals committed to volunteer-based, community-oriented radio broadcasting. We are dedicated to advancing the role and increasing the effectiveness of community radio in Canada and work closely with other regional and international community radio organizations to provide developmental materials and networking services to our members, to help represent the sector to government and other agencies and to promote public awareness and appreciation for community-oriented radio in Canada.
2. Our members' mandate includes public access to community media, the engagement of citizen producers of broadcast content, and other similarities with the mandate of community television. We share some key values with CACTUS, and we support their efforts to improve the community television system in Canada.
3. We can attest that community ownership and control are effective in community radio, insofar as they ensure that a station empowers its community to participate in the governance, operation, and programming of the service. We can attest to the success of this model; it ensures that our stations produce so much quality relevant local programming, that they support local arts and culture, and that they contribute to the diversity of voices in the broadcasting system. Further, the institutional structure of our stations makes kinds of programming and services possible that are not possible in a private-sector context.
4. We agree with CACTUS that the value of community-ownership and control applies to all forms of community media including television.

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

5. CACTUS' proposal also addresses public access broadcasting on new media platforms. Ensuring public access to means of New Media production will be a challenge in Canada. However it may be addressed, it is clear to the NCRA that a) there is currently not a mechanism for funding public-access to new media production/dissemination, and b) whatever system is built in the future will have to build on existing infrastructure, including that of the community-based radio sector.

6. As the future of community media will depend on open participation and dialogue with all existing stakeholders, we have a working relationship with CACTUS and are observing with interest their proposals and participation in the Community Television Policy review.

7. We ask to appear at the Community Television Policy Review hearing, in order to elaborate on the points above, and to address any new issues and developments that may arise between now and the hearing.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Matthews". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "K".

Kevin Matthews

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