

Reference Letter: Karl Domes as a Candidate for the NCRA Volunteer of The Year

When Karl Domes first arrived at CFUR in September 2013, both Ian, the Program Director, and myself, Music Director, went straight to the Station Manager. "Fraser, we don't know who this guy is, but he wants to read poetry about clouds on air." After a brief deliberation, Fraser assured us that this strange new volunteer was probably fine. He was incredibly right: Karl is by far the most valuable volunteer we've ever had.

Since his time at CFUR began, Karl has been instrumental in the shaping of the station. He has joined our Board of Directors, and has joined two subcommittees: our merchandising committee and our Northern BC Audio Archive committee (which works to create an archive of Northern British Columbian Music). Both of these memberships require a significant amount of time and effort on top of his already heavy volunteer workload. He has spent long hours working with me to design t-shirts, and has written up documents for the implementation and creation of the Northern BC Audio Archive.

Karl has singlehandedly processed every single piece of local music submitted to the Northern BC Audio Archive: he spends a minimum of ten hours a week up at the station, ripping and adding new music, always with a smile. I can honestly say that I have next to no input what is going on with the musical content of the Northern Audio Archive: I simply trust that Karl will get it done and choose wisely. And that he does: every week, I enjoy Karl's program, The Yellowhead Café, where he speaks enthusiastically about the local music he's found that week. Karl has an impeccable feel for what music fits with our station, and we all trust him completely. He has never let us down. With the limited amount of time we have to run our busy departments every week, it is such a relief to know that such an important project is in such extremely competent hands.

Karl has created invaluable musical relationships for our station by simply showing up at local shows and expressing his love for CFUR in the sincere and effusive way that only he knows how. He has a regular spot on CBC Daybreak North every month, where he goes in and talks about his favourite local songs of the week. His slot was supposed to be a one-time thing until the producers got so much positive feedback that they asked him to have a recurring segment. His kind words and enthusiasm about our station and our project are broadcast across Northern BC every month, amplifying interest in CFUR and our mission.

When I was sad a few weeks ago, Karl played me a song he had written on his guitar until I felt better. Karl jokes with us, thinks with us, and we are richer for it. Karl is the spirit of community radio personified, giving of his time and heart and ideas and asking for nothing in return but some time to play the music he likes on air. I am truly stymied when I try to comprehend what our station would be like without Karl's dedication and enthusiasm. On a more personal note, I am stymied to think of what us staff would do without Karl's kind words and good humour. Karl has been with us for a year and has already found himself an essential member of the CFUR team. We are truly humbled by his dedication, and so grateful for his presence at our station. Karl's spirit reminds us of why we love community radio so much.

In closing, I hope that you agree that Karl deserves to be named Volunteer of The Year, because he's given so much and asked for nothing in return. He's an incredible volunteer, and an even better person. We would just like to show him that his efforts are recognized and valued by not only CFUR, but by all of the NCRA due to his amazing contributions to community radio in Canada.

Sincerely,

Jordan Tucker

Music Director

CFUR Radio Society