



NCRA-ANREC
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Ottawa, Ontario, K1N 7G2

Robert A. Morin, Secretary General
Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0N2

Application No. 2010-0111-4

April 3, 2010, 2010

Dear Secretary General,

1. The National Campus and Community Radio Association/l'Association nationale des radios etudiantes et communuataires (NCRA/ANREC) supports the application by the Nakusp Roots Music Society ("NRMS") for authority to run the English-language low-power Type B community FM radio programming undertaking, Nakusp Community Radio ("CJHQ"), under the same conditions as the former licensee, the Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy ("CBAL"). The NCRA also supports the acquisition of the assets of the CBAL by the Society. The NCRA does not wish to appear at the hearing.

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.

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. Citizens of Nakusp are minimally served by local media, and CJHQ provides the only locally-originating radio broadcast in the area.

4. Nakusp Community Radio was started by the CBAL in 2005, and the station was co-managed for a time by CBAL staff, and a staff person from School District #10. In 2008, the CBAL staff member who managed the radio station left her employment, and the organization approached the NRMS with a proposal to take over the license and operation of CJHQ. Since that time the society has expanded upon the work of the station founders.

5. The NRMS is a locally-based and highly successful community-driven initiative which was developed approximately eight years ago to produce a music festival in Nakusp. The festival's ongoing success is known throughout the region, and the village council recognizes the yearly event as a key economic generator. This success has allowed the NRMS to develop a reliable infrastructure of staff, volunteers and project management experience which they can use for the benefit of the station.

6. The station's governance structure involves both the NRMS board and a radio advisory committee which directs the day to day operation, and assists in fundraising and programming. This committee operates under a terms of reference document approved by the NRMS board. The organization is currently developing policy, training volunteers and actively conducting outreach in their community. The station, managed by NRMS since 2008, appears to be running smoothly, and there is every indication that it has the capacity to ensure the continued success of the station.

7. As reflected in their programming schedule, the NRMS has expressed a commitment to our sector objectives of community-access, local content, and diversity of voices.

8. As the NCRA/ANREC has stated in our recent presentation to the Commission during the Campus and Community Radio Policy Review, it can be very difficult for small stations like CJHQ to produce much quality spoken word programming locally, as it is so labour intensive, and may also require more technology than is available to a small station. Therefore, in addition to their locally produced spoken word programming, Nakusp Community Radio is supplementing their spoken word programming by importing several programs produced by larger stations, including an established French-language program from nearby Nelson, B.C. In terms of expanding their locally-produced spoken word content, the society has expressed the hope that a pending funding application to the Community Radio Fund of Canada ("CRFC") will allow them to develop a documentary series on local history. The station is also committed to ongoing outreach in their own community to recruit local volunteers to produce spoken word programming.

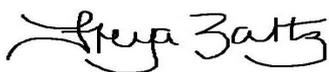
9. CJHQ is situated in a heavily-forested part of the Southern Interior, a region that has seen numerous forest fires and other emergencies in recent years. Since it is the only local broadcaster in town, the station has plans to purchase a generator to ensure that it can broadcast information to local residents in emergency situations, and they have a stated goal to provide service during those times to the extent that they are able. The station is already connected with their local ferry operator, which links Nakusp to other local communities that cannot be reached by road, and they announce closures or other changes of service when these issues arise.

9. The NCRA/ANREC is supportive of this proposed transfer in the interests of maintaining a community radio station in the Village of Nakusp. We believe that the NRMS has the ability to ably fulfill all the requirements of the Broadcasting Act and Community Radio Policy, and to provide local residents with an opportunity to enjoy and participate in locally-produced radio.

Sincerely,



Catherine Fisher
Regulatory Affairs Committee
NCRA/ANREC



Freya Zaltz
Regulatory Affairs Director
NCRA/ANREC

cc: Nakusp Roots Music Society

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