



NCRA-ANREC
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September 2, 2015

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

Secretary General,

Re: Broadcasting Notice of Consultation CRTC 2015-0777-4

1. We are writing on behalf of the National Campus and Community Radio Association/l'Association nationale des radios étudiantes et communautaires ("NCRA/ANREC") in support of this technical amendment requested by Radio Waterloo, Inc. (CKMS-FM). CKMS-FM is an NCRA/ANREC member. We request an opportunity to appear if there is a hearing.

2. The NCRA/ANREC is a not-for-profit national association working to recognize, support, and encourage volunteer-based, non-profit, public-access campus and community-based broadcasters in Canada. We provide advice and advocacy for

individual campus and community (“c/c”) stations, and conduct lobbying and policy development initiatives with a view to advancing the role and increasing the effectiveness of our sector. Our goals are to ensure stability and support for individual stations, and to promote the long-term growth and effectiveness of the sector. We currently represent more than 85 not-for-profit member radio stations.

3. CKMS-FM is a community station broadcasting in Waterloo, a small city in Ontario. Waterloo is well known for its high tech industry and is considered part of Canada’s “Technology Triangle”. The region also boasts a strong knowledge-based economy, and a productive agriculture sector.

4. CKMS-FM was licenced in 1977, but the station’s history goes back to 1964 when a group of University of Waterloo students started a student-run program on a local AM station. Several student and community groups broadcast via FM cable and other technologies throughout the 1960s and 1970s until CKMS-FM was licensed as Ontario’s third Campus radio station in 1977.

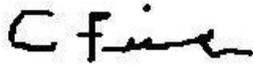
5. In 2008, the station lost its student funding levy from the University of Waterloo, and CKMS-FM has since struggled to find new ways to fund its operations. They are currently relocating their studio to a smaller location in Kitchener, which will help decrease their expenses, and they have successfully obtained some grant funds to help the station grow and better serve the community.

6. CKMS-FM has about 30 programmers broadcasting in 8 different languages. They have recently been increasing their outreach efforts to improve community engagement in the station, including arranging for programmers to DJ and MC at local events, connecting with local high school students, and finding opportunities to support local musicians and artists and get them on air and incorporated into the station’s music library. They are also currently working to re-establish a local newsroom and provide relevant local and regional news.

7. CKRZ-FM, a Six Nations and Mississauga First Nations community station originating in Onkwehon, Ontario, has applied for a technical amendment to increase its signal strength (CRTC 2015-0776-6). If this technical amendment is approved, CKMS-FM’s signal will be affected, as the stations are co-channel. We are told that CKMS-FM and CKRZ-FM have discussed the fact that CKRZ-FM’s proposed upgrade would be difficult to achieve if CKMS-FM remains on their current frequency, and CKRZ-FM has offered to pay CKMS-FM’s costs to change their frequency and eliminate the potential for interference.

9. We are pleased that CKMS-FM and CKRS-FM were able to find a mutually acceptable solution to the potential interference in this case, and we are therefore pleased to support this application by CKMS-FM for a technical amendment. We therefore encourage the Commission to approve the application.

Sincerely,



Catherine Fisher
NCRA/ANREC External Policy Committee



Freya Zaltz
Regulatory Affairs Director
NCRA/ANREC Advisory Board



Barry Rooke
Executive Director
NCRA/ANREC Advisory Board

C/c
Radio Waterloo Inc. ("CKMS-FM") Waterloo, ON

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