

Thursday, April 1<sup>st</sup> 2010

**RE: NCRA Awards, Volunteer of the Year**

Dear National Campus and Community Radio Association,

My name is Stephanie Kepman and I am the Station Manager at CHUO 89.1 FM. I am writing to you today to nominate Doug Ralph for a NCRA award in the category of Community Development.

Doug's involvement includes his radio show, various community activities, and even extends outside the Ottawa community.

Doug's involvement with CHUO began in the fall of 2007 with the creation of his radio show, "Do You Hear What I Hear?" (DYHWIH). This two-hour weekly program focuses on newly released music from across Canada, with a special focus on the Ottawa music community. It explores the stories and theme of the music played. DYHWIH has given many Canadian and local bands, performers and music enthusiasts their first exposure to radio, or more importantly, Campus and Community radio. Throughout the years, DYHWIH has established a strong local, national and international fan base with listeners in Taiwan, the United States, Australia and even Iraq.

When not hosting his own radio show, Doug is frequently called upon to provide "fill in" programming when an emergency strikes and a programmer is unable to fulfill his or her duties. Doug is also a member of CHUO's Board of Directors, serving as Anglophone Volunteer Representative. This entails Doug regularly attending CHUO monthly Board of Directors meetings and participating in decisions that affect the direction of the station.

Doug is also involved in the local Ottawa music community. Every Wednesday, Doug represents CHUO in the community as an Emcee of a local Indie music night. The night, which was actually co-created by Doug, helps bands get their start in the Ottawa music scene, creates an environment where artists, photographers, and management can come together and network. The night has also proved to be an excellent tool for promoting community radio.

Doug's emcee night has proven to be so successful that the model is being introduced to other cities to help unite artists and community radio. Outside of his duties on this indie music night, Doug is often invited to come out to shows in Ottawa, Toronto, Montreal and Kingston, to interview, film, and interact with artists, which he does while proudly wearing his CHUO shirt.

Doug has also given a significant number of bands their first radio interviews, introducing them to the power of community radio. Their shows are also filmed and edited by Doug, for the purpose of promoting the artists online and attracting more listeners to 'Do You Hear What I Hear?' To date there has been more than 50 videos made for artists, which are viewable at: <http://www.youtube.com/doyouhear891> .

Doug has proven to be so generous with his time, that not only does he give back to the Ottawa music community, but communities all over Canada. With modern technology, his show can be and is heard all over the world via the Internet. While Doug appreciated this international exposure, he wanted to ensure that he was celebrating the unique nature of community radio and its mandate of promoting local interests. He wanted to celebrate this and decided to embark on a two week, East coast road trip.

During the fall of 2009, Doug and his co-host, Nebraska visited different campus-community radio stations and the communities they serve along the East Coast of Canada. The trip had the hosts of DYHWIH bringing the music of Ottawa artists to the airwaves of Fredericton (CHSR 97.7FM), Halifax (CKDU 88.1FM) Antigonish (CFXU 93.3 FM) Montreal (CJLO 1690 AM) and Toronto (CHRY 105.5 FM). Doug had the chance to experience the different campus-community station he visited and bring home stories about his adventures, something you could never accomplish online.

In conclusion, it's obvious that Doug Ralph's contributions to the community have been significant; He gives back to the radio community, the music community, the community of Ottawa and even to various communities along the East Coast. Doug embodies the spirit of community giving.

Thank you,

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