

Kootenay Co-op Radio (KCR) Policy: Diversity of Opinion

1.0 Introduction

KCR is committed to diversity in its programming content and encourages a multiplicity of viewpoints as a representation of those voices that are traditionally under-represented in mainstream media.

Given that Kootenay Co-op Radio does not offer a representative sample of programs reflecting the many areas of Public Concern to support its principles of programming balance, each program dealing with matters of Public Concern is required to contribute to balanced programming.

This policy concerns the expression of opinions and personal viewpoints by programmers on Kootenay Co-op Radio. It aims to help programmers create shows which may advocate a specific philosophy or position but which, at the same time, are balanced enough to hold the attention of a broad cross-section of listeners.

A diversity of opinions is encouraged. This does not mean that every time a programmer or an on-air guest expresses an opinion on one side of an issue, she or he is required to broadcast an opposing opinion. But some degree of balance is needed, and this policy outlines basic requirements.

1.1 Definitions

Public Concern - Involves moral, ethical and social issues including religion and politics.

Religious - Concerning an organized system of belief in deities or divinities.

1.2 Related Policies and Procedures

Programme Probation and Programme Discontinuation Policy

Programming Objectives

CRTC Public Notice 1988-161

CRTC Public Notice 1993-78

2.0 Statement of the show's philosophy

For spoken word shows, hosts must air a brief statement of the purpose of the show, the general approach to be taken, and the social, political, spiritual, or other philosophy of the show. This summary should be the same every week because it should refer to the show in general and not a specific episode, and it should not be more than a few sentences in length.

3.0 Respect

When advocating a specific position or philosophy, or discussing opposing opinions or the people who hold them, programmers must speak respectfully. While programmers or their guests may forcefully argue their opinions or their disagreement with opposing opinions or the people who hold them, they may not ridicule or belittle them.

4.0 Disclaimer

The station must broadcast, at least twice each day, a disclaimer explaining that the opinions expressed on the station are those of the presenters and not necessarily those of the station or its members or sponsors.

5.0 Religion

Programmers may provide information about a religion or a variety of religions or religious views, but may not promote a specific religion, deity, doctrine, guru, or religious teacher. Programs dealing with religion must not proselytize, preach, promote, or solicit. Religious programming must be locally produced and internally balanced.

6.0 Procedure

If the Programming Manager or the Programming Committee believe, or complaints from listeners indicate, that a specific show is not following this policy, the following procedure will be followed.

The Programming Manager will discuss the issue in detail with the complainants, with the Programming Committee, and with the programmer, using this policy and any other relevant policies as a guideline. If the Programming Manager then decides some action is needed, he or she will then inform the programmer about changes that must be made to bring the show in line with this policy, and assist the programmer in making those changes by providing ideas, suggestions, and feedback. If the programmer is unwilling or unable to make the required changes, the Programming Manager may invoke the Programme Probation and Programme Discontinuation Policy. An appeal may be launched by the programmer using the Conflict Resolution Policy

7.0 Implementation

This Policy replaces the Controversial Programming and Religious Programming policies.

The first version of this Policy was adopted on May 13, 2010.