



Broadcasting Decision CRTC 2023-87

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Reference: Part 1 licence renewal application posted on 29 September 2022

Ottawa, 22 March 2023

Wesley United Church Radio Board
St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador

Public record: 2022-0549-2

VOWR St. John's – Licence renewal

1. The Commission has the authority, pursuant to subsection 9(1) of the *Broadcasting Act* (the Act), to issue and renew licences for such terms not exceeding seven years and subject to such conditions related to the circumstances of the licensee as it deems appropriate for the implementation of the broadcasting policy set out in subsection 3(1) of the Act.
2. Consistent with that authority, the Commission **renews** the broadcasting licence for the English-language religious radio programming undertaking VOWR St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, from 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2030.¹ The Commission did not receive any interventions in regard to this application. The terms and **conditions of licence** are set out in the appendix to this decision.

Reminders

Local news

3. Radio stations are an important daily source of local news and information for communities. Holding a broadcasting licence comes with conditions, regulatory obligations and responsibilities, which include contributing to the Canadian broadcasting system by ensuring that Canadians have access to local programming that reflects their needs and interests and informs them of important current issues.
4. Although Broadcasting Regulatory Policy 2022-332 does not specify a minimum level of weekly news to be broadcast, it does specify the type of spoken word material that must be included as part of a station's local programming. In accordance with that regulatory policy, the Commission reminds the licensee that its station, in its local programming, must incorporate spoken word material of direct and particular relevance to the communities served, and that this programming must include local news, weather, sports coverage, and the promotion of local events and activities. In

¹ The original licence expiry date for the station was 31 August 2022. The licence was administratively renewed until 31 August 2023 as a result of Broadcasting Decision 2021-298.

addition, the Commission encourages the licensee to ensure that a reasonable amount of daily local news and information is made available to those communities.

Force and effect of broadcasting licences

5. Pursuant to section 22 of the Act, the broadcasting licence renewed in this decision will cease to have any force or effect if the broadcasting certificate issued by the Department of Industry lapses.

Practical guide for radio licence renewals

6. To learn more about the Commission's review of compliance with requirements relating to radio licences, and about the radio renewal process, please consult the Commission's [Practical guide to radio licence renewals](#).

Secretary General

Related documents

- *Revised Commercial Radio Policy*, Broadcasting Regulatory Policy CRTC 2022-332, 7 December 2022
- *Various radio and audio programming undertakings and networks – Administrative renewals*, Broadcasting Decision CRTC 2021-298, 30 August 2021

This decision is to be appended to the licence.

Appendix to Broadcasting Decision CRTC 2023-87

Terms, conditions of licence, expectations and encouragement for the English-language religious radio programming undertaking VOWR St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador

Terms

The licence will expire 31 August 2030.

Conditions of licence

1. The licensee shall adhere to the conditions of licence set out in *Revised conditions of licence for commercial AM and FM radio stations*, Broadcasting Regulatory Policy CRTC 2022-334, 7 December 2022, as well as to the conditions set out in the broadcasting licence for the undertaking.
2. The licensee shall, as an exception to the percentage of Canadian musical selections set out in subsections 2.2(8) and 2.2(9) of the *Radio Regulations, 1986* (the Regulations), in any broadcast week where at least 90% of the musical selections from content category 2 (Popular Music) that it broadcasts are selections released before 1 January 1981:
 - devote, in that broadcast week, a minimum of 30% of its musical selections from content category 2 to Canadian selections broadcast in their entirety; and
 - devote, between 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., in the period beginning on Monday of that week and ending on Friday of the same broadcast week, a minimum of 30% of its musical selections from content category 2 to Canadian selections broadcast in their entirety.

The licensee will also be responsible for specifying, on the music lists it provides to the Commission, the year of release for all musical selections it broadcasts.

For the purposes of this condition, the terms “broadcast week,” “Canadian selection,” “content category” and “musical selection” shall have the same meanings as those set out in the Regulations.

Expectations

Cultural diversity

The Commission expects the licensee to reflect the cultural diversity of Canada in its programming and employment practices.

Canadian emerging artists

Consistent with the Commission's determination set out in *Revised Commercial Radio Policy*, Broadcasting Regulatory Policy CRTC 2022-332, 7 December 2022

(Broadcasting Regulatory Policy 2022-332), the Commission expects the licensee to devote, in each broadcast week, at least 5% of the station's musical selections to selections from Canadian emerging artists broadcast in their entirety. The licensee should report annually on how it has met this expectation, including the percentage of selections from Canadian emerging artists out of the total number of musical selections that were aired, and the number of distinct artists whose music has been aired. The licensee should also be able to provide, upon request, information such as a list of all titles, artists, and International Standard Recording Code (ISRC) numbers.

For the purposes of the above paragraph, the definition of "Canadian emerging artist" is the same as that set out in paragraph 346 of Broadcasting Regulatory Policy 2022-332.

Indigenous musical selections

Consistent with the Commission's determination set out in *Revised Commercial Radio Policy*, Broadcasting Regulatory Policy CRTC 2022-332, 7 December 2022 (Broadcasting Regulatory Policy 2022-332), the Commission expects the licensee to include Indigenous musical selections on the station's playlist. The licensee should report annually on the amount of Indigenous content aired on the station throughout the broadcast year (i.e., from 1 September to 31 August), including the percentage of Indigenous musical selections out of the total number of musical selections that were aired, and the number of distinct artists whose music has been aired. The licensee should also be able to provide, upon request, information such as a list of all titles, artists, and International Standard Recording Code (ISRC) numbers.

For the purposes of the above paragraph, the licensee may use the provisional definition of "Indigenous-Canadian musical selection" set out in paragraph 441 of Broadcasting Regulatory Policy 2022-332 to determine whether a musical selection can be considered an Indigenous musical selection.

Encouragement

In accordance with *Implementation of an employment equity policy*, Public Notice CRTC 1992-59, 1 September 1992, the Commission encourages the licensee to consider employment equity in its hiring practices and in all other aspects of its management of human resources.