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March 8, 2019

NCRA/ANREC Community Radio Awards Committee

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to nominate John Harris Stevenson for a Community Radio Legend Award (also known as a Lifetime Achievement Award). I have known John for about 15 years and I have seen some of his contributions to the NCRA/ANREC and the campus and community radio sector first hand.

Starting in about 1986, he worked at both CKDU-FM and CFRU-FM and served on the NCRA/ANREC's board of directors, all before I met him. I became involved in the sector in 2003, just before he was appointed to the NCRA/ANREC's Advisory Board. Later he became a director and then president of the Community Radio Fund of Canada.

For more than 30 years John dedicated significant energy to the development of the campus and community radio sector in Canada, and remained involved through significant developments, changes, and upheavals. Since he first began, the sector has grown from a small handful of campus stations that made up a tiny portion of the country's media landscape, to over 160 campus and community stations across the country, over 100 of which are NCRA/ANREC members. John's contributions helped lay the groundwork for that development.

During my time on the NCRA/ANREC board, from 2003 to 2012, John assisted the NCRA board of directors (and me personally) with many projects, including providing input on our regulatory submissions and helping us determine our positions in various policy review proceedings, advising on procedures and strategies for working with and lobbying the CRTC and Heritage Canada, advising on the development of our proposed Code of Practice to be administered by the CRTC, and facilitating several board in-person meetings. He attended and presented numerous sessions at National Campus and Community Radio Conferences, and even traveled to Winnipeg to facilitate the NCRA board's strategic planning session in 2008. He presented at multiple CRTC hearings on the NCRA/ANREC's behalf, including the satellite radio proceeding, and he represented the NCRA/ANREC at several Copyright Board hearings. He also spent years developing and incorporating the Community Radio Fund of Canada, which has been of enormous assistance to the NCRA/ANREC and its members. Since 2012 he has continued to provide me and other NCRA/ANREC staff and volunteers with advice and feedback on broadcasting policy issues whenever we have requested his input.

Among John's most famous and valuable contributions are getting our sector's rate for SOCAN tariff 1B set at the low rate of 1.9% of gross operating costs (where it has remained for close to 30 years), and getting "community elements" added to section 3(1)(b) the Broadcasting Act, which describes the composition of the Canadian broadcasting system. These contributions have been very significant for our sector in terms of the money NCRA/ANREC members have saved on copyright tariffs and their ability to obtain recognition, protection, and support from the CRTC.

Most people who are involved in the campus and community radio sector presently have not met or heard of John since he has not been a visible contributor to the sector in recent years. However, I believe it is very important to formally thank him for his years of service, introduce him to a new generation of leaders in the sector, and show him that his contributions are valued.

Since this year's awards gala is being held in Toronto, fairly close to John's home in Ottawa, and since he has not yet received this honour, I believe it is time to give him a Community Radio Legend award.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Freya Zaltz', with a large, sweeping flourish underneath.

Freya Zaltz
NCRA Regulatory Affairs Director