



Broadcasting Decision CRTC 2015-275

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Reference: 2015-52

Ottawa, 22 June 2015

Natotawin Broadcasting Inc.
La Ronge, Saskatchewan

Application 2014-0765-1, received 8 August 2014

CJLR-FM La Ronge and its transmitters – Licence renewal

*The Commission **renews** the broadcasting licence for the Type B Native radio station CJLR-FM La Ronge and its transmitters from 1 September 2015 to 31 August 2021.*

This shortened licence term will allow for an earlier review of the licensee's compliance with the Radio Regulations, 1986.

Introduction

1. Natotawin Broadcasting Inc. filed an application to renew the broadcasting licence for the Type B Native radio station CJLR-FM La Ronge and its transmitters CIRN-FM Saskatoon, CJLR-FM-1 Montreal Lake, CJLR-FM-2 Denare Beach, CJLR-FM-3 Prince Albert, CJLR-FM-4 Regina, CJLR-FM-5 Yorkton, CJLR-FM-6 North Battleford, CJLR-FM-7 Meadow Lake, VF2298 Black Lake, VF2299 Fond Du Lac, VF2300 James Smith Reserve, VF2301 Shoal Lake and VF2332 Beardy's First Nation Reserve (Duck Lake), Saskatchewan. The licence expires 31 August 2015. The Commission did not receive any interventions regarding this application.

Non-compliance

2. Section 9(2) of the *Radio Regulations, 1986* (the Regulations) requires licensees to file an annual return by 30 November of each year for the broadcast year ending the previous 31 August. The specific filing requirements, including the requirement to submit financial statements, are set out in Broadcasting Information Bulletin 2011-795.
3. In Broadcasting Notice of Consultation 2015-52, the Commission stated that the licensee was in apparent non-compliance with section 9(2) of the Regulations relating to the filing of annual returns. Specifically, the licensee filed its annual returns for the 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 broadcast years from four to eight months after the 30 November deadline.

4. The licensee stated that budget cuts and decreases in revenue had forced it to reduce staff. It also stated that recruiting and retaining staff in northern Saskatchewan is difficult. As such, it is the comptroller who is responsible for most of the accounting data entry, which led to records not being completed by the expected deadlines. The licensee added that the comptroller has been advised that, going forward, annual returns must be filed by the required deadline.
5. In light of the above, the Commission finds Natotawin Broadcasting Inc. in non-compliance with section 9(2) of the Regulations for the 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 broadcast years.

Regulatory measures

6. The Commission's approach to non-compliance by radio stations is set out in Broadcasting Information Bulletin 2014-608. Under that approach, each instance of non-compliance is evaluated in its context and in light of factors such as the quantity, recurrence and seriousness of the non-compliance. The circumstances, the arguments provided by the licensee and the actions taken to rectify the situation are also considered.
7. Compliance with deadlines for the filing of complete annual returns is important because it enables the Commission to monitor a licensee's performance and compliance with regulations. Accordingly, the Commission considers the late or incomplete filing of annual returns a serious matter.
8. The Commission has examined the public record for this application and is satisfied with the licensee's explanations and with the measures it has put in place to address the non-compliance. Given the circumstances surrounding the licensee's non-compliance and the fact that this is the first licence term in which the licensee has been found in non-compliance, the Commission finds it appropriate to grant CJLR-FM a licence renewal term of six years rather than a full seven-year licence term.

Conclusion

9. In light of all of the above, the Commission **renews** the broadcasting licence for the Type B Native radio programming undertaking CJLR-FM La Ronge and its transmitters CIRN-FM Saskatoon, CJLR-FM-1 Montreal Lake, CJLR-FM-2 Denare Beach, CJLR-FM-3 Prince Albert, CJLR-FM-4 Regina, CJLR-FM-5 Yorkton, CJLR-FM-6 North Battleford, CJLR-FM-7 Meadow Lake, VF2298 Black Lake, VF2299 Fond Du Lac, VF2300 James Smith Reserve, VF2301 Shoal Lake and VF2332 Beardy's First Nation Reserve (Duck Lake), Saskatchewan, from 1 September 2015 to 31 August 2021. The licensee shall adhere to the **conditions of licence** set out in the appendix to this decision, as well as to the **conditions** set out in the broadcasting licence for the undertaking.
10. The shortened licence term granted in this decision will allow for an earlier review of the licensee's compliance with the Regulations.

Reminders

11. The licensee is responsible for filing complete annual returns on time. In addition, as set out in Broadcasting Information Bulletin 2011-795, it is the licensee's responsibility to ensure that all appropriate forms and documentation are included with its annual returns and to contact the Commission if further clarification is required.
12. Pursuant to section 22 of the *Broadcasting 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.

Secretary General

Related documents

- *Notice of applications received*, Broadcasting Notice of Consultation CRTC 2015-52, 18 February 2015
- *Update on the Commission's approach to non-compliance by radio stations*, Broadcasting Information Bulletin CRTC 2014-608, 21 November 2014
- *Filing annual returns for radio programming undertakings*, Broadcasting Information Bulletin CRTC 2011-795, 20 December 2011

**This decision is to be appended to the licence.*

Appendix to Broadcasting Decision CRTC 2015-275

Terms, conditions of licence and encouragement for the Type B Native radio programming undertaking CJLR-FM La Ronge and its transmitters CIRN-FM Saskatoon, CJLR-FM-1 Montreal Lake, CJLR-FM-2 Denare Beach, CJLR-FM-3 Prince Albert, CJLR-FM-4 Regina, CJLR-FM-5 Yorkton, CJLR-FM-6 North Battleford, CJLR-FM-7 Meadow Lake, VF2298 Black Lake, VF2299 Fond Du Lac, VF2300 James Smith Reserve, VF2301 Shoal Lake and VF2332 Beardy's First Nation Reserve (Duck Lake), Saskatchewan

Terms

The licence will expire 31 August 2021.

Conditions of licence

1. The licensee shall devote at least 35% of its musical selections from content category 2 (Popular Music) in each broadcast week to Canadian selections broadcast in their entirety.

For the purposes of this condition of licence, the terms “broadcast week,” “Canadian selection,” “content category” and “musical selection” shall have the same meanings as those set out in the *Radio Regulations, 1986*.

2. If the licensee originates 42 or more hours of programming in any broadcast week, the licensee shall adhere to the Canadian Association of Broadcasters' *Equitable Portrayal Code*, as amended from time to time and approved by the Commission, and to the *Broadcast Code for Advertising to Children*, as amended from time to time and approved by the Commission.

Encouragement

Where the licensee intends to carry wrap-around programming, the Commission encourages it to use programming from another Aboriginal station or network with a focus on additional Aboriginal-language programming (Cree/Dene/Chipewyan) or current Aboriginal music.