

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This policy describes...

1.1 Definitions

1.2 Related Policies and Procedures

See also the Controversial Programming Procedure for guidelines on religious programming.

2.0 CRTC DIRECTIVE ON RELIGIOUS PROGRAMMING

Since undertakings dedicated exclusively to the views of a particular religion, denomination or sect would, by their very nature, be predisposed toward one particular point of view, the licensing of such undertakings would be contrary to the requirements of section 3 of the former Broadcasting Act that programming provided be varied and comprehensive, predominantly Canadian, and provide reasonable, balanced opportunity for the expression of differing views on matters of public concern. With regard to programming on matters of public concern and likely to elicit differing views, such as that dealing with religious subjects, the Commission has taken the view that the most appropriate and effective way to achieve balance is to require that the programming of each individual station be balanced.

3.0 Programming Requirements

The following are put in place in response to CRTC directives.

- 1) Religious programming must be locally produced to comply with the Canadian requirement.

- 2) Since Kootenay Co-op Radio does not have a representative sample of denominations with programs and cannot provide balanced religious programming, each individual religious program is required to contribute to balanced programming in the following ways:
 - a) Programs should be inclusive in appeal (although they may remain authentic to an individual theological tradition). In order to appeal to a wide audience, programmers should provide information only, and should refrain from proselytising (attempting to convert listeners from one religious belief system or no religious belief system to that of the programmers) or denigrating adherents of other belief systems.

 - b) Religious programs should provide balance within themselves. This could be accomplished by providing various points of view within the programmer(s)'s belief system, considering and discussing alternative belief systems in a respectful and well-researched manner, providing a survey or overview of alternative belief systems or inviting knowledgeable guests to do so, being clear that the religious beliefs expressed by hosts are personal beliefs of the host and are not endorsed by the station, genuinely encouraging comment and participation by members of the community with different beliefs. It is not recommended for religious groups or organisations to propose radio programs because these organisations MAY exist for the purpose of promoting a single religious doctrine, converting others to this particular doctrine, or providing a forum for discussion regarding this doctrine exclusively. Individual programmers speaking for themselves and voicing personal opinions are more likely than religious groups to: (a) create a balanced program, and (b) create a comfortable forum for individual listeners to state opposition to the belief system espoused by the hosts.

 - c) In the alternative, the Selection Committee must be satisfied that there have been sufficient successful programme proposals in a particular season to provide sufficient balance.

Policy: Religious Programming Policy (Draft 5: January 3, 2003)

Additional specifications:

- 1) Religious Programs must be Non-Prejudicial. Program content must not include derogatory references toward other religious groups or the leaders of those groups. They may not denigrate any person or group on the basis of religious preference, ethnic heritage, nationality, sexual orientation, race or gender.
- 2) All programs (religious and non-religious) are required to have an individual person or persons who take responsibility for the technical aspects and content of the program. These programmers are asked to sign Programmers' Conduct Agreements, and are expected to take responsibility for following station procedures and enforcing that their guests follow these procedures as well. Although the programmers for one program may belong to the same group or organisation (religious or non-religious), they are required to take personal responsibility for everything that goes on-air during the program rather than attributing comments or opinions to a group or organisation.
- 3) Religious programs must be free of solicitations. Programs may not carry invitations to purchase books, tapes or counselling.
- 4) Religious programs should refrain from passing judgement on listeners or others with regard to moral issues, and should refrain from providing instruction to listeners about how they should conduct their own behaviour. Discussion about moral issues should be framed in an informational sense e.g. "In Judaism, adherents to the religion are expected to give charity to others through financial donations or labour in order to be considered pious. I (the host) believe this and give charity as much as possible. It is your (the listener's) choice whether to do this too." vs. "You (the listener) SHOULD give charity..."
- 5) In compliance with CRTC regulations, programmers may not discuss abortion or issues surrounding abortion during their programs.

3.0 ROLE OF THE KCR SELECTION COMMITTEE

The KCR selection committee reserves the right to reject program proposals for religious programs if the committee feels it is (a) questionable, or (b) unlikely that the programmer will comply with the recommendations and requirements outlined in this policy.

The first version of this policy was made official on February 12, 2003.