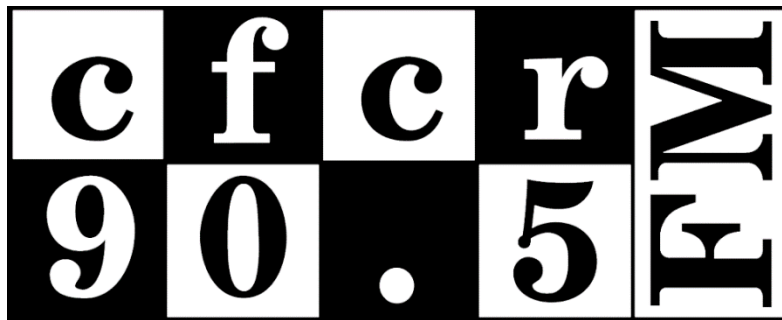


Community Radio Society of Saskatoon

CFCR 90.5 FM

Annual Report

AGM: May 25, 2022



We Put Community On The Radio

CFCR 90.5 FM Community Radio is a non-profit corporation owned by the Community Radio Society of Saskatoon. We are a volunteer-powered, listener-supported organization serving the alternative radio needs of Saskatoon and surrounding areas.

Our mandate is to build and foster community, creativity, and connection by putting radio in the hands of the people of Saskatoon in a way that reflects the cultural and artistic diversity of our city. We provide a platform for alternative and local music to be shared, while also providing a voice on the airwaves for Saskatoon communities that is typically not available or supported by other radio outlets.

As CFCR is a non-profit organization and we have a small, hardworking staff. We work with the guidance of our Board of Directors.



Message From the General Manager

It's been another challenging year for Community Radio. The good news is FM-Phasis for 2021 was successful once again with the station raising over \$70,000.00. When you consider the state of the economy it is a testament to our loyal listeners and our volunteers for continuing to support Community Radio in these tough economic times. Advertising sales exceeded our budget by 5.29 percent at \$163,616.00 which was encouraging. We projected another tough year with a deficit forecast of \$15,712.00 for 2020-2021. Even with the increase in ad sales we exceeded the deficit forecast by \$25,000.00 the main culprit being bingo sales. We had projected \$55,000.00 in bingo sales this past year and with the covid closures we only brought in \$34,695.00. That's a \$20,000.00 shortfall and basically is responsible for the deficit increase. The good news is Bingo sales have picked up considerably in the past couple of months and we're looking for a significant increase in revenue for the coming year.

Equipment wise, always a challenge, we did purchase and install a new board this past year at a cost of \$10,000.00. It's been a long time coming but it finally arrived. We hope it will last as long as the last one did. We had an ongoing issue with the new servers that were upgraded a year ago and hopefully that problem is now solved.

We finished the year with around 500 members and are at 342 members already for 2022 which would indicate a solid membership for the coming year.

As far as programming is concerned, we've seen the usual turnover of volunteer hosts, but we've welcomed some new hosts into the Community Radio fold and we continue on.

All in all, it was a challenging year for Community Radio and the coming year will be the challenging as well. I believe we will have one more year of deficit budgeting and then we should see things get back to the new normal. Whatever that might be. We continue with our cleaning and distancing protocols as well as proof of vaccination. We are looking at what changes can be made as the new normal settles into place and where we go from here as far as our protocols and procedures are concerned.

I'd like to thank the staff for going above and beyond especially with new issues that have to be dealt with in the new normal and all the extra work that goes with it. I'd also like to

thank all the volunteers for all the hard work and understanding as we forge ahead into year 31 at Community Radio.

Thanks everyone for your continued commitment to community radio.

Neil Bergen, General Manager



Message From the Board Chair

I would like to welcome you all to the 2022 Annual General Meeting of your Community Radio Society!

We have organized this in the hopes of being able to gather in person, as is our custom and is preferred for the sake of face-to-face familiarity and connection. Nonetheless, the global pandemic that is COVID-19 is still working its way through our city and depending on the level of risk on the day of our meeting, and of course the prevailing guidance from our public health officers at the time... we might have to switch to a virtual meeting as we did the last couple years. Fingers crossed that we do not have to do that again.

Regardless, if you are more comfortable wearing a mask at this year's in-person meeting, please do. I likely will myself.

For the reasons described in our last two AGMs and very much related to that same pandemic, we had yet another difficult year at the station. And just like in recent years, I and the Board would like to extend a huge thank you to Neil and all the staff for navigating these challenges and shifting burdens throughout. I can tell you that the Board of Directors has been kept up to date with all the changes in the station and have approved of the same. There have been difficult decisions and we are confident that our dedicated staff has made the best of these difficult times.

That also applies to the station's ongoing financial difficulties. Finances are always a concern for small community non-profits such as ours, and the continuing ramifications from this pandemic continue to be a burden on our beloved station's limited resources. To that end I want to also extend a massive thank you to all of you, our members, for your consistent efforts with fundraising and promotion for the station. Although it is obvious that we are a volunteer-run, listener-supported station, it is important now more than ever to keep this in mind - CFCR exists and will continue to exist because of your individual and collective efforts. So thank you again.

Moving forward we will again need volunteers to step up and be willing to serve a two-year term on our Board. The structure of our organization is centrally reliant on the staff but the Board is also an important and necessary part of this structure. I strongly encourage you to put your name forward, get involved, and lend a short amount of time to our Board.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the AGM - whether in person, in a mask, or however you make it!

Patrick McKenna, Board Chair



Message From the Program Director

The year 2021-2022 brought many challenges from a programming perspective, as the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic continued to be felt in our community. The number of prerecorded programs airing regularly continued to increase, which has been both a blessing and a curse. While it's great that offering the opportunity to prerecord shows makes the station more accessible for volunteers overall, it does create many more logistical challenges, and also tends to reduce the overall immediacy of the content, and connection with the community. We are at somewhere around 20-30% for weekly prerecorded shows, with some fill-in Hosts opting to record at home and submit their shows remotely, which creates a lot more office work on my end, moving files around, entering Log information for those Hosts who prerecord. I would be very happy to go back to more live-to-air programming, though I'm really grateful to those who have recorded programming, as it has helped us keep a strong level of fresh programming for the airwaves.

Since COVID, there was a great deal of new requirements that fell under the "Programming" umbrella. As the number of recorded programs grew, so did the time it took to set-up, troubleshoot, and monitor these shows, to make sure they were meeting a high standard of content and audio quality, and were being created in such a way as to fit within allotted time slots, without running into other programs. This, coupled with the large responsibility of securing fill-in Hosts for open time slots became a huge job for myself (on top of the other things I manage, like developing new programming, booking interviews, etc.), so I asked Neil to either relieve me of the duties of prerecorded program set-up, or finding fill-in Hosts. He decided to take over doing fill-ins, which has given me the time I need to keep the recorded programming running smoothly.

1. PROGRAMMING & HOST CHANGES:

PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE CHANGES:

OVERALL – Similar to recent years, there weren't any major, sweeping changes to the way our Program Schedule is organized in 2021-22. Weekday Daytime programming remains in its "Block Format," followed by the Spoken Word block (Mon 6-7pm, Tues-Fri 6-7:30pm), and Evening Open & Specialty shows afterwards. Cultural Programming remains on the weekends during the day.

DAYTIME – We have seen somewhat of a downturn in availability in our daytime programming, and I think we have more weekly/bi-weekly openings currently than I can recall in recent years. Not sure if this is due to people's work/school schedules changing, or what. We have lots of new Trainees coming through, but availability during the day has been lower than normal.

EVENING – Evening programming remained fairly steady in 2021-22. A couple changes but nothing major.

SPOKEN WORD – There has been a recent shakeup in the Spoken Word block, with many of our more recent additions to the schedule unfortunately leaving the air:

- Switching Gears (Thurs, 6:30-7pm)
- AudioCalma (Tues, 7-7:30pm)
- Homelands (Wed, 7-7:30pm) – Founding Host Andréa Ledding has decided to step down, but the show is going to be taken over by a new Host named Janelle Roy, so I'm excited for that!

I have been developing a Spoken Word program myself, which covers outdoor activities in Saskatoon in general. It's somewhat in response to the end of our cycling show Switching Gears but is also something I had been thinking about doing for some time. The show is called OutCast, and I'm working on producing episodes to start airing soon. (**Program started in May 2022**).

CULTURAL/WEEKEND – Our weekend program block has seen some changes in 2022. We added a couple of non-cultural programs to the mix, said goodbye to a couple of longtime Hosts, and saw a small boom in new programs which is amazing!

Non-Cultural Weekend Shows:

- Plain AIR (Saturday, 10-11am) – A program produced in conjunction with our friends at CJTR Community Radio in Regina. A sort of “Artist in Residence” (AIR) program, featuring a different Host each month, producing a month's worth of shows, with a pretty flexible format. This project has already been successful in helping bring people in Saskatoon's music/arts community to the airwaves, who had not been previously hosted, and getting them interested in getting involved more regularly! (**This show is moving in May 2022**)
- bluegrass & whatnot (Sunday, 8-10am) – Bluegrass & old-time music, hosted by rotating cast of folks!

Cultural Programs to leave the air:

- Philippine Special (Saturdays, 8-10am)
- Azzuro (Sundays, 4-5pm)

New/Returning Cultural Programs:

- The Beat of Africa and Beyond (pan-African music) (Sundays 4-5pm)
- The Sound of Barbod (Persia/Iran/Farsi) (Saturdays, 8-9am)
- Radio Abyssinia (Ethiopia/Amharic) (Saturdays, 9-10am)
- Kabul Jan (Afghan) (Sundays, 7-8am) (**NEW AS OF MAY 2022**)

2. TRAINING & RECRUITING

We have continued to train new Hosts throughout the last 12 months. As always, a huge debt of gratitude goes out to those experienced Hosts who lend their skills (and airtime) to showing new folks the ropes, and getting them ready to become Volunteer Broadcasters at CFCR!

3. INTERVIEWS & THE BUZZ

We are slowly bringing back live in-studio interview to The Buzz, but are also still doing remote interviews via phone/Zoom.

4. TECHNICAL/OTHER

ON-DEMAND – One of my main goals recently is to make it possible for listeners to stream our programming on-demand, and I continue to work towards making this a reality. With the help of our Volunteer Coordinator Shalyn, who is looking into financing options through grants, I am hopeful we will be able to get this project started sooner rather than later. I have worked to get some of the key pieces in place, but there are many things at play, and everything costs money, so it's difficult to take steps forward until financing is in place.

AUTOMATION – The last two years have seen us move to accept much more recorded programming, and as a result, I’ve had to lean on automation software at the station. Our “old standby” software, DirEttore, was causing me issues last year, and I had decided to move to a different program, but then an updated to DirEttore helped fix the bugs I was encountering, so I have opted to stick with it for now. The prospect of training 150-200 people on a new program was a mitigating factor for sure. DirEttore has been working much better, and I am now able to set “Events” in order to move from one prerecorded program to another (or to the Overnight music playlist, etc.)

PAPERWORK – We introduced a new Program Log in the last year. It has been adopted fairly well and has definitely made things more organized behind the scenes in the office. There is also a new Volunteer Broadcaster Agreement in place.

I think that’s it for this year!

Your friendly neighborhood Program Director, Jay Allen



We're a Community of Volunteers

Volunteers are what power our station. When you tune in to 90.5 FM, there's a pretty good chance it's a volunteer you're hearing. They host shows, voice commercials, help promote our events, and are a huge help with fundraising. Our FM-Phasis total for 2021 was **\$74, 231!** We couldn't have done it without the efforts that our volunteers put in to making it happen. We wouldn't be here without you!



2021-2022 HIGHLIGHTS

In 2021 CFCR celebrated 30 years on the airwaves! Because we were still in the middle of our pandemic most of our events were held virtually, although restrictions were still lifted in September, and this allowed us to host our Record Fair in person!

Record Fair - The 6th sort of annual Record Fair was a huge success, raising over \$2000 for the station! This was the one event during the year that we were able to have as an in-person event.

Instrument Auction – Our online Instrument Auction fundraiser was a smashing hit, bringing in over \$6000 for CFCR! Thank you to everyone who donated their musical instruments and gear!

Cultural Showcase- For the second year in a row we were successful in receiving a grant through the Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan that was a filmed production and uploaded to our YouTube! You can see the performance on [youtube.com/cfcrsaskatoon](https://www.youtube.com/cfcrsaskatoon)

Community Radio Summer Camp – We held our second annual summer camp in 2021 as a virtual event that taught youth how to produce their own radio segments! Thanks to our Camp Coordinator Dana Durell, and the Community Initiatives Fund for funding the project. Community Radio Summer Camp 2022 has applications available right now!

From all of the Staff and Board at CFCR 90.5 FM, thank you for supporting Community Radio now and into the future!

