

THE LOCAL STATION



FM94.3 - FM96.3 - FM94.1

2TVR Montreal Community Theatre Inc Programming Policy

Mission Statement

“To serve the community interest of 2TVR Tumut RA1 and by providing accurate, timely and entertaining broadcasting and promoting of local news, events, issues and music; and opportunity and access for local community groups, individuals artists and general community members”

Core Values

1. Community focus
2. Opportunity and Access
3. Reflection of the community in which we serve and are custodians of the broadcast license
4. Provide a service that offers alternatives to available programming sources, alternate 'broadcast style' social media sources and other broadcasting services...provide a true genuine locally based and freely accessible and professional broadcasting service

Aims

- To operate, maintain and conduct the business of operators and custodians of a radio broadcasting, transmitting and receiving station at a designated site to be known as Sounds of The Mountains 2TVR.
- To produce and broadcast radio programmes of all types from all sources and countries as demanded by the community in which we serve.
- To provide entertainment, information and access for the local community and the opportunity for the development of professional standards of program production and presentation.
- To provide for community access so that community interest programmes and announcements can be broadcast.
- To cultivate an awareness and appreciation of all types of Australian music with particular emphasis on encouraging local performers.
- To encourage the development of art, drama and theatre with a local emphasis.
- To provide an opportunity for wider and further education in liaison with local education institutions, including seeking and encouraging input from children.

- To provide a forum for debating topical and community issues.
- To provide a focal point for information concerning access to community services and encouraging participation in local government, community and charity projects.
- To experiment and conduct research and training programmes in the artistic and technical aspects of radio and other forms of sound communications with a local community emphasis.
- To assist other groups within the community whose objects are similar to those of Montreal Community Theatre Inc.
- To monitor community needs and responses and to incorporate community needs and responses into programmes produced by Montreal Community Theatre Inc.

Programing Philosophy

Central to the Programming Philosophy is the need for 2TVR to meet the needs and desires of the citizens of the local region within the resources available at any given period. Providing a balanced program that reflects those requirements as well as giving fair and reasonable access and opportunity to community groups will provide 2TVR with material and human resources.

2TVR will adopt a decision making process that will include the following considerations when deciding on which programs will go to air, remain on-air or be taken off air;

- Similar existing programs on other stations
- Public demand
- Equality related issues
- Compatibility with existing station policy/direction
- Resources - financial and human
- Availability of time
- Sponsorship

On-Air Criteria

The Programming team will regularly review our overall programme schedule. Our content that we put to air will always require amending as we reflect our ever-changing target market. For example, we may move certain “shows” to a time better suited for the target audience, introduce new or remove existing shows in line with our current marketing direction, or change the content or presenters of existing shows.

In addition, one of the key organisational objectives is to provide a means for aspiring broadcasters from the local community to gain industry experience and this will be actioned through training programs, work experience etc.

- Compliance of current show to station policies, procedures and guidelines, including but not limited to:
- Preparing and working to a professional broadcasting standard as much as possible

- Playing all required pre-recorded segments as per the logs (e.g. sponsor announcements)
- Evidence of continually seeking ways to improve the show, working with Programming or Board where appropriate
- Evidence of prior preparation of the show
- Evidence of involving and promoting community interest in the show (this does not mean popularity of the show)
- Assisting with a promotional event such as Outside Broadcast.
- Participated in activities of the committee for which member has volunteered
- Provided constructive feedback
- Compliance to the Community Radio Code of Practice
- Compliance with 2TVR Standards, Procedures Policies and Guidelines
- Compliance with administrative procedures
- Opportunities for local artists to play live or be interviewed at the studio
- Contributed positively to the 2TVR web site
- Assist in new initiatives as requested by the Board or a committee or sub-committee.
- Implementing new initiatives that contribute to the success and/or overall objectives of the Montreal Community Theatre.

Prohibited Matter

As licensee 2TVR will not permit the broadcasting of program which may;

- Incited, encourage or present for their own sake violence or brutality;
- Simulate news or events in such a way as to mislead or alarm listeners;
- Present as desirable the misuse of alcoholic liquor;
- Promote or advertise the use of tobacco;
- Present as desirable the misuse of drugs or narcotics.
- Incite or perpetuate hatred against; or gratuitously vilify; any person or group on the basis of ethnicity, nationality, race, gender, sexual preference, religion or mental disability. 2TVR recognizes the need for equity and social justice in program content and opportunity.
- Be harmful to children in any way

News Programs

News programs (including news flashes) **must**;

- Present news accurately.
- Not present news in such way as to create public panic, or unnecessary distress to listeners.
- Distinguish news from comment.

Contests

All contests transmitted by 2TVR **must**;

1. (a) be conducted fairly
- (b) Announce winners on air immediately
- (c) Be restricted to members of the public and exclude;
 - (i) Employees of 2TVR
 - (ii) Family members of employees of 2TVR
 - (iii) Volunteers with 2TVR

Talkback And Interviews

2TVR will not transmit the words of an identifiable person unless;

- (a) That person has been informed in advance that the words may be transmitted; or
- (b) In the case of words, which have been recorded without the knowledge of the person, that person has subsequently, but prior to the transmission, indicated consent to the transmission of the words.

Current Affairs Program

Objectives: The objective of this program standard is to ensure that current affairs programs are presented;

- (a) With accuracy and fairness; and
- (b) In a way, which allows informed public debate on issues, which affect the community.

Obligations

- (a) Factual material is presented accurately and that reasonable efforts are made to correct substantial errors of fact at the earliest possible opportunity;
- (b) Factual material is distinguished from commentary and analysis;

Commentary/analysis may include opinion or elaboration.

- (c) Reasonable efforts are made or reasonable opportunity given to present significant points of view when dealing with controversial issues of public importance, either within the same program or in similar programs, while that issue has relevance to the community;

Appropriate research, time and opportunity must be given for interested or relevant parties within a reasonable time to provide fairness and enhance newsworthy reporting to the public.

- (d) Viewpoints are not misrepresented, and material is not presented in a misleading manner by giving wrong or improper emphasis, by editing out of context, or by withholding relevant available facts;
- (e) Respect is given to each person's legitimate right to protection from unjustifiable use of material which is obtained without an individual's consent or other unwarranted and intrusive invasions of privacy;
- (f) Issues involving children and/or others unable to understand the implications of their comments or actions will be assessed on an individual basis by the BOARD and management in conjunction with relevant government authorities prior to any transmissions.

Political Programming / Commentary

2TVR is an apolitical radio broadcaster. Program content of a political nature **MUST** always be clearly identified as such. Producers and announcers must ensure that content presented has been researched and that due consideration has been given to all points of view. Fair and reasonable opportunity must be given to all parties involved in the respective issue or discussion.

Producers and announcers must have the content approved by the Station Manager

All announcers must adhere to the stations Constitutional Objects, Station Policy and the Australian Broadcasting Authority Codes of Practice.

Legalites

2TVR is responsible for ensuring that all transmitted material meets with ACMA guidelines and the BROADCASTING SERVICES ACT legal requirements. The station is responsible for any breaches and is liable for defamatory material even if on-air or production personnel did not write or record the offending material. All presenters and production personnel must be fully aware of the following legalities;

DEFAMATION: broadcasting a statement that is likely to make 'reasonable people' think worse about a person or group may constitute DEFAMATION. The following criteria should be considered;

- (a) An obvious statement which clearly damages a person's reputation (Eg. Mr. Smith is a lying thief);
- (b) A less obvious statement, which contains innuendo or inference, which casts speculation or dispersion on someone's reputation (eg. Reading between the lines);

- (c) A statement which contains a special meaning understood by a select few who specific facts which, by being broadcast, may degrade another person. (Eg. An in-joke).

Expressing what is perceived, as the truth for the betterment of the wider community is NOT a safeguard against legal suit. When in doubt consultation with management is the only option to be taken by volunteers. Management must consult the Board Chairman if there is any doubt on their behalf.

The following defense claims are not acceptable;

- (a) I thought it was the truth (impression/opinion)
- (b) It is a fact (strong rumor/opinion)
- (c) I made a mistake/ I didn't mean to hurt anyone
- (d) I was just repeating what ... said/wrote

WHEN IN DOUBT, DON'T SAY IT

Injurious Falsehood

Defamation damages someone's reputation while Injurious Falsehood covers "malicious broadcasting of a false statement about trading or activities".

This covers three areas;

- (a) Slander of Goods attacking the quality of a person's goods;
- (b) Slander of Title falsely suggesting that someone doesn't own the property;
- (c) Malicious Falsehood falsely suggesting a person died, retired, ceased to trade, etc.

Obscenity

It is an offence for 2TVR to broadcast indecent or obscene matter.

Material is obscene if it;

- (a) Offends, to a substantial degree, the average man or woman in the Australian community;
- (b) Offends, to a substantial degree, the contemporary standards of decency currently accepted by the Australian community.

2TVR warns the presenters and producers of the station that, because of the impact that obscene matter may have on listeners, the following considerations must be undertaken prior to going to transmission;

- (i) The added value that the obscenity has to the purpose of the program (ie. context and justify);
- (ii) Pre-transmission warning given to listeners (ie. disclaimer);
- (iii) Age of likely listeners;
- (iv) Time of broadcast.

Sensitive Material

No program shall;

- (a) Contain any explanation of techniques of crime in such a way as to invite imitation;
- (b) Describe in detail any form of violence or brutality;
- (c) incite a person to violence;
- (d) Simulate news or events in such a way as to alarm, distress or mislead listeners;
- (e) Denigrate religious faiths or beliefs;
- (f) Present as desirable the abuse of intoxicating liquor;
- (g) Present as desirable the use of drugs or narcotics except under medical direction;
- (h) Include horror for its own sake;
- (i) Encourage children to enter strange places or to converse with strangers for any purpose.

These standards are applicable provided that they do not prohibit the broadcasting - in good faith and at appropriate times, under appropriate circumstances - of;

- (i) Genuine works of artistic or literary merit; and
- (ii) The serious presentation of moral and social issues.

In these circumstances warning of the nature of the program must be given in advance publicity, at its commencement and at appropriate intervals during the program.

PRIOR CONSULTATION MUST OCCUR WITH MANAGEMENT.

Contempt Of Court

All presenters and producers of broadcast material must follow the following guidelines;

- (a) Do not broadcast material, which may influence or prejudice an impending or current trial - approved news reports are permissible but not discussion;
- (b) Do not broadcast material that may 'scandalize' the court (ie. reckless commentary of decisions/judges etc.). Any criticism must be researched and objective;
- (c) All sources of information must be revealed on request from the Board, management and/or courts.

Contempt Of Parliament

Consideration must be given when broadcasting material that;

- (a) Exerts improper pressure on members of Parliament; or

- (b) Brings Parliament into disrespect; or
- (c) Discloses secret proceedings of Parliamentary committees.

Presenters and producers must decide the objective value to the program, and 2TVR of breaching these guidelines prior to transmitting the program.

Copyright

All presenters and producers must be fully aware of the COMMONWEALTH COPYRIGHT ACT, which, in short, states;

...the exclusive right held by the maker of a work to publish, reproduce, perform, broadcast and adapt that work for a specified duration usually the life of the maker plus 50 years.

DO NOT COPY SOMETHING AND SIMPLY BROADCAST IT WITHOUT THE PERMISSION OR THE MAKER.

You can do the following;

- (a) Read an EXTRACT but you **MUST**;
 - (i) Acknowledge the author (maker)
 - (ii) Keep it short
- (b) Broadcast NEWS obtained elsewhere but you **MUST**;
 - (i) Re-write it into your own form; or
 - (ii) Gain permission from its maker to re-broadcast.
- (c) Make a critique, review or news report but you **MUST**;
 - (i) Acknowledge the maker or source;
 - (ii) Apply a news angle to any quote or summary.
- (d) Transmit a program that has been CLEARLY made available to 2TVR but **NOT** a program that has been made available by associates from elsewhere which has been recorded for them and subsequently passed on to 2TVR.
- (e) Play copyright music, which has been approved via industry licensing and royalty schemes, which permit their broadcasting by radio stations. However you **MUST NOT** use these recordings to promote the sale of goods and services (ie. Background music for sponsorship announcements). Music for the latter purpose is identified in the Music Library.

All programs created by 2TVR are included in the station's copyright. The Re-broadcasting of those programs is subject to Board or management approval only.

- (f) Annual APRA and AMCOS fees will be paid by 2TVR.

Cash For Comment

No announcers, producers, employees or volunteers are permitted to enter into any arrangement where they are reimbursed in money or kind in return for on-air "positive commentary". Comments made on-air must be clearly distinguished in accordance with stated 2TVR Policies.