



CKCU FM 93.1

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**Special Statement: CKCU-FM supports CHUO-FM after referendum to end**

18 October 2023, Ottawa, Ontario – Recently the University of Ottawa Students' Association approved a referendum question to defund their community-based campus radio station, CKCU-FM, by ending the student levy of \$4.99 per term.

CKCU-FM, the community-based campus radio station based at Carleton University, is a proud member of the support of our sister station, CHUO-FM. Ottawa is privileged to have multiple community radio stations to provide independent and alternative content to the region.

“Having produced and hosted shows at both stations, I know that they are committed to the community and each offer unique programming. Ottawa needs more than one community radio station, we need more independent content. I am proud to be interim CKCU-FM Station Manager, Anne-Marie Brugger.

Brugger notes that both CHUO-FM and CKCU-FM provide a platform and a voice for under-represented communities with programming produced by hundreds of community members. Stations broadcast in English, French and at least eight other languages, covering diverse communities. Each station also offers opportunities for community members to contribute to local news, live broadcasts from local and touring musicians and other programming available anywhere else.

The referendum question to defund CHUO-FM passed with only 7.7 percent of the vote.

“It is highly probable that the students were not fully aware of the referendum question and that campus radio stations play in the local ecosystem. CHUO had insufficient information campaign,” said Sean McFee, Chair of the CKCU-FM Board of Directors. “CKCU-FM is an important resource because of a vote from less than eight percent of the students.”



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together defunding campaign is unfortunate and shows the fragility of the ecosystem we are in today.

Campus stations offer local news, information and programming specific to their communities. With the reduction in ways in which people can access news, the impacts of Meta blocking the social media accounts of Canadian news sources and the entire sharing of local information is under attack from all angles."

There are almost 200 campus and community radio stations across the country that link to their communities by broadcasting curated and independent content. Montreal, Winnipeg, Halifax each have multiple campus and community radio stations.

**CONTACT:**

Anne-Marie Brugger (she/her)  
Interim Executive Director  
CKCU 93.1 FM | [ckcufm.com](http://ckcufm.com)  
Email: [annemarie.brugger@ckcufm.com](mailto:annemarie.brugger@ckcufm.com)  
Tel: 613-505-0570

*CKCU FM broadcasts from the unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishnabeg*