

The February 17, 2017, Winnipeg event was the first of five regional gatherings that will culminate in the convening of a national three-day conference in Ottawa. 101.5 UMFM streamed live online and archived the presentations from Winnipeg.¹

Kathleen Buddle, Associate Professor of anthropology at the University of Manitoba and our local host, opened the discussion by saying that the goal of the event was to improve the Native Broadcasting Policy (CRTC 1990-89),² which is up for review by the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (the CRTC) this year. She then introduced elder Leslie Spillet³ who briefly spoke and facilitated the opening ceremony.

The morning panel moderator Peter Kulchyski,⁴ professor from the University of Manitoba's Native Studies, introduced the first presenters--CBC Unreserved's Rosanna Deerchild and Kim Wheeler⁵. They spoke about the origins of their program, collaboration, and work to create the only all Indigenous-produced program airing nationally on CBC. Deerchild thanked Native Communications Inc (NCI FM)⁶ for her debut in radio broadcasting. Pointing to experiences of racism and silencing of Indigenous journalists within the CBC (also described later by Miles Morrisseau), Deerchild and Wheeler said they had to make their own Indigenous-produced spaces. When asked about the future of Indigenous broadcasting, Deerchild suggested that before reconciliation is possible, people need the truth. To do this work, Wheeler and Deerchild want Unreserved to evolve by going on the road to broadcast from Indigenous communities.

Afterwards, Buddle provided a short review of Indigenous Peoples' media activism to indigenize the media landscape and the limits of policymaking by the state of Canada. Then, Gary Farmer⁷ describes his efforts to licence AVR and this work to link protecting the earth and radio broadcasting. He shared many lessons from his experiences building national Indigenous public broadcasters like Aboriginal Peoples' Television Network (APTN)⁸ and Aboriginal Voices Radio (AVR).⁹ Farmer said that incorporating can lead to the government causing problems for Indigenous broadcasters. Sharing his views on the future of Indigenous broadcasting, Farmer believes the mandate for Indigenous broadcasters in 2017 is to be out to save the world. Addressing the licences applications under CRTC 2017-1, he shared that whoever wins the old AVR frequencies needs to serve the people, "For real." A common policy suggestion airing from comments by Wheeler, Deerchild, and Farmer was the need for sustainable and independent resources

¹ <https://soundcloud.com/umfm1015/sets/the-future-of-first-nations>

² <http://crtc.gc.ca/eng/archive/1990/PB90-89.htm>

³ <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/mdp/community/adv-circle/spillett.html>

⁴ http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/departments/native_studies/people/kulchyski.html

⁵ <http://www.cbc.ca/radio/unreserved> & <https://twitter.com/kimagerwheeler>

⁶ <http://www.ncifm.com/>

⁷ <https://twitter.com/garydfarmer>

⁸ <http://aptn.ca/>

⁹ <http://www.crtc.gc.ca/eng/archive/2007/db2007-121.htm>

for Indigenous media. Farmer also proposed a review of how funds for Indigenous media are currently allocated, including where stations are located, but also the criteria to receive funding.

Miles Morrisseau's presentation concluded the first panel of the event. He began by recalling his work as a journalist reporting on the 1990 Defence of Kanesatake¹⁰ and getting pulled out by CBC national. Concerning media in Canada, Morrisseau noted that Indigenous people have been concerned about fake news since forever. Speaking about his experience with Indigenous broadcasters, Morrisseau said that the ongoing colonial experience in Canada makes it hard to work together. He suggested one policy change should mandate Natcon,¹¹ not just CanCon,¹² to promote Indigenous music. Morrisseau, Wheeler and Deerchild all suggested there is a need for CBC to have a mandate for Indigenous affairs programming that offers news and stories from the point of view of Indigenous Peoples. Morrisseau believes Indigenous broadcasters need to push the narrow boundaries of truth Canada has imposed on them. This is necessary, he said, for today's Indigenous youth to know that their reality is important, and that they are not liars.

Trevor Phillips from 101.5 UMFM moderated the afternoon panel featuring Jim Compton, MP Robert-Falcon Ouellette and Leonard Monkman in discussion of the role of Indigenous media in youth and community engagement. MP Robert-Falcon Ouellette,¹³ from the riding of Winnipeg Centre, began by discussing his community radio debut producing *At the Edge of Canada*¹⁴ on 101.5 UMFM. Commenting on the work to build Indigenous media in Canada, Jim Compton from Adam Beach Film Institute¹⁵ proposed honouring elders among Indigenous broadcasters like Gary Farmer. Leonard Monkman of Red Rising Magazine¹⁶ said he sees more reflection of Indigenous Peoples in media today, but we also need to counter stereotypes. To him, Idle No More¹⁷ was a success because movement actors connected in real time through media. Founded across Canada in 2012, Idle No More is a protest movement for Indigenous rights. Compton, Ouellette and Monkman felt that the Indigenous media policy should also include initiatives for youth and community engagement.

Joining in the discussion about the future of Indigenous radio and broadcasting in Indigenous languages, John Gagnon from Wawatay Communications Society¹⁸ suggested that broadcasters need to make Indigenous language media equal to French and English media. Monkman added that reclaiming language is up to Indigenous media producers, stating that the government won't do it. MP Ouellette

¹⁰ https://www.nfb.ca/film/kanehsatake_270_years_of_resistance/

¹¹ <http://nativewritesnow.blogspot.ca/2015/08/true-natcon-should-be-cancon-with-soul.html>

¹² <http://www.crtc.gc.ca/eng/cancon.htm>

¹³ [http://www.parl.gc.ca/Parliamentarians/en/members/Robert-Falcon-Ouellette\(89466\)](http://www.parl.gc.ca/Parliamentarians/en/members/Robert-Falcon-Ouellette(89466))

¹⁴ http://umanitoba.ca/admin/indigenous_connect/at-the-edge-of-canada.html

¹⁵ <http://www.adambeachfilmstitute.ca/>

¹⁶ <http://redrisingmagazine.ca/>

¹⁷ <http://www.idlenomore.ca/>

¹⁸ <http://www.wawataynews.ca/>

announced an Indigenous Language Act¹⁹ in the works by the Liberal government. Compton wrapped up the panel by asking why CBC and NFB aren't broadcasting more in Indigenous languages.

The invited panellists shed light on the need for Indigenous views in media, broadcasting in Indigenous languages, and Indigenous-produced media spaces as well as the policy challenges in Canada for sustainable and autonomous Indigenous media. The concluding activity invited participants to provide insights and recommendations on the upcoming Native Broadcasting policy (CRTC 1990-89) review. The topics discussed included ideas for an Indigenous newswire service and putting NatCon into policy. As to what the policy should entail, proposals on the table included 10% in Indigenous languages and 40% Indigenous music for Indigenous licenced broadcasters. In order to put reconciliation into action, some participants suggested that CRTC should mandate all non-Indigenous stations to air 5% to 10% Indigenous music and 2% in-language programming. Several participants agreed that the CRTC's revision of the Native Broadcasting Policy should reflect the protection of Indigenous languages. As to how the review process should be changed, a couple of participants recommended that the CRTC Commission and staff should include Indigenous representation before reviewing the policy. Indigenous protocol training was also recommended for the Chair, the Commissioners as well as the CRTC staff.

This review was prepared by Lauriane Tremblay with Gretchen King, based on the following sources:

@radioautochtone (2017). Tweets retrieved from: <https://twitter.com/radioautochtone>

Bonin, G. (2017). Personal notes. The Future of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Broadcasting. Winnipeg, University of Manitoba.

UMFM 101.5 FM (2017). The Future of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Broadcasting: Conversation & Convergence. Audio retrieved from: <https://soundcloud.com/umfm1015/sets/the-future-of-first-nations>

¹⁹ <http://kahnawakenews.com/trudeau-announces-indigenous-languages-act-p2361-1.htm>