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### Ryerson radio station CKLN loses broadcasting rights

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National Post Staff January 28, 2011 – 2:16 pm

By Sara Faruqi

The CRTC has revoked the broadcasting rights of CKLN-FM, a campus-based community radio station at Ryerson University.

“CKLN Radio was given several warnings and opportunities to come into compliance,” the federal broadcast regulator said in a news release on Friday. “Each time, it demonstrated an inability or unwillingness to address our concerns. Taking away its licence is the only appropriate course of action in this case.”

The radio station’s downward spiral began in early 2009, when internal fighting caused a split in the governing body of the station leading to locks being changed by conflicting members.

Because of a dispute between two conflicting boards of directors, there was no original programming on the station for several months until a new board of directors was elected in October 2009. Since then, the station has been trying to build itself up from scratch, said Andrew Lehrer, vice-chair on CKLN’s board of directors.

But the CRTC says problems remained: “Once it resumed normal operations, CKLN Radio Inc. lacked any significant quality-control mechanism for its programming and there was little involvement from the Ryerson University student body despite its status as a campus radio station. It was also unable to meet some of the basic requirements of all licence holders, which include the submission of audible on-air tapes, program log and other records, and complete annual returns.”

The board held a hearing with the commission in early December. Station representatives believed they would be subject to reprimands and “legal consequences,” but not the revocation of their licence, said Mr. Lehrer. He said is shocked by what Friday’s development.

Mr. Lehrer said the board went to the hearing with an action plan and since had “tried very hard to meet every demand.”

He said the station planned to appeal the decision.

CKLN has a staff of about 200 programmers, volunteers and members. It serves not only Ryerson but also neighbouring communities in the downtown core.