



- home
- [?](#)
- timelines
- cases
- faq
- quiz
- letters
- contact

LEGAL ACTION COMMENCED

CKLN Radio Inc. and its Board of Directors served with Statement of Claim

After very careful thought and consideration we have instructed our lawyer, Mr. Patrick Summers, to commence [legal action](#) against CKLN Radio Inc. and the nine members of its Board of Director who revoked our "programming privileges" in December 2006. [This lawsuit](#) will now be for a third party to resolve on the basis of its merits. No matter how long this may take to resolve, we are focused on returning to an improved CKLN to resume the production of the "International Connection Radio Show" for your consideration each Sunday morning. [Read the Statement of Claim >](#)



["The Ravaging of Africa"](#)
4-part documentary STOPS airing
after 2 episodes

What's this all about?

The Price of Exposing Corruption at CKLN

In September of 2006, the CKLN management was posed with, even what it referred to as, something "serious". Longtime "International Connection Radio Show" hosts Greg Duffell and Daniel Besharat filed comprehensive complaints against three senior individuals running the Toronto "campus/community" radio station. The complaints outlined financial corruption, abuse of power, bias and a host of other charges all of it backed up with extensive evidence. The individuals named were Program Director Tim May, News Director Kristin Schwartz, and Chair of the CKLN Board David Barnard.

What they (the management and Board of CKLN) decided to engage in was an extensive cover-up that would attempt to save the face of the sanctimonious organization, protect their privileged positions and vanquish the complainants, Duffell and Besharat.

Indeed, by setting up a biased so-called "Task Force", they came to the only conclusion that made sense to them: *that Besharat and Duffell were guilty and the management was innocent.* They provided no report, just their assurance that they did a thorough job and came to the right conclusions. In their words, our complaints had "no merit". They never said that the claims were not true. Case closed and then on to "new business": the termination of Duffell and Besharat. CKLN would then be allowed to get back to business as usual. Until we get satisfactory answers to the questions we posed in our original complaints, there will be no "business as usual" at CKLN.

Through this website we intend to provide more and more evidence to show that corruption exists within the tiny elite at CKLN which is ultimately injurious to the station, its' members and volunteers and the community-at-large it purports to serve. This site has the intention to educate, report and give opinions on issues surrounding our case and the general situation surrounding CKLN in the hopes of making it a just and accountable organization for its' volunteers and staff, the Ryerson students, and the community.

[more frequently asked questions >](#)

News Articles



**** June 15, 2007 ****



**** June 4, 2007 ****



[PART II of Kristin Schwartz and Asad Ismi's Colonialism that fuels discontent and plunders CKLN resources](#)

**** May 22, 2007 ****

[Greg Duffell and Daniel Besharat have commenced legal action against CKLN](#)

**** May 4, 2007 ****

[Report from the protest at CKLN's 2007 Annual General Meeting](#)

- [Radio hosts allege wrongdoings at CKLN](#) (October 11, 2006 - The Eyeopener)
- [CKLN hosts suspended, get the blues](#) (October 16, 2006 - The Eyeopener)
- [CKLN hosts under fire](#) (October 16, 2006 - The Ryersonian)

[International Connection Radio Show](#)



The International Connection began on CKLN in 1985 and was the brainchild of Bob Marshall and Dave Newfeld. When Marshall left CKLN in 1989, the hosting duties were assumed by Wayne Morris and, for a brief time, by Rick Lines. Wayne produced the forty-eight part Mind Control Radio Series broadcast on The International Connection in the late 1990's. The International Connection started as a half-hour weekly program on Sundays, but after a short hiatus when CKLN Station Manager Adam Vaughan fired Marshall, the show returned in an hour long form. Greg Duffell took over as host in 2000 and was joined by Daniel Besharat in 2001 when the program slowly evolved into a two hour slot between 8:30 am and 10:30 am.

While always acknowledging the accomplishments of the previous hosts of the program, the Duffell and Besharat era evolved into live performance radio featuring an unpredictable mix of listener call-ins, irreverent satire, interviews, ad hoc sound effects and skits tied into biting political commentary and media analysis. This relentless and rapid fire program, that never resorted to pointless and time wasting "music breaks", proved to be a hit with the listeners, many of whom showed their appreciation by putting The International Connection Radio Show in the top 5 best performing shows during the radio station's yearly fundraising drives, year after year.

With the termination of hosts Greg Duffell and Daniel Besharat, CKLN has obliterated the International Connection from its' schedule after almost 22 years of groundbreaking radio broadcasting.

[The following are show descriptions from The International Connection between November 2005 and October 2006 including audio clips and multi-media.](#)



Report from the protest at CKLN's 2007 Annual General Meeting

We saw a lot of our former colleagues. Some admitted that they felt awkward about being seen talking with us because of the repercussions they might receive from management, for instance, having their shows suddenly cancelled after staff "reviews". We encountered members of, what will now be known as, "Kristin's Crony Crew", those that have allied themselves with the symbol of hierarchical power within the station, News Director Kristin Schwartz.

Palpable, even from our vantage point on the street, was the factional dispute brewing within the CKLN organization as those familiar entities with the most to lose pooled whatever scant resources they had in order to hold onto power. There appeared to be no clear winner although RSU's Chris Drew must feel he holds the ultimate power as representative of the student organization that is CKLN's financial lifeblood. [Read more about the protest at CKLN's 2007 Annual General Meeting >>>](#)



**The Ravaging of the CKLN Afrikan Caucus:
Kristin Schwartz and Asad Ismi's Colonialism fuels discontent and plunders CKLN Resources**

Is there more trouble brewing behind the scenes at CKLN? In the offices and boardrooms of CKLN, there are charges of hypocrisy, insensitivity, perhaps racism, levied against those who occupy positions of power at the "community radio station" namely News Director Kristin Schwartz and the CKLN Board of Directors.

It all stems from a January 2007 trip to Nairobi, Kenya and the World Social Conference by CKLN News Director Kristin Schwartz, the funding for which was approved easily by the CKLN Board of Directors at Kristin's insistence. Schwartz' close personal friend, writer Asad Ismi, accompanied... [Ravaging CKLN Caucus >>](#)

Don't forget to read [PART 2](#) and [PART 3](#) of "The Ravaging of the CKLN Afrikan Caucus"

Selected Answers from the January 15th Quiz

2) How was the former "[International Connection](#)" and long time CKLN financial sponsor "Baldwin Naturals" victimized by persons closely associated with CKLN management?

**** March 13, 2007 ****



[Kristin Schwartz and Asad Ismi's Colonialism fuels discontent and plunders CKLN Resources](#)

**** February 16, 2007 ****

[Hey People! New Quiz is up!](#)

**** January 31, 2007 ****



[a visual guide of the players at CKLN](#)



[feature article by Greg Duffell](#)

**** December 18, 2006 ****

Greg Duffell Terminated from CKLN.

[more updates >](#)

[Read Full Case #1.](#) The election that broke CKLN by-laws.

[more cases >](#)

Answer: The proprietors of Baldwin Naturals donated substantial prizes for use by the "International Connection" for the benefit of CKLN's annual fundraising starting in 2001. In 2002 Baldwin Naturals donations totaled over **\$1200**. Included were two "one year 25% off everything" vouchers that were offered for \$500 each.

In 2002, CKLN [Program Director Tim May](#) announced to Greg Duffell that he would personally claim one of the "one year 25% off everything" vouchers. Greg Duffell learned many years later that an attempt was made in 2002, by [Tim May's girlfriend](#), to use a "one year 25% off everything" voucher at Baldwin Naturals under the following fraudulent conditions:

- 1) She pledged \$300 instead of \$500 (as was mandated by Baldwin Naturals and the "International Connection") (NOTE: the pledge did NOT occur during the "International Connection" fundraising show)
- 2) She attempted to use the "one year 25% off everything" voucher WITHOUT paying the pledge (in direct contravention of the agreement setup between Baldwin Naturals and the "International Connection")

The co-proprietor of Baldwin Naturals, who provided a written statement to the CKLN "Task Force" as part of our official complaint against a member of core staff, was never contacted by the "Task Force", offered any explanation of these improprieties, nor provided an apology.

Baldwin Naturals, a firm of long standing in our community, has ceased to be a financial contributor to CKLN.

6) Which long-running CKLN program has been "privatized" in terms of its' ad revenues?

Answer: "Reggaemania" is at least one program on CKLN which is effectively "privatized" in terms of how on-air advertising is sold.

What we can say authoritatively is that no CKLN staff person deals directly with the advertisers who buy time on "Reggaemania". In effect "Reggaemania" host Ron Nelson is a "re-seller" of CKLN commercial time. It appears to us that Mr. Nelson is in the position of paying the standard book rate (minimum dollar per minute) for CKLN advertising and has the ability to resell this time at a profit. As far as we know, no other CKLN so-called "volunteer" is allowed by management to engage in this kind of practice. On top of the "re-selling", Mr. Nelson may receive a commission for every dollar he pays to the station, in effect making a second profit on the same transaction.

We feel it is the responsibility of the management of CKLN to sell advertising time on the station in a way that provides transparent accountability and fairness to all programmers and the community at large.

These peculiar relationships that are negotiated between hosts and management have the tendency to breed an atmosphere where some hosts decide that they can perform promotional announcements without clearing these through management at all.

In a future article to appear on [openckln.com](#) we will outline how many CKLN programmers have probably been selling ads on the station in a way in which they personally benefit, perhaps financially, at the detriment to the station.

Many at CKLN have been very critical of the block sale of airtime at CIUT-FM at the University of Toronto. It would appear that CKLN has been involved in similar activities.

7) What is the business relationship between CKLN and the oft-promoted and advertised Toronto club "Andy Poolhall"?

Answer: Of all the clubs on the Toronto scene, "Andy Poolhall" is constantly promoted on CKLN by its' "volunteer" host DJ's. In addition, a seemingly endless series of minute plus ads by Poolhall "resident dj" and CKLN host Denise Benson permeate the airwaves. Replete with the tag line and seeming disclaimer "supported by CKLN", Benson's recorded promotions air all year round, often several times a day. It is unclear where these elaborate ads are produced, but we suspect that the "spots" are produced by paid CKLN employee [Mark Bialkowski](#).

Program Director Tim May makes sure that it is his responsibility to schedule "ads" and "spots" on CKLN, including deciding the frequency and placement of the "spots" for "Andy Poolhall". We feel that that responsibility for placing advertisements should rest with the advertising department of CKLN.

We estimate the market value of these ads would generate somewhere in the region of **\$30,000** a year for CKLN.

As far as we know, these ads are played totally free and provide not one thin dime to the running of CKLN.

Almost every "DJ" that has arrived on the scene lately as a CKLN "volunteer host" seems to derive part of their living from Andy Poolhall. As heard on CKLN, they dutifully and perpetually perform cross-promotional plugging that appears to go along with their "programming privileges". As a

listener to CKLN, you're rarely far away from hearing a Poolhall plug.

"Ciao Edie" is another club that is plugged vociferously on CKLN. Oh, it just HAPPENS to be owned by the same proprietor as "Andy Poolhall". We feel that by facilitating these enterprises, Program Director Tim May has allowed for the continuing abuse of CKLN's airwaves.

8) What rights do CKLN Radio Inc. have in the distribution and sale of the documentary series "Building a Just World: Fair Trade, Ethical Trade and Canada" and the programming stemming from the upcoming "World Social Conference " in Nairobi, Kenya?

Answer: You might be hearing programming soon on CKLN stemming from a trip to Nairobi, Kenya by [CKLN News Director Kristin Schwartz](#) and the unaffiliated researcher and writer Asad Ismi. Mr. Ismi is credited as being "Executive Producer" of these so-called "radio documentaries". Does this mean he owns the rights to the resulting product despite the fact it is seemingly produced at CKLN using the facilities of the station and its' employees?

Mr. Ismi has appeared on the CKLN airwaves promoting these productions and has offered copies to the audience under unspecified terms. What he makes very clear, however, is that any interested parties contact him at his home phone number. Here is yet another area of unaccountability as far as CKLN finances and operations are concerned. We feel that CKLN listeners should contact station staff to be provided copies of programming that are produced under the auspices of the station.

Mr. Ismi has also raised funds personally for the trip to Nairobi and for Kristin Schwartz ostensibly to produce a radio documentary. Is he selling this idea to funding agencies, like Unions, on the basis of delivering radio documentaries that use the facilities, resources and staff of CKLN? How is CKLN benefiting financially from this undertaking? Is Mr. Ismi a "member" of CKLN?

Also, Mr. Ismi hosts all of his online writings and personal web site on the web servers of CKLN Radio Inc. We believe that Mr. Ismi does not pay for the use of CKLN's servers and bandwidth in the course of promoting himself.

We know of no other person affiliated with CKLN who is provided equal benefits and access as Mr. Ismi.

9) What has the reaction been by the CKLN "Afrikan Caucus" of the CKLN Board decision to fund aspects of the January 2007 trip to Nairobi, Kenya proposed by News Director Kristin Schwartz?

Answer: Members of CKLN's "Afrikan Caucus" were upset about Ms. Schwartz's request to the Board, and subsequent rubber stamping, of her paid trip to Nairobi in January 2007.

We wonder why a member of the African-Canadian community was not offered a chance to travel to the "World Social Conference " in Kenya to report for CKLN.

One wonders if Ms. Schwartz, who is known to speak enthusiastically about "group consensus", ever presented her plan to the CKLN "Afrikan Caucus" before taking her proposal to the Board. We suspect NO.

All evidence indicates that Ms. Schwartz kept her travel plans very close to the vest and announced them only after Board funding was complete.

Don't forget to read the remaining answers for this quiz
and previous quizzes on the [Quiz page](#)

openckln.com does not endorse external sites