

NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CKUA Welcomes Radio Cité to Edmonton Headquarters Edmonton, Alberta – February 12, 2024

The CKUA Radio Network is pleased to welcome Radio Cité to its Edmonton headquarters, the Alberta Hotel on Jasper Avenue.

Radio Cité, a French-language broadcaster, was created in 2018 as part of the CRTC's commitment to French language minority rights. When its lease with La Cité Francophone in Edmonton was complete, station administration began looking for a way to share space and infrastructure with an established broadcaster. Conversations with CKUA, a donor-funded radio and media network based in Alberta, began in late 2023. Radio Cité now has its offices on the fourth floor of the Alberta Hotel and uses some of the building's recording and broadcast studios.

CKUA's Chief Operating Officer, Adam Mitchell, says that the idea of Radio Cité using CKUA's office and broadcast spaces evolved quite quickly. "We're excited to have them in the building. We are ready to offer help with things like technology and space, and we're looking forward to exploring what working together might look like."

Radio Cité offers a blend of diverse music and talk radio, all in French. The programs of local hosts are complemented by diverse programming from all over the world, including political and cultural journalism relating to the Francophone community.

There's no doubt that this burgeoning relationship has enormous potential to benefit both CKUA and Radio Cité. "We are getting ready to grow and engage the community in new ways," says Annie McKitrick, President of Radio Cité's board of directors.

This aligns well with CKUA's vision for its future, and the future of the building. Chief Executive Officer Marc Carnes says, "We are actively re-imagining Alberta Hotel as a community hub, with non-profits and creative organizations at its core. With CKUA, Alberta Music, Alberta Council of Women's Shelters, and VR Cave—a local tech startup—already in the building, it's exciting to welcome Radio Cité to the neighbourhood. Great things happen when community-minded organizations come together, connected through the power of creativity and storytelling—especially in both of Canada's official languages."

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This collaboration is recognized by the federal government as well. The Honourable Randy Boissonnault, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Official Languages, said in a statement, "Both official languages must have strong outlets to allow their news and culture to be heard. Radio Cité Francophone continues to be a place of historic significance for Francophone news, allowing the community to thrive and cultivate a comfortable, open space for French Canadians. Thank you, CKUA, for sharing this resource with Alberta and supporting language minorities in our country."

Founded in 1927, CKUA is committed to inspiring and connecting people through the power of music, arts, culture, and story. CKUA has broadcast studios in Edmonton's historic Alberta Hotel and in Calgary's East Village. With a focus on musical discovery, CKUA showcases the best creative work from Alberta and beyond and delivers it on air, online, and in person.

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