

FAQ'S

LINE // ckua.com CKUA's JUNO Couch celebration. L-R: Grant

Stovel (front with mic), Kate Stevens, Marek Tyler, Dan Mangan, Tom Wilson.

Our ask of Government

The Time Is Now For The Government To Do Its Part.

Set the course for a second century of serving Albertans and Canadians by securing CKUA's future today.

CKUA's ask of the Federal Government is to correct historical wrongs, slingshot us out of a perfect storm, and invest in another century of serving Canadians. These investments, which align with Federal interests related to heritage, sustainability, and digital media, would save approximately \$1,185,000 per year in planned expenses over the next six years, creating the source of sustainability we currently lack due to minimal or non-existent government support at all levels.

\$ 6,000,000	One time	Remove the financial burden of the debt created by federal underfunding of the Alberta Hotel construction.
\$ 640,000	One time	Investments to re-imagine Alberta Hotel as a non-profit and cultural hub and maximize revenues within the property.
\$ 2,500,000	One time	Greening and upgrading CKUA's transmitter network to lower power consumption and environmental impact, including adding 26 acres of solar energy production.
\$ 425,000	One time	Digital media innovation projects, including the digitization and distribution of archival recordings to the public.
\$ 300,000	Annually	Annual maintenance and perservation costs related to CKUA's historic recording archive; a nationally significant collection.
\$9,865,000		

CKUA's ask of the Provincial Government is not just to match federal investments, but to seize a unique opportunity to become the lead partner in our centennial celebration —a national first. This partnership would not only increase our outreach to rural markets and expand our platforms, but also promote Alberta's multi-billion-dollar cultural sector and unique identity to a global audience.

Shakura S'aida – Toronto, ON **JUNO Award Nominee**

What has CKUA done?

The Time Is Now For The Government To Do Its Part.

On April 17, 2024, the day after the Federal Budget, CKUA notified the community that it needed to raise \$3M by September 30th to keep its lights on.



CKUA's Address To The Community

For more information on the current challenge, read the attached FAQ.

Read on for more details and answers to frequently asked questions about our ask of Government.



What has CKUA done?

Listeners Have Done Their Part.

The goal between April 17-29, 2024, was to raise the first \$775,000 towards the \$3M total.

6,778 donors (25% of them being *new* donors) contributed **\$1.675M** during the campaign. Today that number stands at just under \$1.8M in grassroots support since April 17th.

- 6,088 Albertans from 271 unique communities donated
- 609 Canadian donors from outside of Alberta supported CKUA. Donors represented all provinces, the Yukon and Northwest Territories
- 81 international donors from 14 countries.

The people have spoken.

Thanks to the community's support, we are confident we will make our \$3M goal by September 30th. However, our donors' show of support is about more than money; it's the resounding message to the government: "We're doing our part. Where are you?"

CKUA Hosts L-R: Grant Stovel, Kate Stevens, Marek Tyler, Leo Cripps, Lisa Wilton, Tony King

Senator Tommy Banks, jazz legend and former CKUA host

What is CKUA's ask of Government?

Stop The Political Finger-Pointing.

We are running short on time. This standoff threatens a celebrated Alberta cultural institution and risks depriving our community of a vital cultural enrichment and connection source.

On April 24, 2024, Minster Fir stood in the Alberta Legislature (time: 59:19) and said that they had not provided us funding in the recent budget in our hour of need because we have a debt to service, and proceeded to point out that Ottawa has not stepped up.

This debt was created by a shortfall in funding from the Federal government.

On May 3, 2024, Minister Boissonnault wrote in an email to a CKUA board member:

"The Government of Canada only funds one broadcast entity directly, CBC, and the majority of our current cultural programs require matching provincial funding for this category of cultural asset. Unfortunately, the provincial government decided not to fund CKUA in their last budget despite a projected surplus."

Full disclosure: It's not the people. It's the politics. Ministers Fir and Boissonnault have been supportive and receptive to our efforts. This is not a statement on them as individuals. But they are responsible for representing community interests within their parties, and we are asking them to find a way forward given the resounding response from the many communities they represent and serve.

H.P. Brown, founder, innovator, altruist.

Where is the Province on this?

Our Interests Are The Province's Interests.

CKUA has been serving Albertans for nearly 100 years. CKUA and the Province want to promote a culturally rich and globally competitive Alberta. Part of Minister Fir's mandate letter from Premier Danielle Smith, a broadcaster herself, includes "Promoting and celebrating Alberta's unique cultural identity and heritage." With 16 transmitters and listeners on five continents, there isn't a bigger promoter of Alberta's unique cultural identity than CKUA. We are a provincial differentiator, considering there isn't another provincial broadcaster in Canada – let alone one solely focused on promoting cultural industries at a time when culture helps to define world-leading jurisdictions where people want to move. This belief is reflected in the government's historic funding of Calgary's Glenbow Museum and Arts Commons in recent years.

CKUA listeners are not just cultural enthusiasts; they are significant cultural consumers. By curating and stimulating demand for Albertan festivals and artists and leveraging our trusted position with listeners, CKUA acts as a vital "connective tissue" that drives cultural tourism in Alberta. This, in turn, has a tangible economic benefit, boosting local economies by filling venues, creating jobs, and further enhancing Alberta's status as a premier tourism destination.

By law, CKUA is an essential service reaching 96% of Alberta's populated areas. Our provincial network of transmitters continues to provide Albertans with Early Warning System updates about the growing <u>risk of tornadoes and fires</u> as they happen.

Fort McMurray Peace River Whitecourt Hinton 102.5 Lloydminste 97.5 Edmonton Edson 103.7 Drumheller Canmore Bow Valley 104.3 Medicine Hat 97.3

Where is the Province on this?

CKUA Deserves Fairness.

- 1. CKUA receives \$57,040 in annual <u>operating</u> funding, enough for 2.25 days of operations while providing a free, essential service to Albertans. This amount is equivalent to 1.3 cents per Albertan.* Our ask is for a fair deal by **funding us equally on an annual basis** with our peers in the arts and culture sector. These are the same festivals and organizations that curate and present the same artists and serve the same audiences we do. We help build audience demand for these artists and do it across Alberta, bridging the growing urban/rural divide in a way that no other cultural organization does.
- 2. Our ask of Ottawa is \$9.865M to preserve the historic Alberta Hotel by killing the debt they had a hand in creating, preserving our historic archives, and greening our broadcast infrastructure. Will you commit to a financial match if they do this? When we eliminate the debt, can we count on your support?

*Since the 2019 election, CKUA has received <u>project</u> grants from the GOA, including a \$75K CFEP grant for purchasing performance space equipment and a \$74K CIP grant for cultural-specific programming. These one-off grants, awarded against competition from hundreds of other non-profits, do not constitute reliable or repeatable operating funding sources. CKUA has also received provincial job training grants equally available to all businesses. Operating, project, and training grants have equalled approximately \$450,000 since 2019. One-third of that is operating grants. The rest are grants available to all non-profits and private-sector businesses.

The Alberta Hotel, Edmonton, AB

Where is Ottawa on this?

Ottawa Is The Main Reason Why We Need Help.

CKUA does not receive annual federal government funding.*

The Alberta Hotel is located in Minister Randy Boissonnault's riding. Minister Boissonnault is Alberta's only Federal cabinet minister.

CKUA undertook a capital campaign to rebuild the historic Alberta Hotel in response to Edmonton's cultural plan to grow our city's cultural footprint and capacity. The vision for the project included half commercial real estate to provide affordable, central administrative spaces to non-profits, a venture aimed at diversifying revenues and offsetting operating costs in light of near non-existent annual government support. The mechanism to kickstart these kinds of projects was via tripartite cultural funding between the City of Edmonton, the Province of Alberta, and the Federal government. The City and the Province each contributed \$5M; however, the federal government only contributed \$500,000, and CKUA had to take out an unexpected and unbudgeted \$6 million loan.

The near doubling of our carrying costs for the loan in the last 18 months is a significant part of our current financial pressures. We are asking Ottawa to fix a historical wrong.

* In 2021, CKUA received a matching \$75K project grant from Canadian Heritage and Alberta CFEP for performance space equipment. This is the only federal contribution we have received aside from the \$500,000. This one-off grant, awarded against competition from hundreds of other non-profits, does not constitute reliable or repeatable operating funding sources. CKUA also receives student internship job training grants, equally available to all businesses.

1997, CKUA returns!

Where is Ottawa on this?

Protect An Important Piece Of Canadian Heritage.

CKUA is unique and we fall through the cracks in Ottawa. Significant Canadian Heritage <u>assets</u> and <u>treasures are at risk</u>. Foreclosure at the hand of Ottawa's failure to act includes tens of millions in monetary cultural losses and untold cultural value, including:

- The loss of CKUA, Canada's first public broadcaster and the blueprint for the CBC and all public and community broadcasters in Canada.
- The loss of an Alberta cultural gem that has, and continues to, propel the careers of thousands
 of independent Albertan and Canadian artists at a scale unmatched by another broadcaster or
 cultural institution in the country.
- The liquidation of CKUA's recording library and archive, which consist of 100 years of eclectic recorded music on multiple media, more than 130,000 physical pieces, an additional 13,000 digital album holdings, and nearly 2 million songs.
- Thousands of hours of interviews and programs spanning decades featuring prominent Canadians and artists on physical media slated for digital preservation.
- The liquidation of the iconic heritage Alberta Hotel to private investors for redevelopment, including the loss of multiple public performance and gathering spaces in Downtown Edmonton at a time of much-needed downtown revitalization.



Where is Ottawa on this?

CKUA Deserves Fairness.

CKUA is not looking for special treatment. We are looking for fair treatment.

CKUA and the local CBC have a good relationship. We support our colleagues and their work. However, as the closest comparison to CKUA, it is important that we highlight the disparity between the two organizations at the hands of the federal government despite our similarities.

The CBC: A Government-Funded Monopoly

The CBC's lobbying position is that they deserve more money due to <u>the disparity between other</u> <u>countries and their public broadcasters</u>.

CKUA's lobbying position is that we deserve help amid the disparity within our own country. The CBC is a government-funded monopoly for public broadcasting, ignoring the regional needs and focuses of other non-profit, independent, professional local broadcasters (of which, to our knowledge, there is one other one).

Shayne Giles (L) speaks with JUNO Award winner **Aysanabee** (R) at The Edmonton Folk Music Festival, 2023

Jay Gilday – Edmonton, AB
Indigenous Artist of the Year, Western Canadian
Music Awards

Where is Ottawa on this?

CKUA Deserves Fairness.

The CBC: Total Revenue Performance Comparison

In the April 2024 budget, the federal government wrote the following: "Like many media organizations, CBC/Radio-Canada has experienced declining advertising and subscription revenues that threaten its ability to fulfill its mandate of providing public television and radio programming."

After <u>committing to \$14.9 million in performance pay and bonuses</u> amid revenue shortfalls, the CBC received an additional one-year subsidy of \$42 million allotted to news and entertainment programming in the 2024 budget. Meanwhile, CKUA increased its revenues during the same time period and did not pay bonuses. The following is based on the most recent audited financials:

Total Revenues	FY 22/23	FY 21/22	Variance
<u>CKUA</u>	5,936,935	5,787,655	2.6%
CBC	1,787,430,000	1,891,431,000	-5.5%

CKUA's ability to fulfill its mandate and survive is also in question. This is not due to decreased revenue performance; rather, it's due to economic factors outside of our control.

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Lisa Wilton (R) speaks with Grammy and JUNO Award winner **Allison Russell** (L) at The Canmore Folk Music Festival, 2023

Where is Ottawa on this?

CKUA Deserves Fairness.

The CBC: Tax-Funding Comparison

The following is an FY22/23 comparison using the most recent audited financials of tax sources for operating dollars.

	Tax source	Operating revenues from tax sources	Est. population at budget time	Tax contribution per Citizen
CBC	Fed.	\$ 1,271,846,000	38,540,788	<u>\$ 33.00</u>
CKUA	Fed.	<u>\$-</u>	38,540,788	\$-
CKUA	Prov.	\$ 57,059	4,598,444	\$ 0.013
CKUA - Edmonton	Muni.	\$ 24,100	<u>1,140,000</u>	\$ 0.021

Alberta contributes \$154,944,570 or 12.2% of CBC's tax subsidy

CKUA is an excellent return on tax dollar investment.

	Tax-based operating funding	Other revenues	Output
СВС	\$ 1,271,846,000	\$ 515,584,000	\$0.41 return for every tax dollar spent on operations
CKUA	\$ 81,159	\$ 5,936,935	\$73.15 return for every tax dollar spent on operations

CKUA is asking Ottawa to invest in growth and efficiency.

Aladean Kheroufi - Edmonton, AB Performs at Downtown Spark

Where is Ottawa on this?

CKUA Deserves Fairness.

Private Media: As noted earlier, Minister Boissonnault wrote on May 2, 2024, "The Government of Canada only funds one broadcast entity directly, CBC..."

This was the company line when we began working in Ottawa last June. Since then, Ottawa has changed its policy by announcing hundreds of millions of dollars in relief subsidies, including a <u>direct \$40M bailout to Quebec-based Bell Media</u> via regulatory relief. Bell subsequently laid off 4,800 employees, closed newsrooms and sold radio stations nationwide while announcing a \$465M *quarterly profit* and paying out dividends to shareholders.

The disparity in government relief during a hard time for many is glaring.

Federal policies created private media monopolies. In pursuing shareholder profit, coupled with an inability or unwillingness to adapt their business models in response to digital disruption, these enterprises cut local newspapers, TV, and radio. CKUA is what remains after local daily arts and culture coverage was cut from local media due to national media consolidation in the east and repeated cuts to save costs and preserve shareholder value. CKUA does more to promote independent artists, give a voice to their work, and inform cultural consumers about what's happening in their communities than anyone else in Alberta or Western Canada.

CKUA aims to protect 91 cultural jobs and more than \$8M per year invested in the local economy, while some of the private media organizations getting bailouts likely have fewer people and certainly less activity in the cultural sector in Alberta than us.

Alex Cuba – Smithers, BC JUNO Award winner, playing @ CKUA for the Road to the Junos – March 2023

Where is Ottawa on this?

Let's Talk About COVID Relief.

CKUA received \$30,000 in CEWS relief in the first weeks of the pandemic in March 2020 after losing advertising sales related to cancelled arts and culture performances. We did not rely on or request COVID relief funding afterwards while generating surpluses in those years.

Statement of Operations			
Revenues over deficiencies (Financial Year ending August 31)			
FY 19/20	76,928	COVID hits mid-year (March 2020)*	
FY 20/21	583,136	COVID*	
FY 21/22	-50,119	Inflation surge starts mid-year (February 2022)	
FY 22/23	-1,437,715	Inflation, real estate challenges	

Meanwhile, Ottawa spent <u>hundreds of millions of dollars on wage subsidies for private media</u> while they increased shareholder payouts during the pandemic.

While the arts and culture sector was decimated, we were still here, telling their stories, sharing their art, <u>celebrating Alberta's cherished festivals</u>, and <u>supporting artists in many other ways</u>. And we did so without cutting back or drawing upon much-needed financial support for those most impacted by the pandemic.

CKUA is feeling the impacts of the post-pandemic economy. Where is our relief?

18" transcription disc, used to broadcast to Alaska

during the building of the Highway to Alaska.

Where is Ottawa on this?

Don't Fall For The Spin.

Expect the typical canned response, which will go something like this:

- The government values CKUA's many contributions to Canadians.
- · The government believes in the importance of arts and culture.
- The government has made the following investments into arts and culture in the recent budget:
 - \$20 million over the next three years from PrairiesCan to support performing arts organizations based in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.
 - \$32 million over the next two years to support the development and promotion of Canadian Musicians and Canadian Music.
 - \$58.8 million over the next three years to support local journalism initiatives that include community radio and television.
 - \$45 million for the National Arts Centre to support the Canadian artists across Canada.
- The government needs matching provincial investment to contribute to CKUA, and the province left CKUA out of the budget despite running a surplus last year.
- To get real action, contact your MLA and City Councillor

They won't tell you in their response that, after working for a year in Ottawa, they have not found a way forward through any of these funding vehicles. CKUA is not eligible because of our unique status. We are left out as a broadcaster and an arts and culture entity.

Don't settle for their response. Call for real action.

CKUA Transmitter from 1927

Is there something more to this?

Disparity In Alberta.

CKUA's struggles with Ottawa don't exist in a vacuum. The Canada Council for the Arts has historically underfunded Alberta artists and arts organizations. Tanya Fir, Alberta Minister of Arts, Culture and Status of Women, <u>highlighted this disparity in a letter</u> to Minister Pascale St. Onge on November 6, 2023.

Ottawa's chronic underfunding of Alberta arts and culture while refusing to act in support of CKUA's plea for help <u>navigating a perfect storm</u> hasn't gone unnoticed by many.

ckua.com Listen Now CKUA on-site at the Edmonton Folk Music Festival, 2023

What can I do?

Make Your Voice Heard!

<u>Send a personalized message of support</u> for CKUA to the following people. **Physical mail is free and best because it's easier to ignore emails; however, use all available channels.**

- The Honourable Randy Boissonnault, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Official Languages (representing the riding of Edmonton Centre, where CKUA is headquartered)
 Link: Constituency contact information.
- The Honourable Pascale St. Onge, Minister of Canadian Heritage. Link: Ottawa office contact information
- <u>The Honourable Chrystia Freeland</u>, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance (originally from Peace River, AB). Link: <u>Ottawa office contact information</u>
- The Honourable Dominic Leblanc, Minister of Public Safety, Democratic Institutions and Intergovernmental Affairs (tasked with Ottawa's relationship with provinces).
 Link: Ottawa office contact information.
- Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. Link: Ottawa office contact information
- · And your local MP

Your *respectful* dialogue and show of support for CKUA is critical. Your actions can help us overcome this perfect storm, correct historical wrongs, and set CKUA up for a second century of serving Canadians. And remember, don't fall for the spin! **Ask for real action.**

Link: www.ckua.com/TheTimeIsNow



About CKUA Radio Foundation

CKUA Is A Community.

Imagine a music incubator that provides a platform for great artists to emerge and serves as a virtual year-round music festival. This festival, expertly curated and diverse in musical offerings, is a celebration of musical and art discovery, showcasing some of the best independent and emerging work from Alberta, Canada, and beyond. Funded overwhelmingly by its audience, CKUA thrives on the connections it forges between artists, listeners, and partners. These connections form a close-knit community that shares a passion for the transformative power of music, art, and local storytelling.

Established in 1927, CKUA was Canada's first educational and public broadcaster. Today, CKUA is an Alberta-wide charitable arts and culture organization and broadcaster serving audiences on five continents. The provincial scope and broad culture sector-only focus of CKUA, coupled with its innovative programming, is not found anywhere else in Canada. Its equal role in preserving and protecting a 100-year-old working library and archive, operating the historic 1903 Alberta Hotel and its public performance and gathering spaces, and educating future media, arts administration, and archival professionals is unmatched anywhere.

The slides at the end of this deck provide more information about CKUA's mission, vision, and mandate.

John Wort Hannam – Fort Mcleod, AB Canadian Folk Music Award Winner

CKUA Vision and Mission

Vision

A better world connected through music, arts, and culture.

Mission

Building and connecting a global community of music, arts, and culture enthusiasts through broadcast, online programming and in-person events

Charitable registration number: 118776830 RR 0001



Corb Lund, Taber AB Juno, CCMA Winner



k.d. lang, Edmonton AB Grammy, Juno Winner



Joel Wood, Maskwacis Grammy nominee, Juno Winner



Elinor Frey, Rosa Barocca, Claude Lapalme, Alberta Juno Winner



Cadence Weapon, Edmonton Polaris Prize Winner



Caity Gyorgy, Calgary Juno Winner

CKUA Mandate

CKUA provides an essential 24/7/365 service that is free for the public to access:

- Music and Arts Curation
- Music and Arts Presentation
- 3. Connecting Communities
- 4. Multi-Media Storytelling
- Elevating Independent Albertan & Canadian Artists
- 6. Global Promotion of Albertan & Canadian Talent
- 7. Educating Future Arts and Media Professionals
- 8. Performance & Community Gathering Venues
- 9. Cultural Archives Preservation



CKUA Mandate con't 1-3

- **1. Music and Arts Curation:** 33 hosts curate mixed music genres and deeply explore 12 specialty genres from Albertan, Canadian and global catalogues. Hosts aren't radio jocks; they are promoters, producers, artists, label owners, teachers, arts jurists, Order of Canada recipients and more. <u>Regularly featured genres:</u> Blues, bluegrass, jazz, classical, choral, roots, Celtic, folk, indie, world music, reggae, rock, R&B, Indigenous artists, and more.
- **2. Music and Arts Presentation:** 126 hours of curated weekly music, arts and culture-only programming, focusing on non-top 40 emerging and independent artists from Alberta, Canada and the world. In 2023:
- 181 Indigenous-Canadian artists featured
- 742 Emerging Canadian artists featured
- 39,437 spins (50.6%) of all artists featured from equity-deserving communities (Indigenous, BIPOC, LGBTQ2IA+, Women, Francophonie)
- **3. Connecting Communities:** A public, essential service that creates a more connected and understanding community through music, arts & culture. *Regardless of age, geography, race, gender identity or financial means, CKUA is free to access, and all are welcome.*



CKUA Mandate con't 4-5

- **4. Multi-Media Storytelling:** Combatting the disappearance of local media by blending legacy and modern media platforms. A source for Albertan multi-disciplinary artists, often from underrepresented communities, to showcase their work and tell their stories. In 2023:
- 269 Interviews (more than half from equity-deserving communities Indigenous, BIPOC, Women,
 LGBTQ2IA+, Francophonie) on radio and digital format
- **5. Elevating Independent Albertan and Canadian Artists:** Connecting and fostering a creative ecosystem for Albertan artists to grow and flourish in their local communities. Provide artists with avenues for exposure, sell tickets, fill venues, and draw visitors to local communities across Alberta. In 2023:
- Promoted 46 summer festivals on-air, online and in-person.
- Partnered with 126 artists, venues, promoters, and organizations for the rest of the year.
- 1,220 events promoted on our events page
- More than \$400K in promotional value in kind and \$300K in editorial value in kind to artists.
- Compared with \$0.002 per digital stream, CKUA returns 1,000x, putting an average of \$2/spin back in the pocket of Canadian musicians via SOCAN and CMRRA.



CKUA Mandate con't 6-9

- **6. Global Promotion of Albertan and Canadian Talent:** Part of Alberta's story to the world. Bridging the urban-rural divide, reaching 95% of AB's population via 16 FM transmitters and listeners/donors on five continents via streaming and on-demand platforms. ~475,000 monthly terrestrial listeners in Alberta
- 690,000 unique global streamers/year
- Year-over-year, and 5-year growth, in 3 demographic groups in Alberta and beyond
- **7. Educating Future Arts and Media Professionals:** Providing internship opportunities for SAIT, NAIT, MacEwan University, and University of Alberta students in broadcasting, journalism, digital media, arts administration, library & archives management
- **8. Performance Venues:** Own and run a 125-person performance venue and additional gathering spaces in downtown Edmonton. Affordable and turn-key accessible for artists and cultural organizations and rentals for civic and commercial clients.
- **9. Cultural Archives Preservation:** Manage and operate a working music library and cultural archive spanning 100 years of recorded Albertan and Canadian music, interviews, and documentation. A catalogue of ~2M songs and over 130,000 pieces.