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Media Release
From the Radio Heritage Foundation

Government Ignores Bigger Picture with Kiwi FM Bailout

The Minister of Broadcasting is keen to save Kiwi FM from extinction, but won't lift a finger to help an existing not-for-profit organisation save even more endangered aspects of New Zealand radio.

Radio Heritage Foundation chairman David Ricquish says whilst the government is being generous towards a Canadian owned commercial broadcaster - donating FM frequencies worth millions of dollars and taxpayer funded NZ On Air programs - the Minister, Steve Maharey refuses to even meet with the Foundation.

"He says we're doing a great job" says Mr Ricquish, "but he won't put his money where his mouth is, and it's New Zealand's social and cultural heritage that's the loser. He's either being badly advised or simply doesn't care."

The Radio Heritage Foundation has a mandate to save and provide free public access to "aspects of New Zealand's radio heritage that would otherwise be lost, sold overseas, or are simply not available elsewhere" says Mr Ricquish.

NZ On Air already funds Radio New Zealand's Sound Archives in an exclusive and non-contested arrangement that currently excludes the non-profit Radio Heritage Foundation from even being considered for funding.

"Whilst we wish Kiwi FM all the best and congratulate CanWest on scoring such spectacular support from the government, we need to see equality of access to NZ On Air funds for a true Kiwi community based organisation such as ours." Mr Ricquish adds.

Ironically, Kiwi FM material will form part of the future content of the Radio Heritage Foundation's archives, along with hundreds of other New Zealand stations the government ignores.

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