

# CIKO 97.5 FM (Carcross Radio)

Carcross

Started: 1997

Contact: Brian Shanahan

In the Carcross School, a small sound booth is home to a 24 hour a day radio station that broadcasts up to 20 kilometers away. CIKO 97.5 FM is run by students and community people during the school year. About five and a half hours a day are live broadcasting and the rest is music provided by "Big AI", a random play CD player. The station's portable "radio in a suitcase" allows many of the broadcasts to occur live from community events.



**Community benefits:** CIKO helps students from the school and college be creative, gain confidence and develop useful skills. The station is also an important communication tool to promote understanding of land claims, to support native language initiatives and to share the history of community people.

**Lessons learned:** Applying for the broadcasting license was a frustrating experience involving multiple applications, many delays, and initial rejections that were overcome only with much lobbying and persistence.

**Future of the project:** The schedule for this year ranges from a show on land claims by a Carcross Tagish First Nation representative to stories read by K-3 students. Twelve other students each have a half hour show of their own. A new CD burner will be used to make a permanent record of native language stories that will also be broadcast. Plans are to try to keep the station running year round but this will depend on enough community people getting involved and developing programming. Ideally, the school principal would like to find some funding to hire someone to take over coordination of the station.