

To Magnus Thyvold and the staff at CJSF radio.

Greetings to all of you folks!

This is Michael Welch. I am a volunteer out at CKUW in Winnipeg. And I am the host and current producer of the Global Research News Hour. I appreciate speaking to fellow programmers in other communities and seeing how stations in other parts of the country are doing things differently. Perhaps I will enjoy the privilege of visiting CJSF someday soon!

What guides me to write you, however, is the concerns you have about my show. I saw the report in the Vancouver Sun. My show was put in the spotlight based mostly on an attack on my partners at Global Research. It also suggests that CJSF may have compromised its principles as responsible broadcasters by airing the material I produce based solely on the decision to partner with them.

So I am certainly not a fan of the position you find yourself in.

The decision you have made to take the show off the air temporarily is understandable. You should be at or near the end of your period of thinking about it and making a decision on the fate of the show on your station. If you opt to keep it on air I will be prepared to help in any way and every way I can! But if you are opting to back away however, I would please ask you to consider a few points.

First of all, I need not remind you that a fundamental principle of campus and community radio is to expand areas of debate. With listeners listening to a wide variety of knowledge and perspective, one should end up in a far better position to make a grounded political decision based on an understanding of the bigger picture. Weapons of mass destruction in Iraq for example would be a case in point.

Any subject I introduce is often a submission of material listeners otherwise may not have heard. They can take it, align it with other information they have heard, and judge for themselves. I have even literally said this from time to time. Other than occasionally encouraging websites or participating in a peaceful rally of some kind I can't recall ever having made a demand of listeners to take action otherwise. And I can assure you, no listeners got the message "People threaten your Chief Public Officer!" from my show!

Secondly, with all the other, for lack of a better term, controversial shows airing on my show for something like eight and a half years, current issues of the show relating to COVID-19 and the vaccination of the country underway is the only one that was viewed in a controversial light. Keep in mind that the report for the Vancouver Sun did not mention a single broadcast in which the topic did come up. It was only my relationship with Global Research, and not the actual materials that aired, that somehow damages me.

My third point refers to Global Research and the site globalresearch.ca. It is an academic site and an independent research and media organization. It publishes news articles, commentary, and background research and analysis on a range of topics ranging from social, economic, political, cultural, strategic and environmental issues. It has received acclaim from several noteworthy figures over the years. In 2008 it had received an award from the Mexican Club of Journalists for the best research and news analysis at the international level. It received the Project Censored award for several years running.

As for the man himself, Professor Michel Chossudovsky, he is a distinctly reputable economist having made appearances and given lecture at universities all over the world. He has published over 1500

articles, including scholarly works. He is well documented as an expert critic on scores of media including the CBC once upon a time. And winner of several prizes around the world.

But ultimately what I would like you to carefully consider that you are being targeted by forces who will take down voices based on smears appearing in the media, such as allegations Global Research is a part of a Kremlin operation (?) And if you do take down Global Research News Hour because of its association with Global Research, who will be next? Will Canadian Dimension Radio or Canadian Foreign Policy Radio, or any other successful media running effective anti-NATO content be next? Consider that the long haul of this enterprise places a station on a track that ultimately requires them to fully conform to the direction of the mainstream in terms of meaningful conversations.

Magnus and staff I have been active as a spoken word programmer for almost thirteen years. I have received several awards from the National Campus and Community Radio Association including two awards for Special Broadcasting and Honourable Mention for Global Research News Hour itself in the special podcast area. I have five and a half years of experience as News Director and about three years on the board of CKUW. And I am generally very worried about the direction we seem to be on as a whole.

Let me just re-iterate my intention as devoted to community radio that if you choose to back my show I will happily have your back and will galvanize as many radio stations as I can to come to your defence! It really has been an honour to have you air my material on your station, and I look forward to continuing in the years ahead.

Thanks for hearing my little spiel folks! All the best to you!

Cordially and respectfully yours,
Michael Welch