
Appendix B

to CBSC Decision 99/00-0619

CIOX-FM re a song entitled "Boyz in the Hood"

I. The Complaint

The following complaint dated May 29, 2000 was sent to the CRTC and forwarded to the CBSC in due course:

The purpose of this letter is to lodge a formal complaint regarding the on-going broadcasting of a song titled "Boyz-In-The-Hood", performed by Dynamite Hack, and aired on Ottawa radio station 101.1 Xfm. Please find below the offensive lyrics in question:

Dumb hoe said something that made me mad
She said something that I couldn't believe
So I grabbed tha stupid bitch by her nappy-ass weave
She started talkin' shit what did ya know
Reached back like a pimp slapped tha hoe

Lyrics from Dynamite Hack's remake of the Niggaz Wit' Attitude (N.W.A.)'s song Boz-In-The-Hood.

I believe that this song clearly violates the CRTC's regulations that stipulate that a licensee shall not broadcast:

any abusive comment that, when taken in context, tends to or is likely to expose an individual or a group or class of individuals to hatred or contempt on the basis of race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age or mental or physical disability.

I have contacted the station by phone and by email stating my objection to this song. However, the Program Director has informed me that after consideration of my concerns and those of others who have also contacted the station, they have decided to maintain "Boyz-N-The-Hood" on the play list.

The Station's Program Director has argued that the lyrics are acceptable because the song is intended to satirize white males who appropriate gansta rap culture (the song was originally written by gansta pioneers Niggaz Wit' Attitude or N.W.A.). However, its satirical nature is not clear from the song but only from the video. Further, the satire is not on point - the message is one of appropriation of culture and the violence against women messaging is not refuted. Lastly, I do not believe that there is a context which can excuse the extreme nature of these lyrics.

I sincerely hope that the CRTC will compel 101.1 Xfm to remove the offensive song "Boyz-N-The-Hood" by Dynamite Hack from their play list. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

II. The Broadcaster's Response

The Manager of CIOX FM responded to the complaint with the following letter, dated June 14th, 2000:

We are in receipt of your letter to the CRTC on May 29 2000. It was forwarded to the Canadian Broadcast Standards Council, of which CIOX FM is a member in good standing. They have asked that we respond to your concerns directly and I'm pleased to do so through this correspondence.

Of particular concern to you and the basis for your letter, is the lyrical content of a musical selection by the group, "Dynamite Hack" entitled, "Boyz in the Hood".

When determining what selections make up the Xfm music list, we rely on several factors including; (but not limited to)

- compatibility and suitability with our audience
- local sales figures
- phone requests & Web Site comments
- the over all cumulative popularity of the record on similarly formatted radio stations across Canada and the United States.

This particular selection is a widely exposed song that is receiving airplay not only on Xfm, but all across North America on radio stations with similar formats.

I supply this information in hope of shedding some light on our thought process when choosing our music. Our experience tells us that once a song meets or surpasses the above criteria, we can generally be confident of the songs' worthiness, although nothing is absolute.

From time to time we come across a song that contains specific lyrical reference or subject matter that may not be suitable or compatible with all tastes and interests of our audience. Indeed, that some listeners may find offensive.

This obviously is the case as it applies to your interpretation of the selection in question and the obvious effect it had on you. That's regretful on our part.

Xfm takes its broadcasting responsibilities seriously and we are committed to providing high quality programming, while trying to attract as many listeners who enjoy this format as possible.

This is a difficult challenge, but one we gladly accept, and do so with a watchful eye & (ear) on all of our content.

Please accept our apologies for any embarrassment or inconvenience caused to you as a result of any programming you may have heard on Xfm. It is never our intention to offend.

If you wish to discuss this issue or any other regarding the programming at Xfm, please feel free to contact me anytime.