

## "The Amelie: Canadian Refugee Policy and the Story of the 1987 Boat People"

"The Boat People" is a three part documentary series exploring the history of the arrival of refugees to Atlantic Canada by boats not officially sanctioned by the government of Canada. It will focus on telling the stories of two particular events: The arrival of 153 Tamil migrants off the coast of Newfoundland in 1986, and the arrival of mostly Sikh refugees to Charlesville, Nova Scotia the following summer. The first two parts of the documentary series will focus on highlighting first person narratives of those who were aboard the boats or who witnessed their arrival. The third part of the documentary series will focus on the portrayal of these events in the mainstream media, and the impact these events had on the evolution of Canadian refugee legislation. This project aims to give local relevance to the national phenomenon of the arrival of boat migrants, while telling compelling cultural stories that are an important part of the region's history.

This documentary project will be co-produced by Ella Bedard and Jane Kirby, whose complementary skills and interests will allow for a unique finished product and an excellent educational opportunity. Jane Kirby is a freelance journalist and a member of the CKDU's News Collective. She was the weekly host of the collective morning show Operation Wakeup! from 2008-2010, and also worked as the CKDU Youth Programs Coordinator during the summer of 2009. She also does support work with local refugee families. She will partner with Ella Bedard, who recently completed a degree in History and has written a major paper on boat people and Canadian refugee policy in the 1980s. She is a former employee of Pier 21, Canada's Immigration Museum. Ms. Kirby will enter into a mentoring relationship with Ms. Bedard to help her develop necessary skills in audio production, and both will be mentored by CKDU staff and an experienced radio producer to further develop their skills in journalism, audio-production and documentary making.

The completed documentary will air on CKDU FM, and will be made available to other community broadcasters across the country. The documentary will also be duplicated on audio disc and presented in a cardboard case designed by a local graphic designer and displaying the title, participants, donors, contact information and a description of the audio material. These discs will be distributed to local schools, libraries and resource centres for use as an educational tool. The documentary will also be distributed through a website devoted to the promotion of this documentary and online radio broadcast hubs (ie. NCRA Program Exchange).

**Jane Kirby**

**Co-producer, "Amelie" Documentary**

**Air Date:** October 21 2011

**Distribution:** Ongoing

**Tasks Performed:** Included research, interviewing, script writing, audio editing, promotion and distribution.

As co-producer of the documentary, I was involved in doing archival research, interviewing, script writing and audio editing. Post-production I was also involved in promoting the documentary, assembling CD packages and distributing copies of the project to other community radio stations and groups. I also acted as a mentor to co-producer Ella Bedard, whose experience with journalism, radio production and audio editing was limited before the beginning of this project. Both Ms. Bedard and I were mentored by CBC producer Pierre Loiselle.

My mentorship experience with Pierre Loiselle was very positive. Mr. Loiselle was extremely helpful during all phases of production, and offered useful advice about how to proceed at many points in the process. However, his insight and experience was invaluable when it came to audio editing and refining the final mix of the documentary. He was able to show us many techniques for improving sound quality, and trained us on using Adobe Audition software. He also offered valuable critiques during the final editing process, which I believe resulted in a higher quality finished project. Because of his critiques I have also learned a great deal about editing content for radio.

I am very appreciative of the opportunity that CRFC provided me to focus my energies on a larger audio project on a topic which I am passionate about. Although I have been a volunteer with CKDU for almost four years, hosted a weekly radio show for one and a half years and was summer staff for two and a half months one summer, I had never had the opportunity to really commit to a focused larger scale project before working on this documentary. I believe that this project helped me to further develop a number of skills in audio production, particularly in script writing and audio editing, that I hope to be able to apply to future grassroots journalism projects and work with CKDU and community radio.