



Hope for the CBC: Liberals Pledge Increased CBC Funding

For Immediate Release – Toronto – Sept. 23, 2015 Justin Trudeau announced yesterday that, if elected, the Liberals would invest \$150 million in new annual funding for CBC/Radio-Canada. This would reverse the Conservative cuts to the CBC of \$115 million, and increase funding by an additional \$35 million per year.

It's part of an overall pledge by the Liberal party to invest in the cultural industries. It includes greater funding for Telefilm Canada and the National Film Board, new investment totalling \$25 million per year, and an increase of monies to the Canada Council for the Arts, from \$180 million to \$360 million per year.

WGC Executive Director Maureen Parker says, "We're happy to see a reversal in the trend of constantly attacking the CBC. The CBC's funding is among the lowest in the developed world — even though Canada is the second largest country by landmass on the planet. A public broadcaster is essential to the cultural wealth of a country. Hopefully after this election we can start to rebuild — rather than continue to tear down — our public broadcaster."

The NDP has said it too will cancel the Conservatives' \$115 million cut to the CBC, as has the Green Party, the latter also promising additional funding. Clearly there is political will in this country to revive our public broadcaster before it's too late.

But it's not just politicians who are concerned. We believe Canadians want to see their own culture reflected in entertainment that the whole world can enjoy. It starts at home, with Canadian talent writing stories that only Canadians can tell. We trust that Canadians will recognize this by voting for a party that will strengthen and restore Canada's public broadcaster.

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The Writers Guild of Canada (WGC) represents more than 2,200 professional English-language screenwriters across Canada. These are the creators who write the Canadian entertainment we enjoy on our televisions, movie screens and digital platforms.