



## Keep Canada's TV Industry Strong — Or Lose Canadian Talent

### For Immediate Release

**Ottawa – Sept. 11, 2014.** The Writers Guild of Canada (WGC) urges the CRTC to maintain a vibrant, healthy Canadian television industry. A strong industry will ensure the creation of the high quality programs the Commission has stated it desires.

The WGC appeared at the CRTC's "Let's Talk TV" hearing today, representing the viewpoint of talented Canadian writers who create shows that millions of fans watch, shows such as *Murdoch Mysteries*, *Orphan Black*, *Degrassi*, and *Rookie Blue*.

"The great success stories of Canadian television came about because Canadian creators have had opportunities to collaborate with experienced colleagues," says Maureen Parker, Executive Director of the WGC. "Quantity is needed to create quality. If the industry shrinks as a result of some proposals on the table, the talent will simply leave the country."

International Emmy award winning writer, Andrew Wreggitt, underscored the point as he addressed the Commission.

"I came out of *North of 60*, Tassie Cameron (*Rookie Blue*) came out of *Degrassi*, Graeme Manson (*Orphan Black*) started at *Nothing Too Good for a Cowboy*. Good TV doesn't happen in a vacuum. Canadians deserve to have the best Canadian television we can offer them."

The public's needs are also on the mind of the WGC. Audiences want more choice, including continued access to foreign and domestic content, through both traditional broadcast and "over-the-top" (OTT) services. The WGC suggests it's time OTT providers are fully included in the Canadian television industry, both contributing to and benefiting from the system.

The WGC also called on the CRTC to take a measured approach to change.

"So many major regulatory changes are proposed that implementing all of them could have multiple impacts for years," says Ms. Parker.

Finally, the WGC called on the Commission to ensure that overall expenditure requirements for the creation of Canadian television remain strong, particularly if "pick-and-pay" and other proposals (eliminating genre exclusivity, reducing exhibition requirements etc.) move forward. It takes money to create high-quality programming, whatever screen the audience chooses to watch it on.

And watch it they do. As writer Cal Coons (*Murdoch Mysteries*) said to the Commission, "When we conceived *Murdoch* in 2000, the idea of a period television series was unthinkable. Traditional television was convinced no one wanted to watch it. In reality, there was an eager audience awaiting it."

For more information, please contact Li Robbins, Director of Communications, Writers Guild of Canada, 416-979-7907 or by email at [l.robbs@wgc.ca](mailto:l.robbs@wgc.ca)

*The Writers Guild of Canada (WGC) represents 2,200 professional English-language screenwriters across Canada. These are the talented people who create the distinctly Canadian entertainment we enjoy on our televisions, movie screens, and digital platforms.*