



Nova Scotia Government's Film Tax Credit Slash Misguided

For Immediate Release

Toronto – April 9, 2015. The Writers Guild of Canada (WGC) protests the Nova Scotia government's decision to cut the Film Industry Tax Credit, essentially reducing its value by 75%. The province's Liberal government has stated that Nova Scotia had among the most generous provincial tax credits in the country, but now it will have among the least effective. While 75% of the tax credit will remain as a non-refundable credit, this portion is unlikely to be available for what tax credits are used for: financing production.

"It's shocking that our provincial Liberal government would eviscerate the film tax credit as they did today," says Michael Amo, screenwriter and WGC Atlantic region councillor. "They have essentially crippled an entire industry without prior consultation, and in violation of their own election promise. As screenwriters and filmmakers in this province, how can we tell our stories to Nova Scotians and to the world if there's no longer any local film and television industry?"

The province commissioned a tax and regulatory review from Laurel Broten, public policy expert and former senior Ontario cabinet minister, who recommended aligning the Nova Scotia tax credit with those of other jurisdictions, such as Ontario. Yet today's announcement appears to fly in the face of that recommendation.

While the Nova Scotia government emphasizes the costs of the tax credit, it appears to be unaware of the benefits, ignoring factors such as jobs and economic value created by the sector. According to Screen Nova Scotia, more than 50 documentary, film and television projects have been completed recently with the assistance of the tax credit, including the internationally-renowned *Book of Negroes*, *This Hour Has 22 Minutes*, *Mr. D.*, *Trailer Park Boys*, *Relative Happiness*, *Call Me Fitz* and many others. According to CBC news, in 2013-2014, film and TV productions in Nova Scotia generated \$122 million including \$39.4 million in wages.

"For a government who claims to want to promote tourism, retain youth and stimulate economic growth, they have taken a huge and bewildering step in the wrong direction," says Amo.

We ask the Nova Scotia government to reconsider this deeply flawed proposal, and to retain a tax credit that will work for the province's film and television sector.

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