

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Writers Guild of Canada Calls Proposed Amendments to Bill C-10 a 'Workable Solution.'

**Toronto – June 20, 2008** – Two members of the Senate Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce released Wednesday amendments they intend to introduce during the clause-by-clause examination of Bill C-10. The Writers Guild of Canada (WGC) supports strongly the senators' bid to remove reference in the Bill to the drafting of content guidelines that would determine tax-credit eligibility for Canadian film and television productions. We are optimistic that this represents a step forward on the issue and hopeful that the full senate committee will endorse the amendments.

Maureen Parker, Executive Director, Writers Guild of Canada, says, "the film and television industry stood united on this issue, and we welcome the senators standing with us. The proposed amendments answer the Minister of Heritage's concern that film and television content contravening the Criminal Code could still be eligible for Federal tax credits – and they do so in a way that will not introduce added uncertainty into the already difficult financing situation of the Canadian film and television industry."

WGC President Rebecca Schechter says that "removing the reference to guidelines will remove the taint of censorship that colours Bill C-10 in its current form. These amendments keep accountability to Canadian taxpayers in the picture, and return the creative decisions to the creators of film and television."

Bill C-10, in the absence of the proposed amendments, also puts Canadian filmmakers at marked disadvantage in relation to their foreign counterparts working here. The Bill would hold Canadian films accountable to non-statutory content guidelines imposed at the whim of the government of the day, whereas foreign production companies working in Canada would be free to produce whatever content they choose and remain eligible for federal tax credits.

"The proposed amendments are a workable solution," added Parker. "They level the playing field, and allow the film tax-credit program to do what it was intended to do when it was created: encourage the production of Canadian film and television."

For more information, please contact David Kinahan, Writers Guild of Canada, at 416-979-7907 or 1-800-567- 9974, or by email at [d.kinahan@wgc.ca](mailto:d.kinahan@wgc.ca)

The Writers Guild of Canada (WGC) represents more than 1,800 professional English-language screenwriters across Canada. These are the talented people who create the distinctly Canadian entertainment we enjoy on our televisions, movie screens, radios and computers.