



**Writers Guild of Canada Calls for Public Consultation
on Film and Television Tax Credit Guidelines**

For Immediate Release

February 29, 2008 – Toronto – Among the amendments to the country's Income Tax Act currently before Senate is legislation charging the Department of Heritage with the creation of new guidelines that could bring further instability and bureaucracy to the film and television industry in Canada. The proposed new guidelines will define what is "contrary to public policy," and provide the power to retroactively revoke tax credits for those productions deemed to fall within that definition.

The WGC learned in a conversation today that the Department of Heritage has already created these guidelines, expanding the criteria used for denying tax credits. These guidelines will come into effect as soon as Bill C-10 receives royal assent.

"Given that the guidelines could have far-reaching implications for the industry, we want input into the process," says Rebecca Schechter, President, Writers Guild of Canada. "The reality is that, in Canada, securing tax credits is an essential step to a project being financed. It is not for the Department of Heritage to decide in isolation what films and TV productions will get made."

Maureen Parker, Executive Director, Writers Guild of Canada, says that "without the ability to have confidence in the tax credit piece of the financing puzzle, there will be fewer productions in Canada. The new guidelines could cost the Canadian economy thousands of jobs and hundreds of millions of production dollars each year."

The WGC calls on the Government of Canada, the Heritage Committee and the Department of Heritage to go back to the creative community before issuing the new guidelines to discuss their necessity, and to get input on the direction they should take.

For more information, please contact David Kinahan, Director of Communications, Writers Guild of Canada, at 416-979-7907 or 1-800-567-9974, or by email at d.kinahan@wgc.ca

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

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