



WGC Applauds Liberal Government for Rejecting CRTC Decision

Toronto – August 15, 2017 — The Writers Guild of Canada (WGC) applauds Heritage Minister Mélanie Joly and the Cabinet of Canada on its decision to refer back the flawed CRTC decision that slashed private broadcaster minimum spending on Canadian programs by 40%. The WGC appealed the decision in June, noting it could lead to over \$200 million in reduced broadcaster spending on Canadian shows over a five-year licence term, and to more talented Canadian screenwriters leaving the country for work elsewhere.

“We are thrilled that Minister Joly has reaffirmed the importance of scripted programs,” says WGC President Jill Golick. “Writer-driven shows resonate with Canadians and are key to success with global audiences.”

The CRTC will now reconsider Bell Media and Corus Entertainments’ minimum spending requirements on “programs of national interest,” (PNI) — drama, documentary, children’s programming etc. — set by the decision at 5%. In keeping with existing methodology of calculating PNI the status quo levels were estimated to be 8% and 9% of broadcasting revenues for Bell and Corus respectively.

“We’re hopeful that with new leadership at the CRTC under chair Ian Scott and vice-chair (broadcasting) Caroline J. Simard, the CRTC will adopt a forward thinking, balanced approach with regards to all broadcasting policies,” says WGC Executive Director Maureen Parker. “The CRTC already has data co-commissioned by the WGC that clearly demonstrates what minimum PNI spending should be. Now it has the opportunity to ensure that the success of Canadian programming can continue.”

The WGC looks forward to Heritage Minister Joly’s September announcement of her vision for the creative sector. The Guild hopes that it will ensure that Canadian screenwriters, and the Canadian production industry at large, will continue to have the ways and means to create Canadian shows, for our own citizens, and for audiences in hundreds of countries around the world already enjoying Canadian programming.

Contact: Li Robbins, Director of Communications, Writers Guild of Canada
416-979-7907, extension 5234, l.robbs@wgc.ca

The Writers Guild of Canada represents 2,200 professional English-language screenwriters across Canada, the creators of distinctly Canadian entertainment enjoyed on all screens.