



## Screenwriters and Producers in Talks for New Agreement

### For Immediate Release

**Toronto – November 30, 2011** –The Writers Guild of Canada (WGC) began talks today with the Canadian Media Producers Association (CMPA) and the Association des producteurs de films et de télévision de Québec (APFTQ) toward a new agreement governing screenwriting for film, TV and digital media.

The solid partnership between producers and screenwriters is key to the success of the film and television industry in Canada. In 2009/2010, Canadian production was worth \$2.3 Billion to the Canadian economy and led to the employment of an estimated 54,700 individuals on a full-time basis. Working together, producers and screenwriters create shows that have extensive economic and cultural impact.

Writers Guild President Jill Golick says “this is an important moment for the industry in Canada. We’re at the table with our producer partners to address a changing media landscape. At the same time, the production environment is more stable – producers have a Terms of Trade agreement with broadcasters, and a new CRTC TV Policy has laid the foundation for the coming years of production. We’re confident we can come to an agreement that will help us shape a profitable future together.”

At the table with Ms. Golick are chief negotiator Maureen Parker and several of Canada’s top screenwriters in live-action and animated TV series. Bruce Smith (*John A: Birth of a Country, Prairie Giant*) is Vice-Chair of the bargaining committee, which includes Mark Ellis (*Flashpoint*), Mark Farrell (*Corner Gas, Dan for Mayor*), Dennis Heaton (*Being Ian, Fido, Call Me Fitz*), Laurie Finstad Knizhnik (*Durham County*), Anne-Marie Perrotta (*My Life Me, The Adventures of Chuck and Friends*), Simon Racioppa (*Spliced*) and Lienne Sawatsky (*Delilah & Julius, Sidekick, Kid vs. Kat*).

Topping the list of priorities for the WGC bargaining team is the establishment of minimum script fees for screenwriters working in animation.

Writers Guild Executive Director Maureen Parker says “Animation in Canada is a mature industry, with Canadian screenwriters creating the scripts that launch successful productions generating millions of dollars in national and international sales, and entertain and educate our children. It all starts with the script. As we work together with producers to make these shows and generate that value, we need to ensure that screenwriters are fairly compensated for their essential contribution.”

The Writers Guild of Canada (WGC) represents more than 2,000 professional English-language screenwriters across Canada. These are the creators who write the Canadian entertainment we enjoy on our televisions, movie screens and digital platforms.

At its most recent meeting in New York, the International Affiliation of Writers Guilds (IAWG), the body representing screenwriters around the world, passed a formal resolution in which the member guilds pledged their support and solidarity with the WGC as it seeks to bring animation minimums into the agreement.

The Writers Independent Production Agreement (IPA) between the WGC, CMPA and APFTQ sets out the terms and conditions for work for all English-language production in Canada. The current IPA expires on December 31, 2011. Bargaining continues tomorrow.

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