



**Writers Guild of Canada Demands that the Government
Make Public the Draft Guidelines Defining Bill C-10's Film and Television Tax Credit Eligibility**

For Immediate Release

March 4, 2008 – Toronto – The Government of Canada is reassuring the film and television industry that the guidelines informing tax credit eligibility for productions have ‘nothing to do with censorship’ – “well,” says Maureen Parker, Executive Director, Writers Guild of Canada, “if they want to reassure us, then make the draft guidelines public now, and let’s have the debate. Enough secrecy, enough speculation – we need to know now. The industry cannot do business in the dark.”

Rebecca Schechter, President, Writers Guild of Canada, says “the stipulation of guidelines in any but the broadest terms aligned with the criminal code would severely restrict freedom of expression in the country, and create an environment in which screenwriters would self-censor in order to work – writing to guidelines instead of with integrity, authenticity and the best creative instincts of their profession. This will have a profound effect on the way we tell stories and the diversity of stories that get told.”

Parker added that, “particularly destructive to the Canadian film and television industry is the discrimination by which the guidelines will be applied. A certified Canadian production found in contravention of the guidelines will be denied eligibility while an American company, making the exact same film in Canada, will get a production services tax credit.”

The creative community specifically, and the Canadian people in general need to know that the proposed guidelines are not a form of censorship. The content of our film and TV should not be determined by the presence or absence of tax credits.

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.