



The Writers Guild of Canada Commends the Canadian Government's Review of the Telecommunications and Broadcasting Acts

Toronto — June 6, 2018 — It's a forward-thinking decision: the government of Canada has announced its intention to modernize the legislative framework for broadcasting and telecommunications and has appointed a panel of experts in the cultural and communications sectors to guide the way.

The Writers Guild of Canada strongly commends this action by the Honourable Mélanie Joly, Minister of Canadian Heritage, and the Honourable Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development.

"Reviewing the Broadcasting and Telecommunications Acts is essential," says WGC Executive Director Maureen Parker. "Technology has changed so much in recent years, and legislation and regulation have to evolve along with it. As traditional broadcasters continue to spend less on the creation of Canadian dramas, comedies, and children's programming, it's crucial that other participants operating in our sector also make a contribution."

The WGC also applauds the CRTC, under its leadership of Chairman Ian Scott and Vice-Chairperson (Broadcasting) Caroline J. Simard, for laying the groundwork for the review with recommendations made in its recent report, "Harnessing Change: The Future of Programming Distribution in Canada." The creation, production and distribution of Canadian content cannot move forward without the understanding demonstrated in the Commission's report of the need for fair regulation — balanced with audience and consumer needs.

The WGC and its members look forward to working with the government of Canada and with the seven-person panel of industry experts, under the leadership of Janet Yale, with her extensive history in the communications sector.

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 Canadian entertainment enjoyed on all screens.