

The Writers Guild of Canada Welcomes New Executive Director, Victoria Shen

An experienced entertainment industry, labour and human-rights lawyer, Shen will lead the WGC during a crucial phase of change and opportunity for Canadian screenwriters.

For immediate release

Toronto, ON – February 21, 2023 – The Writers Guild of Canada (WGC) is pleased to announce that Victoria Shen will be its new Executive Director, starting on February 27, 2023. Terry Mark and Neal McDougall, who filled in as Acting Co-Executive Directors, will each assume the role of Assistant Executive Director moving forward.

Shen is an accomplished labour and human-rights lawyer, and a respected advocate for change in the entertainment industry. Notably, she was the Director of National Industrial Relations and Counsel at the Canadian Media Producers Association (CMPA). A skilled negotiator and a thoughtful and collaborative leader, Shen has worked with unions and guilds, producers and studios, government and industry organizations across Canada.

Formerly the Special Advisor at the Alliance of Canadian Cinema, Television and Radio Artists (ACTRA), Shen launched a national helpline and engaged industry stakeholders across the country to establish codes of conduct, safety guidelines, and best practices to address workplace harassment.

Shen has contributed to a range of industry committees on health and safety, harassment, diversity, and COVID recovery. She has served as Faculty Instructor for the Osgoode Certificate in Entertainment Law, a board member of the Reelworld Film Institute and Reel Asian International Film Festival, and Special Advisor to Intimacy Coordinators Canada. Shen is the first person of colour to lead the WGC.

“A proven leader and a champion of inclusion and diversity, the WGC is excited to have Victoria lead us into the future,” says WGC President Alex Levine. “She exemplifies all the qualities that we need at this time of change and challenge in the Canadian film and television industry. We are confident Victoria will be a tremendous asset to the Guild, our membership, and the industry at large.”

“I’m thrilled to be part of the Writers Guild of Canada,” says Shen. “I look forward to working closely with our talented members, and other leaders and creators in our industry, to ensure that Canadian stories and storytellers continue to have pride of place in our country and around the world.”

For more information, contact the WGC’s Manager of Communications Emily Saso at 416-721-5705 or e.saso@wgc.ca.

ABOUT THE WRITERS GUILD OF CANADA

The Writers Guild of Canada represents 2,500 professional English-language screenwriters across Canada—the creators of Canadian entertainment enjoyed on all screens. wgc.ca @WGCTweet