

## Writers Guild of Canada Welcomes Passage of Bill C-11

The Guild congratulates the Minister of Canadian Heritage, and looks forward to working together to ensure that Canadian screenwriters, and audiences, are well served by C-11.

**For immediate release**

**March 31, 2023 – Toronto, ON** – The Writers Guild of Canada (WGC) congratulates Minister of Canadian Heritage Pablo Rodriguez upon the passage of Bill C-11, the *Online Streaming Act*, through the House of Commons for a second time.

“The WGC thanks Minister Rodriguez and the Liberal Government, as well as the NDP and Bloc, for working together to pass this vital legislation. The time has long since come for the major streaming services that benefit from the Canadian market to contribute back to it, in the form of programming for Canadian and global audiences that is made by Canadian creators and supports Canadian jobs,” said Neal McDougall, WGC Assistant Executive Director. “Canadians deserve the ability to see their own stories, culture, and points of view included in their content options. That is what C-11 is ultimately about.”

Bill C-11 will now return to the Senate where, having already been extensively studied in that chamber, it is expected to pass as per the will of the elected House of Commons.

The WGC has argued for over a decade that regulation of online audiovisual services is necessary to protect our domestic Canadian film and television production sector. The smaller Canadian market simply cannot compete with the global dominance of Hollywood without the support such regulation is intended to provide, especially in risky and high-cost genres like drama, documentary, children’s programming, and animation.

“While we are pleased to see Bill C-11 pass, there’s still lots of work to do,” said WGC President Alex Levine. “Given the problematic language in sections 3(1)(f) and 3(1)(f.1), the Government must issue a policy direction clarifying that foreign streamers must nevertheless make maximum use of Canadian key creative talent, including screenwriters, in the Canadian programming they commission. Art is made by artists, and Canadian art is made by Canadian artists. This must remain at the heart of what the *Broadcasting Act* is all about,” Levine said.

“We look forward to working with the Government to ensure that the core objectives of C-11 are realized going forward,” said Neal McDougall. “The implementation of the bill will soon move to the CRTC. The WGC is hopeful that the Commission will give C-11 a full and complete interpretation that will put Canadian screenwriters, and the audiences they serve, front-and-centre.”

**For more info, contact the WGC’s Manager of Communications Emily Saso at 416-721-5705 or [e.saso@wgc.ca](mailto: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](http://wgc.ca) @WGCTweet