

WGC responds to CRTC decision modernizing Canada's broadcasting framework

For immediate release

Toronto, ON | November 19, 2025 — The Writers Guild of Canada (WGC), representing over 2,500 professional English-language screenwriters, is reviewing the decision from the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) in *The Path Forward – Defining “Canadian program”* proceeding.

“We are disappointed the decision did not make the role of showrunner mandatory,” said WGC President Bruce Smith. “When the WGC presented at the CRTC’s public hearings earlier this year, we emphasized the showrunner is essential to maintaining Canadian creative control. We are looking closely at the showrunner definition. It remains our position that the showrunner is a screenwriter.”

“The CRTC’s decision is complex, and we will be taking the necessary time to review the details and understand their impact,” said WGC Executive Director Victoria Shen. “We were encouraged to see that screenwriters are mandatory in programs with 20-50 per cent Canadian copyright ownership. We support the CRTC ruling on AI which recognizes that key creative positions and functions should be filled by humans.

“We await the second part of the CRTC’s decision, which will address Canadian programming expenditure (CPE) and programs of national interest (PNI) expenditure requirements.”

“Our priority remains clear: strong Canadian creative control and a resilient screen industry built on the work of Canadian writers,” said Smith. “We will continue working closely with partners across the screen-sector to ensure this decision supports a robust, competitive Canadian industry going forward.”

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ABOUT THE WGC

The Writers Guild of Canada (WGC) represents more than 2,500 professional English-language screenwriters across Canada. Our members create stories that entertain and inspire audiences on every screen.