



May 23, 2012

Via Email – premier@gov.sk.ca

The Honourable Brad Wall
Premier of Saskatchewan
226 Legislative Building
Regina, Saskatchewan
CANADA
S4S 0B3

Dear Mr. Wall:

Re: Saskatchewan's Domestic Film and Television Industry

The Writers Guild of Canada is a professional association that represents over 2100 English-language screenwriters in Canada. WGC members write film, television, radio and digital media content enjoyed by Canadians and around the world. WGC members have written many successful Saskatchewan productions such as "Corner Gas", "renegadepress.com", and "Little Mosque on the Prairie".

As we are a national organization, we encourage domestic film and television production in every province so that screenwriters can have the chance to develop their craft and have careers regardless of where they live in Canada. Provincial tax credits are an essential element of the financing necessary for a domestic film and television production industry to thrive.

The WGC was disappointed to learn of the decision of the government of Saskatchewan to rescind the Saskatchewan Film Employment Tax Credit because we know that this will have a significant impact on domestic production in Saskatchewan. We were heartened to learn of the announcement that the government was willing to replace the Film Employment Tax Credit with a new program. However, it appears to us that the government does not have a full understanding of the business and distribution models behind film and television production as the proposed non-refundable tax credit is unlikely to be accessible to any producer in Saskatchewan.

Film and television productions take several months or more to produce. Initial sales (ie broadcaster or theatrical distributor) all go to the cost of producing the program. Additional revenue only flows to the producer after revenues are used to recoup expenses and investments. It often takes years before there is any taxable income that can be recognized by the producer and in many cases that never happens. For these reasons, it is highly unlikely that a non-refundable tax credit that can only be used to reduce taxes paid on income, would benefit any productions in Saskatchewan.

A Member of the International Affiliation of Writers Guilds

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We urge you to reconsider the government's use of a non-refundable tax credit to demonstrate its support for the Saskatchewan domestic film and television industry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maureen Parker', with a stylized, cursive script.

Maureen Parker
Executive Director

C.C: Saskatchewan Motion Pictures Industry Association