

MEDIA RELEASE

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SMPIA Welcomes Cabinet Shuffle

The Saskatchewan Media Production Industry Association (SMPIA) is hopeful that the addition of the Honourable Kevin Doherty as the new Minister of Parks, Culture & Sport will result in a more positive and engaged relationship between the film, television and digital media industry and the provincial government.

"SMPIA and its members remain optimistic that today's cabinet shuffle will provide us with an opportunity to work with a new Cabinet Minister to develop a refundable tax program for Saskatchewan's film, television and digital media industry," said Ron Goetz, President of SMPIA. "I would like to congratulate Minister Doherty on his appointment, and I look forward to meeting with him in the near future to discuss this important issue."

The establishment of a refundable tax initiative is necessary to ensure that the film, television and digital media industry remains viable within Saskatchewan. Without such a program, which is utilized in every other province in Canada, many of Saskatchewan's production companies and the workers employed by the industry will be forced to move out of province to find work.

"We hope that we can move forward and work with Minister Doherty to keep our talented young workers and their families here in Saskatchewan working in the film, television and digital media industry," said Goetz. "Our industry's future in this province is in jeopardy, and we hope that Minister Doherty is up to the challenge of creating a solution that will meet both the government's and the industry's needs. Our industry's future is now in Minister Doherty's hands."

For more information contact Ron Goetz at (306) 525-6361.