

Dear Mr Wall and Mr. Krawetz,

I am writing in response to the disturbing news in the provincial budget concerning the end to the Saskatchewan Film Employment Tax Credit program.

I am an Assistant Professor in Creative Technologies in the Faculty of Fine Arts at the University of Regina. My work involves training artists to work in the fields of audio, moving image and digital arts, and researching the cultural impact of these fields of arts practice. I am part of a group of Professors in the University developing this new area of "creative technologies" in order to produce strong Saskatchewan artists and technological experts in order to be able to contribute to developing this province's potential as a centre of excellence in film and digital media. Since inception the SFETC has spent 100 million dollars in tax credits, which has resulted in a return to the Saskatchewan economy of 623 million dollars. In 2008/09, Saskatchewan film and television production stimulated nearly \$75 million of economic activity and created over 1,200 jobs in the province. These jobs help keep young creative people in Saskatchewan, and supports professionals (and their families) to keep their training and experience in the province. Without these jobs, all of our creative talent and the economic options that this talent brings will leave for other places, causing a technological and artistic "brain drain" that could significantly affect how Saskatchewan prospers in the future; draining our industries and cultural institutions of strong leaders right in a time where film, TV and related online moving image are a huge area of potential growth.

As a taxpayer in the Province, and as a member of an institutional stakeholder in the creative industries in the Province, I urge you to reconsider this cut. Since it's inception, Saskatchewan film employment tax credits have generated 623 million in production with a cost of \$100 million to the government. In a global climate where other provinces and nations are reaping the benefits of tax credits in this area; (Northern Ireland, Australia and New Zealand are examples where I have personal experience and where there is documented evidence of substantial economic and cultural benefit from similar programs), it is particularly difficult to understand why any government would make this short-sighted decision. I hope you will take the mounting pressure from Provincial representative bodies such as SMPIA as evidence of the obvious success and centrality of this program to the industry in the past, and the need to support its continuance, for the sake of our cultural and economic future.

Respectfully,
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