

Saskatchewan Media Industry Survey – What Comes Next for You? – June 2012

Summary:

Who answered the survey?

- 198 surveys completed
- 54% self-identify as working in film primarily, 29% in TV, 5% in digital media and 12% work in some combination of the three
- 21% of respondents include producer or owner as part of their job title, 6% are students or recent graduates from a media program and the remainder are cast & crew
- 95% chose to share how they voted in the last provincial election – 26% voted for the Saskatchewan Party & Brad Wall (when you look at just producers & owners this climbed to 41%)

What are people planning or expecting to do over the next 2 years?

- 45% are done and plan to leave the province entirely
- 10% are leaving but plan to keep some kind of (smaller) presence in the province
- 47% of producers/owners anticipate leaving or reducing presence
- 7% just don't know yet
- 38% are going to try and stay

Of those who are planning to leave...

- 50% are planning to leave in the next 6 months, 25% in 7 months to a year from now, and 25% in a year
- 72% are planning to sell their homes
- 29% are looking at BC as an alternative location, 24% at Ontario, 14% at Manitoba, 12% at Alberta and 9% at the United States
- 57% people who gave a reason for leaving mention lack of continued work or opportunity in the industry in Saskatchewan (and needing to go where the work is to earn a living), 28% include the cut to the Saskatchewan Film Employment Tax Credit as their primary reason, and 16% mention the Saskatchewan Party, provincial government or Brad Wall or some variation of a desire “to be respected for the work I do by government.”

Of those who are planning to stay...

- 85% of those anticipate a career change or significant change to their current business model
- 63% anticipate having to downsize their companies, 59% expect they will have to do more corporate work
- The rest are guessing a career change is on the horizon
- 70% are staying because of some variation on “Home, family and everything I love is here”

Details of the questions asked and a compilation of the answers given are included in the **Questions & Answers** section of this document.

A Sampling of Stories

The following are a sampling of the personal thoughts and stories generously shared by the people who answered this survey. A full compilation of these can be found in the **Stories & Final Thoughts** section at the end of this document.

“We purchased a home here, made new friends, enrolled my son in preschool. The sadness that we will not be able to continue here to work with people who are, in fact the hardworking pioneers of film on the prairie- including many of whom I have known personally since childhood, is particularly painful. I wish all that remain the very best in their endeavours, and hope that there will be a change which all members of the local film and television industry may benefit by- that is, of course, assuming any are left here, in this, my dear birthplace of Saskatchewan.”

“I was so proud of Saskatchewan and the booming in the film industry few years ago. Feel so sorry that Hollywood North is just a big souvenir like the gold rush.”

“Because of the SFETC and the Canada-Saskatchewan Soundstage, I've been able to remain in the province I love, in the community I love, with the family and friends that I love, as well as work with Academy (and Golden Globe, AFI, Sundance, BAFTA, Golden Bear, Palm d' Or, Gemini and Genie) Award winning actors and technicians from all over the world. When professionals from Los Angeles, Paris, Berlin, Toronto, Vancouver, Rome, London, and New York recognize and compliment my skills and encourage me to seek things "bigger and better" than our Saskatchewan industry, I feel a tremendous sense of pride. Some of that pride is for my own efforts, but just as much pride is for those I work with and the province I love. I am proud of being able to say "Thanks, but I'm fine right here in Saskatchewan - I don't need to move". I have worked in 7 Canadian provinces and 24 countries around the world - and from this perspective - I really don't feel there are things "bigger and better" than living and working here in Saskatchewan. Just like its' people, this province is amazing and beautiful. And this is my home. So, that's my story. I'm telling it not because it's special or unique. I tell this to you because my story isn't special and I'm not unique at all within the Saskatchewan film industry. I am intelligent, educated, talented, hard-working, resourceful, determined, and loyal. And so are the 300+ other local (tax paying) film & media technicians whom I'm thankful to know and work with. And so are the (tax paying) people in the 1000+ jobs servicing the industry. And so are the hundreds of (tax paying) business owners that gain significant business income (and pay business tax) from film production investment. Eliminating the SFETC is a decision that I do not understand. Because as working families in Saskatchewan, WE ARE the 'Saskatchewan Advantage'. Just like oil, potash, forests, crops, uranium, and diamonds - WE THE PEOPLE are valuable. And by canceling this program, you will be throwing away these precious resources.”

“To me this is about family and friends, my support system and without them I have nothing. I don't want to leave behind what I love so much.”

“This was my home, my kids have grown up seeing the film industry regularly because I worked in it. Which developed into their own dreams of being actors. To accomplish their dreams they CANNOT do it in Saskatchewan anymore.”

“I was born and raised in Saskatoon. I left for college and was told that once I got out there in the world I would never come back. Well, after college I did come back. I was told I was crazy, but I came back home to Saskatchewan to start my career in film and television anyway. Fourteen years later, along with thirteen Gemini nominations resulting in 5 wins, 7 Golden Sheafs, 5 LA Web Fest wins, and a Kidscreen Award - all for shows that I was a part of making - and here I am packing my belongings and planning a move to Toronto to attend the Canadian Film Centre. I would be going to Toronto to attend the CFC whether or not the SFETC was cancelled, however now I am left wondering will there be a film industry in Saskatchewan for me to come home to? Will there be something to bring my new found experiences, contacts and skills back to? Will I be able to justify coming back home ever again?”

“The arts enhance critical thinking. Education provides a voice. It is good for the Sask Party if neither exist.”

“With heavy hearts I move my wife and two kids from a place we thought we'd be achieving our dreams for the rest of our lives. As the saying goes, if you wanna sell hats, you gotta go where the heads are. In our case, those heads are in Vancouver. This is still the most ridiculous, ill-sighted, completely insane decision our gov't has ever made with regard to arts and culture. At least my kids are excited to get outta here and go to place where their daddy can follow his dreams. I'm scared as hell... And I sold my house which just celebrated its 100 year anniversary. Sad... So very sad...”

“I planned on growing old in this province and likewise raising my children here, near their cousins and extended family. That dream has been shattered. My 93 year old Grandmother, who currently sees my children every week to two weeks and hears from me a few times a week, will likely only see my kids a couple more times in her entire lives because of the elimination of the tax credit.”

“I have lived and worked hard in Saskatchewan most of my life and I am sad to say that this is the first time in my life I am ashamed to be a Saskatchewan resident. My Saskatchewan government stood up in front of their people and blatantly lied about The Refundable Tax Credit and accused the Film industry of being trouble makers. I have been a hard working tax payer and created a small money making business that supported a family of 4 for the last 22 years and now with one incredible stupid slash I have been put out of business.”

“I voted for the Sask Party. I believed in them because I have a business degree and I am pro-business; the film industry IS a HUGE and viable business. I didn't think the SK Party would kill a BUSINESS industry, but they did. I'm unimpressed they cut \$8M in the budget, and yet they give boatloads more to industries MUCH larger than what the film industry is. Really? \$8M is going to be THAT much of a savings, yet it pissed off investors and gave the WORLD the message we're

anti-film. It's bullshit what the SK Party has done. I CANNOT stand the NDP, but next election I will NOT vote SK Party... If I have to vote NDP so THEY re-instate the tax credit, I will mark my "X" on the NDP slot even if the candidate is an idiot. Brad Wall and Hutchinson are bigger idiots for killing a 1:6 revenue generating industry.”

“I feel so betrayed by our government. They want young people to stay in the province, especially young, educated people. In two years I will have completed my degree in Film Production from the U of R, and I will most likely have to sell my condo and move away from the city that I've grown to love, and that I decided to make my home long after I finish university. I will not get the income tax rebate promised to all university grads that stay in Saskatchewan even though I WANT to stay in Saskatchewan. I don't want to leave, but I have to.”

“After being awarded a century family award just a few short years ago for my family maintaining the same land for over a century I still can't believe I am being forced out of the province by the government.”

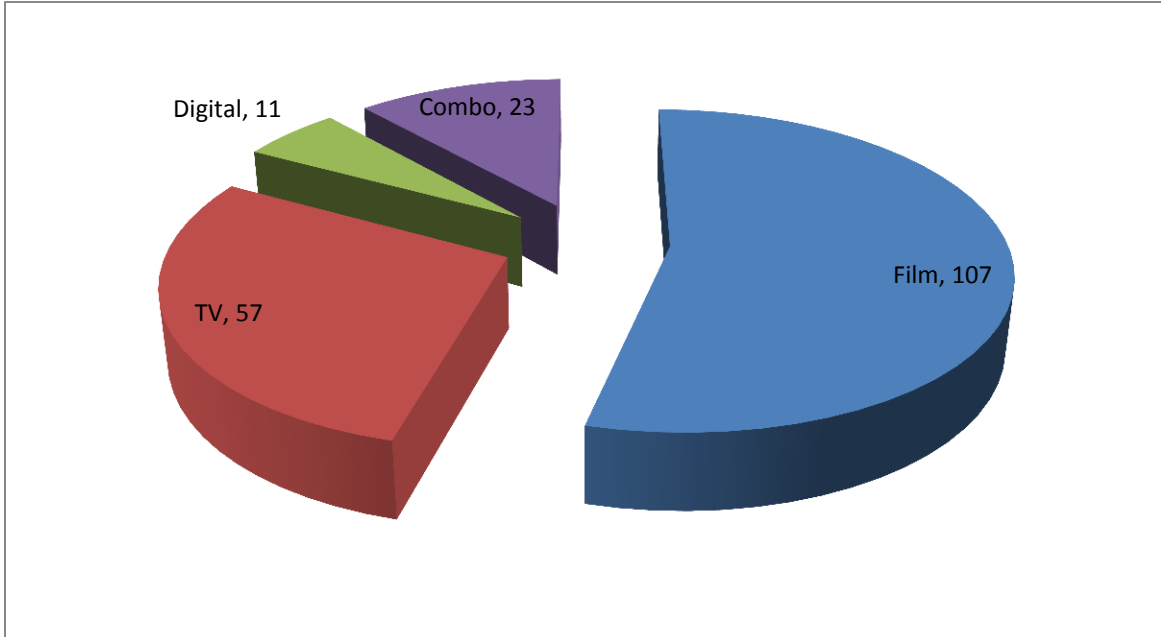
“Making a film that was set here would also be an opportunity to integrate those very cultures into the telling of the story and showcasing our talent and province. Now however, it will be made by people out of province (maybe Winnipeg, maybe Edmonton or Calgary). Yes, I realize that Toronto passes for New York, and Vancouver passes for Seattle all the time, but now Edmonton will have to 'stand-in' for Saskatoon. Who would have think it?”

Methodology

“Saskatchewan Media Industry Survey – What Comes Next for You?” was conducted by digital marketing strategist and researcher and SMPIA board member, Annelise Larson. This survey was conducted online using the Survey Monkey platform. Completely voluntary responses were collected from 198 people currently working in or studying film, television, and digital media in Saskatchewan between June 8 and 25, 2012. Invitations to participate were sent out via social media channels and through SMPIA email communications. The purpose was to provide a snapshot of the current plans of the industry to help with long term planning and to connect with those who are interested in continuing to track and tell their stories over the next two to three years. The information released to the public has had company names and other personally identifiable information removed.

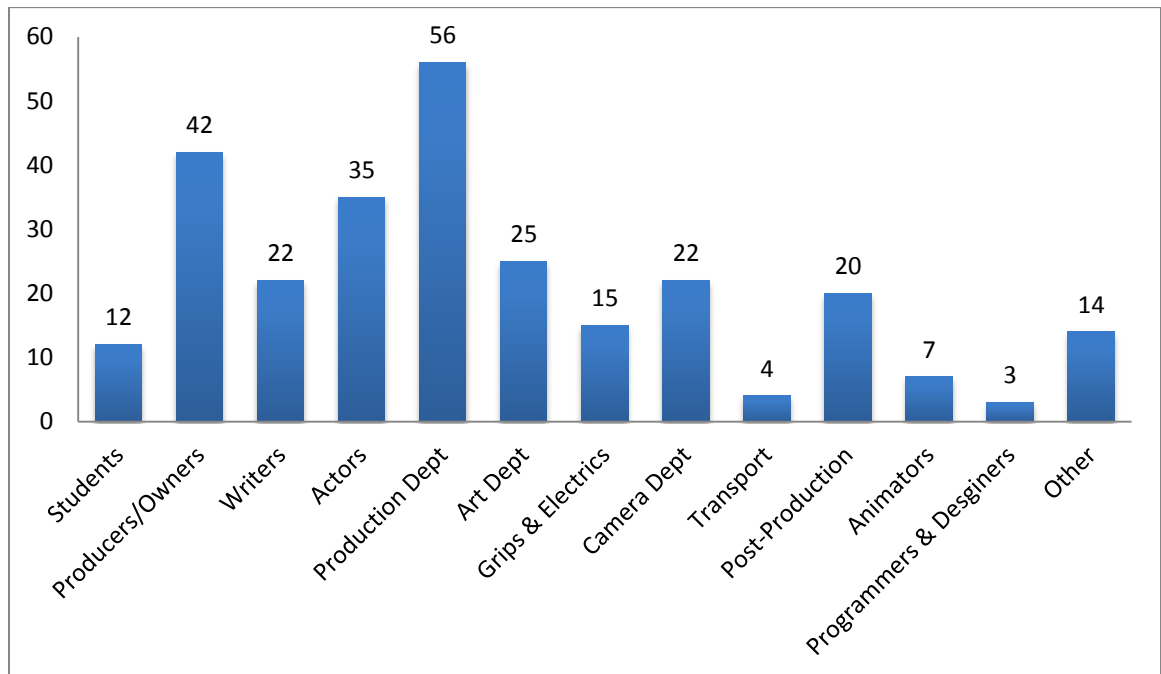
Questions & Answers

Question #1: What sector are you typically involved in?



Question #2: What is your usual job title (i.e. Student, Producer, Director, Writer, etc.) ?

Note: as is common in this industry, many people wear different hats and so the numbers below add up to more than 198 responses.

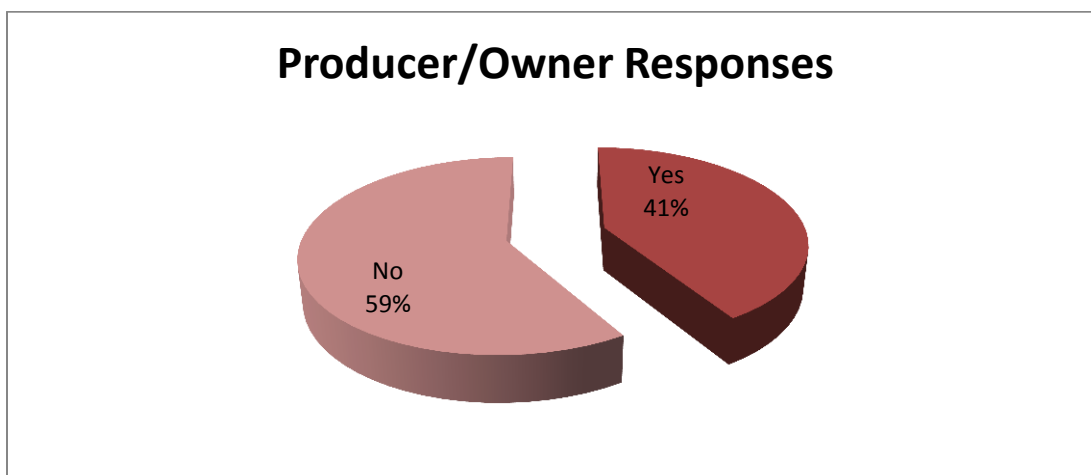
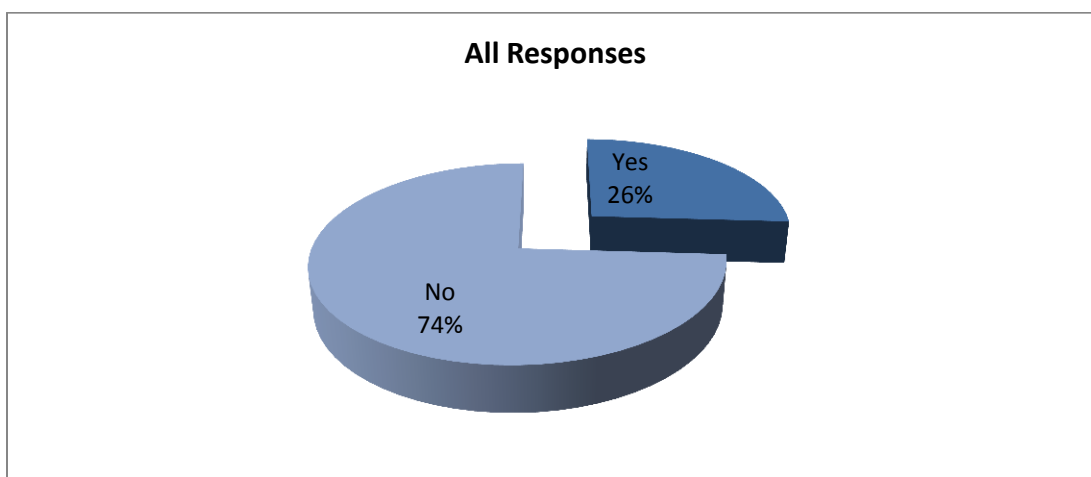


Question #3: If you own a production company, how many years have you been in business in Saskatchewan & what is the cumulative production volume you produced and financed in the province in that time?

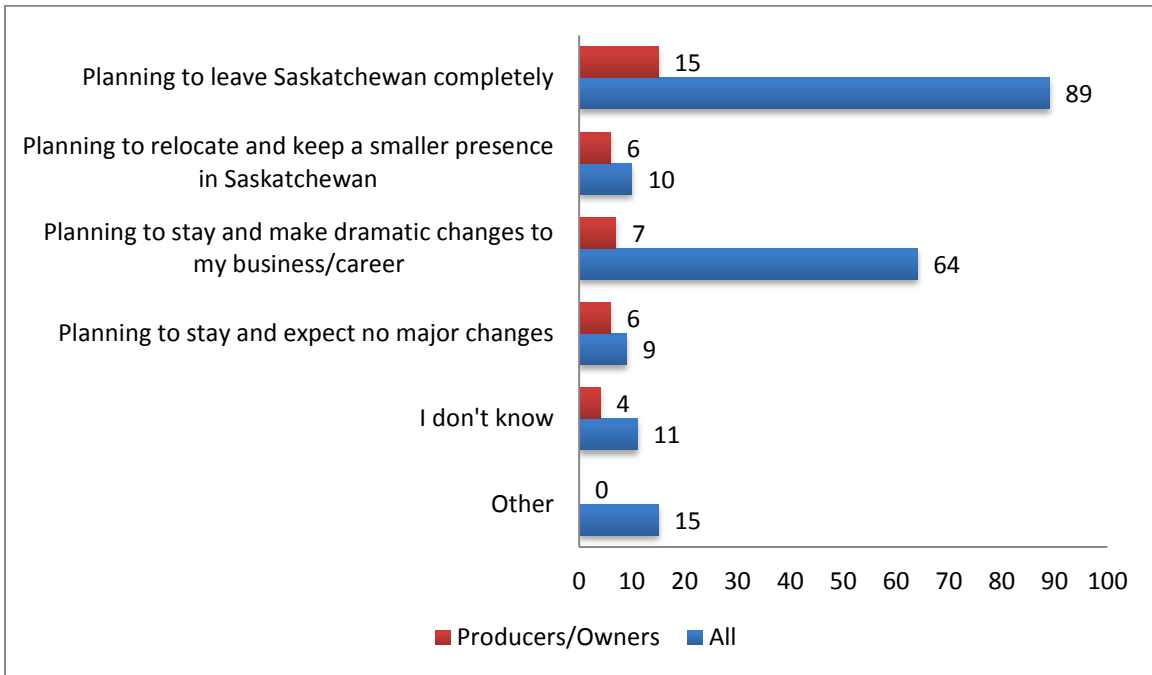
34 years ago (incorporated in 1978)
29 years - 20 million
26 years. Have produced 300 million of production in Saskatchewan
25 years in business in Sask. Hosted, wrote and/or produced over 700 episodes of national and international network programs and two films. Cumulative value of those productions near 10 million. Tens of jobs created.
200-300,000
20+ years... 3-4 million
20 years in business. Over 300 hours of programming.
20 years 1000 hours
19 years Have not used the provincial film and tax credit
17 years working in Film/TV. Incorporated 6 years. One 13 x 24 minute doc TV series, 3 x 45 minute Documentaries, approx 85 training videos, numerous multimedia/web projects, 17 short experimental films, 3 short dramas.
17 years @ \$60,000 - 75,000 per year
Don't own production company but do own Film industry equipment business. Have been incorporated since 1996. I have been in the film industry since 1991 and had a very successful business that has grown over the years.
15 years. I don't know about the entire time, but 5 million in the past year alone.
15 years, over 20 hours of tv content; several interactive multimedia projects
15 years 190 projects
15
12 years for my company but I have been working in the industry for 16. We are a small company so only about 850,000 in total.
12 Years - \$2,000,000
12
10 years - \$5 million
8 years in business and financed close to a million over the time
7 years - Since 2005. Total production \$3.8 Million
7 years - Incorporated our production company in 2005. 1.9 million in production.
6 years in terms of revenue for commercials and wedding films, its around almost a million.
6 years \$500,000
5 yrs roughly 100k each yr
5 years
4 years. \$13M (approx.)
4 years
3 years...I started in March of 2009. In 2009 I spent several thousand dollars investing in training. In 2010, I spent several thousand dollars investing in marketing & advertising. In 2011, I worked 9 months out of the year and successfully brought in more than double the wage I had received the year prior despite expenditures, but have yet to earn back what was initially invested. I anticipated this would not be until 2014.
3 years. Volume 1.5 million
3 years.

3 years, 3 movies - \$4,327,000.00 in production volume.
3 years, 1 feature documentary.
2 years, and we have produced 32 adult films in that time
2 years, 2 million
2 years
1, \$12,000
1 year
Less than a year - Since January of 2012 (prior to this I was in BC and had my company since 1992)
Less than 1 year we are currently working on our first production

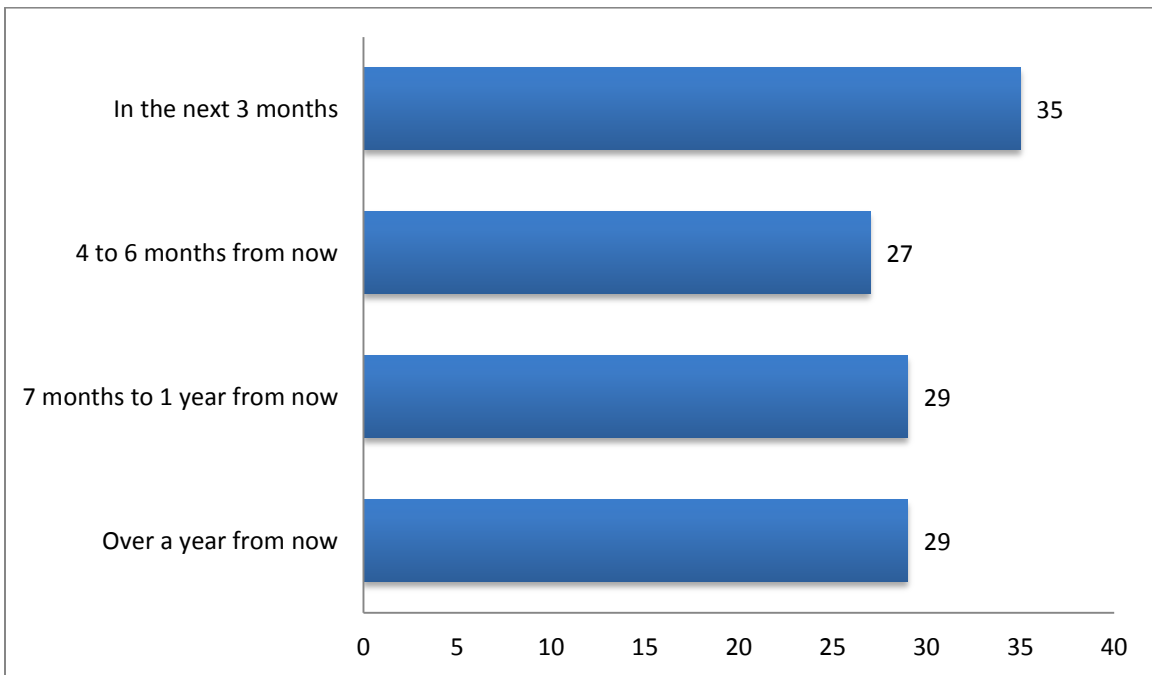
Question #4: Did you vote for the Saskatchewan Party in the last election?



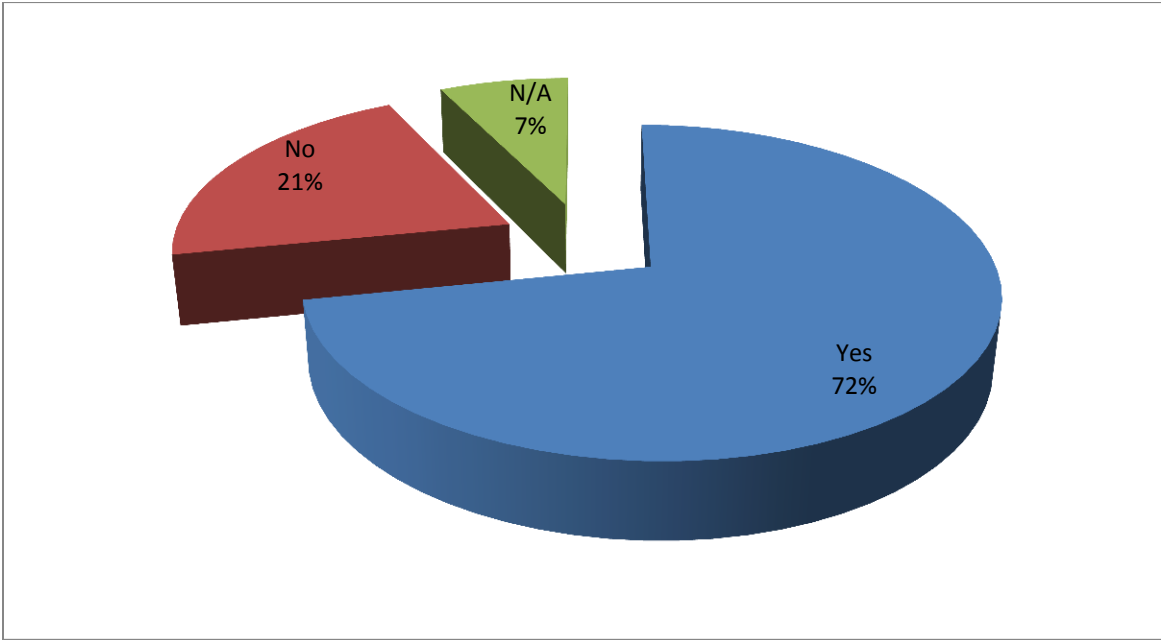
Question #5: What comes next for you? What plans are you making for the next 24 months (before June 2014)?



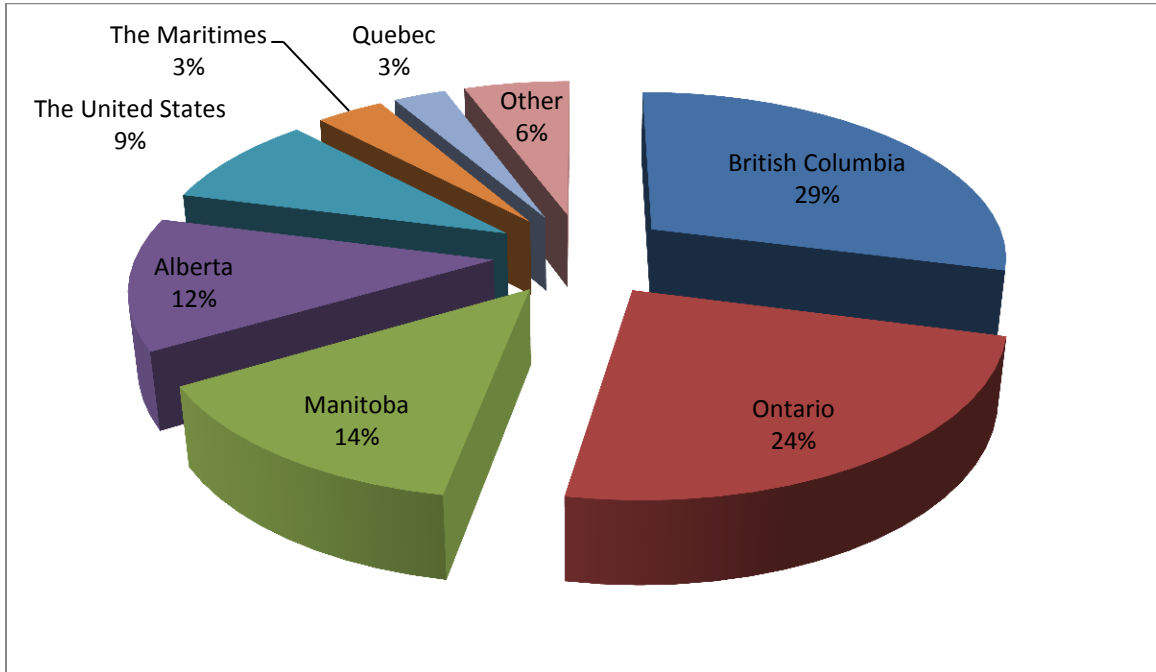
Question #6: If you are planning to LEAVE or RELOCATE your head office, when do you anticipate this happening?



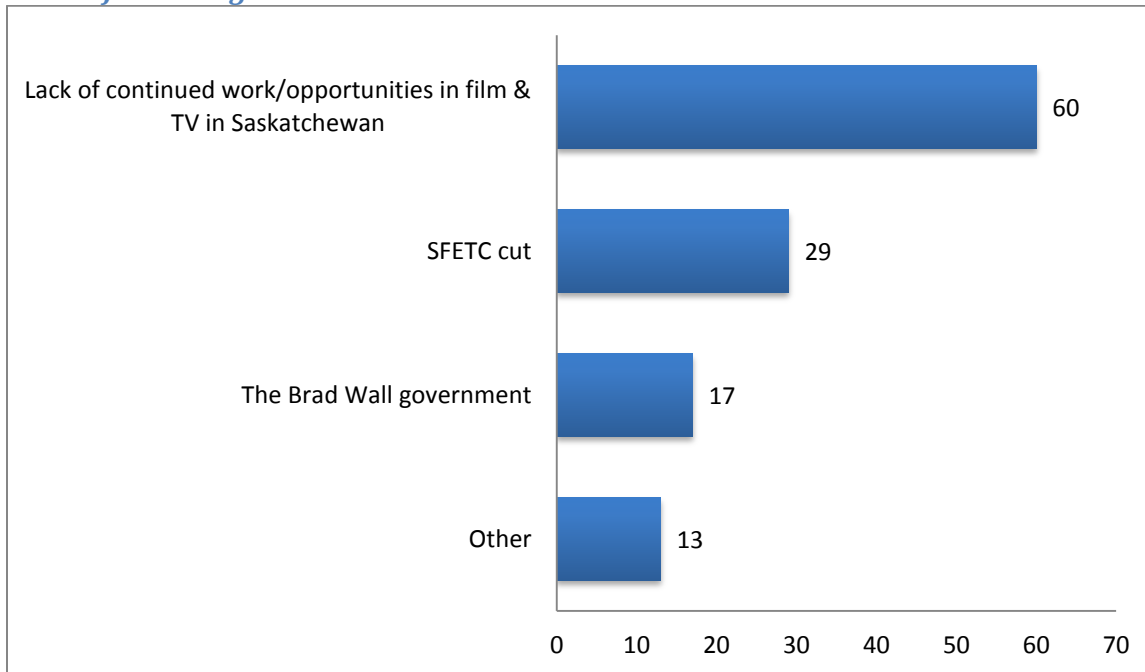
Question #7: If you are planning to LEAVE or RELOCATE your head office, will you be selling your home?



Question #8: If you are planning to LEAVE or RELOCATE your head office, where are you considering moving to (check all that apply)?



Question #9: If you are planning to LEAVE or RELOCATE your head office, what is your primary reason for moving?



No work... or extremely limited work
A non-refundable tax credit program.
After the end of June, there will be absolutely no film work available in either Regina or Saskatoon, so I will have to relocate to where I have family support and can find employment outside of the film & television industry
Bankruptcy waiting for projects that will never come again.
Because there will be no more film industry in Saskatchewan in a year from now.
Being able to take advantage of the film incentives of the specific chosen region.
Better opportunities
Both myself and my husband work in film, we will be unable to support our family with the abilities that we have spent the last ten years honing.
Brad Wall doesn't want me here.
Cannot compete in the film industry
Cancellation of the film credit
Can't support my family
Competitive work environment
Death of feature film production
Death of sask tax credit means impossible to finance shows
Don't have a head office but plan to leave given very little work in film and tv plus it seems this gov't is going to kill the arts completely in this province - I do not support them on many issues
Drastic changes to all arts based sectors and funding in Saskatchewan, watching a government ruin the province I loved and moved back for. No opportunities.
DUH!!!!
Exodus of Industry Professionals
Family
Film Employment Tax Credit Cut
Following the work

Going where I can work in the field I was trained in and not have to attempt to get MORE student loan debt to get an education in another field
Having just recently graduated and ultimately wanting to work in the art department, I feel I need to go where the work is.
How can I stay if there is no support?
I cannot live in this province when the government simply wipes out whole sectors without consultation with or consideration for those affected. I am tired of small minded, vindictive politics. If I am going to have to deal with those anyway, at least I can be warm in the winter.
I don't have an income my business will be unable to support me and my family
I have no faith that this government understands its role in culture or in this industry, and am insulted by the remarks from the minister that people in this industry are itinerate and pay no taxes.
I want to remain employed in commercial film and television production. Therefore I must move where the industry is supported and viable.
I want to work in an environment supportive of the industry I work in.
I will have no work in my chosen field
If the film industry dies here in Saskatchewan, after everything I have invested, there is no point in staying. I can at least salvage what I've done so far and make a new start in an industry I love elsewhere.
I'm leaving Saskatchewan to attend the Canadian Film Centre, with hopes of finding work after that. I've invested 21 years as an editor in the film and television industry - both through training and working in the industry professionally - and I'm not about to throw that all away. Over the last 8 years or so I had been editing two television series. The closing of SCN resulted in the slowdown and eventual end of both of them. With both of those series ended, SCN out of the picture and no other television series on the horizon my future in film and television looked rather grim, so in November I decided I would start my application and in March I was accepted to the CFC in Toronto. It is not easy for me to leave Saskatchewan but I have been out of work for several months now and if I don't take this amazing and rare opportunity I don't think I will be able to continue in this industry.
Lack of a tax credit system - the same system that even most American states offer.
Lack of business in Saskatchewan as a result of the elimination of the tax credit
Lack of industry support.
Lack of job opportunities in creative sector as a whole
Lack of opportunity
Lack of production volume due to an unsupportive government.
Lack of work
Lack of work
Lack of work.
Less projects here to edit.
Loss of opportunity and feeling of lack of appreciation or respect from government
Loss of work, loss of opportunity
Move to where the work is.
My clients, the broadcasters, will not offer me a contract if I can't finance in the same mode as other producers in other territories. It will cost them considerably more to work with me, and although they value our work, it would not be a sensible business decision for them to spend considerably more on a project from Saskatchewan.
Need tax credit
Need to work.
No acting opportunities in Saskatchewan and I also fear for the Industry right across Canada due to current right wing government's hate of/for the arts Industry.
No film or creative industries will be in SK within 2 years. I have looked at Halifax which has a lower cost of living than SK and a very good film and new media incentive program. The other option is B.C. which is the 3rd largest VFX city in North America.
No film refundable tax credit

No jobs available in my line of work.
No more jobs will be in Saskatchewan
No Refundable Film Employment Tax Credit, No Industry. I want to work in film & TV so I don't have any other choice if I want to continue this career path.
No support financial or cultural in this province.
No support from my government and there will be no work for my industry.
No tax credit
No tax credit = no work
No tax credit here at this point in history means no opportunities. I don't have three years' worth of savings to keep me going until gov't and industry sort it out.
No tax credit.
No tax incentives that are workable.
No work
No work
No work
No work in the film industry as either an actor or director.
No work.
Obviously, there are no incentives in SK.
Saskatchewan Government killing the industry and making it impossible to earn a living in this province in Film and TV industry.
So my husband and I can both be gainfully employed since the film industry is dead in Sask.
SOLELY because of the elimination of the tax credit
Tax credit
Tax credit cancellation
Tax credits and other financial incentives; availability of personnel;
The cancellation of the SFETC
The company I work for cannot produce television in Sask without a refundable tax credit.
The film industry has been my employment for 10 years. I just can't give up on it and pretend it doesn't exist anymore for me! I have to do what I'm trained for and enjoy doing!
The incentive for shooting in Saskatchewan has been terminated. Leave and live or stay and starve.
The industry will be nonexistent in 6 months
The Provincial Government
The Sask Party gov't decision has left no option to really be successful in the film industry in the way I desire
The Sask Party has made it difficult to scratch out a living here and wants us to be true starving artists. I would like to eat. (When you are not wanted why stay?)
The Sask party's elimination of the FETC prevents work from coming here - ever again. Their new suggestion for a non-refundable tax credit won't work.
The Sask. Party
There is no longer a reason to stay here. I'm tired of fighting for an industry when it's hard enough to fight for success in the industry as it is.
There will be no film industry here, so I must leave.
There won't be any work for me in Saskatchewan.
There's no work in my field in Saskatchewan. I moved home 4 years ago to pursue my career and have only struggled. Now the Sask Party has all but destroyed the film industry in the province, helping my decision to move back to BC.
To continue working in film
To do business in a province with a government that values the contribution of the cultural industry (specifically film and television sector) as a part of the economic and cultural fabric of the province and supports and invests in the well-being of this sector of the economy.
To find sustainable work and to be respected for the work I do by government.

To find Work
To make a better living in a place that actually appreciates what I've chosen to pursue in life.
To remain employed and hope for a better future for my 2 children under 5.
To remain in this business
To work!
Totally work, I am currently work in a non film job to make ends meet. I have no future in this job as all my qualifications are for film.... As is my university degree
Unable to do business here without a bankable tax credit.
We will have no clients in Saskatchewan.
Without a refundable tax credit then there is no sense in spending money on the industry in the province of Saskatchewan
Without the SFETC we can no longer produce here. As an actor there will be no more work here for me either.
Without the Tax Credit, my company cannot finance productions based in Saskatchewan.
Work
Work situation!

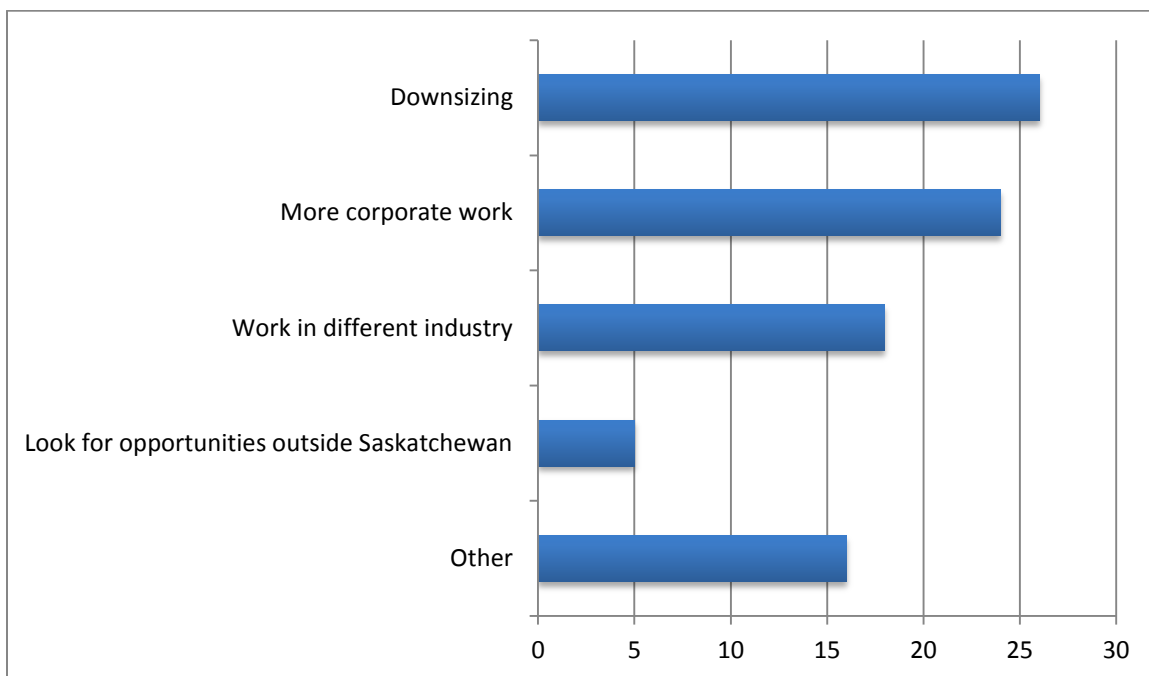
Question #9: If you are planning to STAY, what is your primary reason for staying?

Aged parent - family - my husband's family and job.
All my wife's family is here in Saskatoon.
Because I am invested heavily here financially, professionally, and personally.
Corporate work and also current temporary family commitments.
Everyone else says they are moving, I can't wait, I will be one of the few left, and business will be good.
Family
Family
Family
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family
Family
Family
Family
Family - son in University (In the arts, UGHH)
Family and job.
Family and this is my home. We have lived here for centuries (First nations)
Family commitments
Family commitments in the province.
Family is here, have another job already here
family is near
Family obligations for the near future.
Family obligations.
Family reasons
Family support while unemployed
Family would be the only reason to stay and even that isn't a definite.
Family, friends and living arrangement.

Family, friends, etc... the online nature of our work, and the fact that we were not eligible under the previous credit. However, due to the nature of our financing structure the new credit may apply to us.
Family, I'm over 65 years old and moving would not be to my best interest
Family, my life here, friends
Family, school
Family, we can't think of living anywhere else.
Family.
Family. And I want Saskatchewan to remain our home despite the current government's view towards the film & media industry.
Found work within my career and family reasons
Friends and Family
Friends, family, this has always been my home.
Going to SIAST to upgrade my skills
Going to try and get work first then make plans
Have an increasingly frustrating day job which pays the bills. Would like to quit it and act, but have family obligations to stay here and pay a mortgage, etc.
Home
Home, family and everything I love is here.
Hope for positive outcome
I am staying for the year because my husband owns a company here and wants to give it one more year to try and make things work.
I don't let the government decide for me what to do.....I'll fight for my rights with every ounce I've got!! Plus Saskatchewan is my home and Wall can't take that away from me.
I grew up here, this is my home, this is where I started film at just four years old. I've only just begun my career and already I've got such a strong crew. Now I have someone to work with and create films and ideas that will change people's way of thinking. Or at least remind them of something they had forgotten. I choose to stay because this is a province worth fighting for, this is an industry worth fighting for.
I grew up here. It wouldn't feel right to leave everything behind even though the government is trying to get rid of me.
I have another career here
I hope to outlive Brad Wall's tyranny and be here when we have a better government.
I would leave if possible but we own a farm in this province and are unable to leave
If I do stay it will be because a better deal would be struck with the Sask Party and because of the non-union people who cannot leave my business being gone would leave them without an outlet - I'd be letting them down.
My family and business and home
My family is here, I plan on staying and making it work for as long as I possibly can, and hopefully I will see a new government get voted in during the next Provincial election.
My husband owns a business here, we live on a piece of land 3rd generation in my husband's family and our parents are elderly.
My kids are almost done high school, then they're planning on moving out of province, and so will my wife and i.
My other jobs and family.
My son. Were it not for him, I'd be packing my bags already -- likely for Winnipeg.
My specific work can be gained from sourcing from outside the province. Though I do like to work locally, I get most of my projects from other provinces.
My wife has a job in sask
On a personal level, we are staying because we are rooted in Regina. Our families are here, and we have non-film industry related opportunities that we will pursue. I would prefer to move to where the films are, and the haters aren't, but for now Saskatchewan is where we will be. Business-wise, we will work from here, but keep our assets where the clients are.
Our family is all here. If I can stay and make a living here, I'd like to stay.

Saskatchewan is home for my family.
Saskatchewan is where I was born and raised. Family and friends I've known all my life are here. Not moving.
School and when that ends???
Spouse has full time job
Spouse's existing job
Stubborn. Born here, you can't make me move from my home.
The new non-refundable tax credit is a good incentive.
This is home
This is my Home. This is where my Family is. I was born here, I love the weather, the diversity of the land.
This is where I live and work. I am well respected and have a strong client base.
This province means too much to me, and being a member of the younger, less embittered generation, I feel like there is still a difference that I can help make in the larger arts community, if not in the area of Film and TV.
To take care of an elderly parent
We are launching a new marketing business that will benefit from the booming SK economy.
We are small budget. The tax break doesn't benefit us much.
Work is steady and expect it to stay that way.
Working in another field, albeit, related
Would prefer to stay in Saskatchewan so that is why I am staying short-term to see if my business is still viable

Question #10: If you are planning to STAY and anticipate changes to your business, how do you think your business will change?



Stories & Final Thoughts

Finally survey respondents were asked to share any comments or stories that they would like contribute to the snapshot of this moment in time for film, television and digital media in Saskatchewan. An expanded selection of these is included below:

“As an actor just moving forward in the industry, I was had a plan in place to help me up level myself, now with this cut and no productions I can't go ahead with my plan here in Sask. I now have to either give it up and remain here because of my family responsibilities or make a move on my own to a bigger market to put my plan into place elsewhere. This is either going to break up my family so I can pursue my dream or I crush my dream like they did and remain a member of day to day society. I did not vote for these zombies ever, never will.”

“As more film and television programming creators leave the province the likelihood of uniquely Saskatchewan stories being told to a global audience dwindles exponentially. Our ability to tell our stories to a national and international audience may be lost forever.”

“Definitely disappointed in the government's decision regarding the tax credit. Good luck to everyone who has to restructure.”

“Don't vote Sask Party. The farmers are next to have their level playing field removed.”

“I believe the cuts are political as they make no other sense to me. A 500 mil industry not worth 2.7 mil in tax cuts. Thanks.”

“I graduated from the Media Arts Production Program at SIAST one month after the announcement came for the elimination of the Film and Television Tax Credit. For a government that advertises the excellent opportunities for young people to stay and work in this province, I was pretty shocked when elimination decision was made. I have no choice but to look elsewhere for honest work.”

“I have almost lost everything. My children will have to leave their family so mommy can afford to house and feed them because of a misinformed government.”

“I hope Brad Wall's children want to work in film and they have move away.”

“I just bought a condo with my sister. For both of us this is our first mortgage. I bought it in November, just months before the Saskatchewan government announced they were cancelling the tax credit. I feel so betrayed by our government. They want young people to stay in the province, especially young, educated people. In two years I will have completed my degree in Film Production from the U of R, and I will most likely have to sell my condo and move away from the city that I've grown to love, and that I decided to make my home long after I finish university. I will not get the income tax rebate promised to all university grads that stay in Saskatchewan even though I WANT to stay in Saskatchewan. I don't want to leave, but I have to.”

“I voted for the Sask Party. I believed in them because I have a business degree and I am pro-business; the film industry IS a HUGE and viable business. I didn't think the SK Party would kill a BUSINESS industry, but they did. I'm unimpressed they cut \$8M in the budget, and yet they give boatloads more to industries MUCH larger than what the film industry is. Really? \$8M is going to be THAT much of a savings, yet it pissed off investors and gave the WORLD the message we're anti-film. It's bullshit what the SK Party has

done. I CANNOT stand the NDP, but next election I will NOT vote SK Party... If I have to vote NDP so THEY re-instate the tax credit, I will mark my "X" on the NDP slot even if the candidate is an idiot. Brad Wall and Hutchinson are bigger idiots for killing a 1:6 revenue generating industry."

"I will continue to work in film in any way I can, however there is no longer a career in it for me and I will be stuck in a dead end job for some time to come..... I can't easily move because of family responsibilities"

"I'm a young writer and researcher who has worked in the Saskatchewan film industry for the past decade. I've lived my whole adult life in Saskatchewan, and it's where I've studied, become a part of a community, and built networks of colleagues and friends. I've been proud to contribute work to films and television series about Saskatchewan science, art, agriculture, history, and culture. It's disheartening that I'm now looking for a place to live in Manitoba."

"It is ironic that Mr. Wall was on Corner Gas and then killed this industry!"

"The arts enhance critical thinking. Education provides a voice. It is good for the Sask Party if neither exist."

"Without this creative industry I would not have been able to build my skills as much as I have, I would have left this place sooner and Saskatchewan would possibly have been a more boring place to live."

"For my first feature film, I wanted to write a story that would reflect my history and home, so I set it in Saskatoon during the late sixties. The period of intense social change all over the world was even felt in this small prairie city. One significant change was that First Nations people were starting to move into urban centres like Saskatoon and the segregation caused by the reservation system was beginning to break down. I wanted to look at that time of cultural and societal change specifically through the lens of a mixed-blood (half-Native, half-white). This film tells the story of Saskatchewan's unique cultural history, and of a specific time and place. Making a film that was set here would also be an opportunity to integrate those very cultures into the telling of the story and showcasing our talent and province. Now however, it will be made by people out of province (maybe Winnipeg, maybe Edmonton or Calgary). Yes, I realize that Toronto passes for New York, and Vancouver passes for Seattle all the time, but now Edmonton will have to 'stand-in' for Saskatoon. Who would have thunk it?"

"I returned to my hometown of Regina SK after living twenty-five years away in Los Angeles. My parents, now seniors, would be close by and could watch their one year old grandson grow. My husband and I were looking forward to participating in what we anticipated as a wonderful opportunity: the chance to share and contribute to the burgeoning film and television industry here in Sk. our experience of living and working in the business for those many years (in performance, postproduction, and production capacities including at such studios as Disney, Warner Bros, Technicolor, and Twentieth Century Fox). We purchased a home here, made new friends, and enrolled my son in preschool. The sadness that we will not be able to continue here to work with people who are, in fact the hardworking pioneers of film on the prairie- including many of whom I have known personally since childhood, is particularly painful. I wish all that remain the very best in their endeavours, and hope that there will be a change which all members of the local film and television industry may benefit by- that is, of course, assuming any are left here, in this, my dear birthplace of Saskatchewan."

"I was so proud of Saskatchewan and the booming in the film industry few years ago. Feel so sorry that Hollywood North is just a big souvenir like the gold rush."

"I started in film as a high school student; I was a part Media School at Evan Hardy. It gave me more opportunities than I could've ever imagined."

"With heavy hearts I move my wife and two kids from a place we thought we'd be achieving our dreams for the rest of our lives. As the saying goes, if you wanna sell hats, you gotta go where the heads are. In our case, those heads are in Vancouver. This is still the most ridiculous, ill-sighted, completely insane decision our gov't has ever made with regard to arts and culture. At least my kids are excited to get outta here and go to place where their daddy can follow his dreams. I'm scared as hell... And I sold my house which just celebrated its 100 year anniversary. Sad... So very sad..."

"I have worked on 3 hand drawn feature films while working freelance here in Saskatchewan, with a plan to gain enough experience in my field to possibly open a studio here. With the recent activity it will make things even more difficult to do so. I've been proud to be able to work primarily in Saskatchewan; I've also had to move in the past for work in my field the time may come that I may have to move again."

"I would like to thank Saskatchewan for allowing me to have the last 21 years in a successful thriving life changing business. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the present Saskatchewan government for shooting my family, business and thriving career in the head. I am so thankful that they care about their small businesses and tax payers. I have lived and worked hard in Saskatchewan most of my life and I am sad to say that this is for the first time in my life I am ashamed to be a Saskatchewan resident. My Saskatchewan government stood up in front of their people and blatantly lied about The Refundable Tax Credit and accused the Film industry of being trouble makers. I have been a hard working tax payer and created a small money making business that supported a family of 4 for the last 22 years and now with one incredible stupid slash I have been put out of business."

"Crippling the film & media industry completely goes against the government's supposed policy of wanting a high return on investment, creating innovative jobs, being a leading province for all of Canada, being competitive on a world stage, and encouraging young people to stay or return to Saskatchewan. The double-standard they have for all other industries compared to the film & media industry makes me sick."

"Both myself and my husband were born and raised here in Saskatchewan. Growing up here, when we were the have-not province. We expected that we would have to leave like the rest of the young people wanting successful careers outside agriculture or trades. We were lucky though. Being artistic and knowing that I wanted a career in the animation industry. I really did not expect to be able to stay here. I was fortunate enough to find a small private Animation School in Saskatoon, where I met my future husband. We both felt very fortunate to be able to stay in our home province and still be able to use our artistic abilities. Ten years go by, working in film/animation, getting married, buying our first home and now raising our two beautiful sons. We own a house in Dundurn and spend large amounts of time with our extended family. Because of the cut of the SFETC we will have to sell our home, leave our wonderful extended family, raise our boys far away, and contribute our specialized skills for the benefit of another province. On a side note, our household supported the Sask Party and have voted for them in every election. I personally have been a part of the Sask Party almost from the beginning, when I was just a teenager, helping with literature drops and envelope stuffing, my mother has been actively involved and is known in the Party and until now she has encouraged us and the majority of her extended family to support the Sask Party. Because of this unjustified, ill-informed decision, because of the choices of those in power of the Sask Party at this time, because of the lack of respect that has been given to an entire

industry and all who are affected by these decisions. I will no longer support the Sask Party and will do my utmost to dissuade anyone I know from supporting them. My trust of our current government is broken and I can no longer support something that does not support me or those like me.”

“I wanted to create narrative TV shows, dramedies, sitcoms, or prime time dramas about families that are set in this beautiful province. However, Saskatchewan will be a cultural wasteland if the current government (federally and provincially) keep cutting funding for the arts.”

“I am a student studying set and costume design out of province and feel that this will discourage myself and others to return to work in Saskatchewan upon graduation”

“I live in Regina - and have for 43 years now. My mothers' grandparents moved from Ontario to Saskatchewan in the 1860s. My fathers' grandparents moved from Romania to Saskatchewan in the 1900s. My mother Ramona had a career as a psychiatric nurse from 1945 until 1959 before marrying and becoming a home-maker. My father Bill started a demolition company in 1954 and retired the day he died in 2005. I was born at the Regina General Hospital, and attended Glen Elm Park Elementary School, from which I graduated with an A average and delivered the Valedictory address. My education continued at Central Collegiate and F.W. Johnson Collegiate, from which I also graduated with an A average, received a special recommendation for achievement in Art, and also delivered the Valedictory address. At that time I assumed the pursuit of an education and career in film (locally) would not be possible. I was very happy to discover that I was mistaken. My post-secondary education was at the University of Regina (BFA Program: Film Production & Theatrical Design). I was able to fund this education through academic scholarships, and because of the generosity of local film and television producers who took the risk of hiring a rookie (me) on various productions. These were and are opportunities not so easily afforded in larger centers of production. In earnest, my full time career began in 1992. During those early years I made a 'reasonable' living (for a single, young punk). With the introduction of the SFETC in 1998 the local industry flourished, and for me, a truly viable local career became possible. Because of the SFETC and the Canada-Saskatchewan Soundstage, I've been able to remain in the province I love, in the community I love, with the family and friends that I love, as well as work with Academy (and Golden Globe, AFI, Sundance, BAFTA, Golden Bear, Palm d' Or, Gemini and Genie) Award winning actors and technicians from all over the world. When professionals from Los Angeles, Paris, Berlin, Toronto, Vancouver, Rome, London, and New York recognize and compliment my skills and encourage me to seek things "bigger and better" than our Saskatchewan industry, I feel a tremendous sense of pride. Some of that pride is for my own efforts, but just as much pride is for those I work with and the province I love. I am proud of being able to say "Thanks, but I'm fine right here in Saskatchewan - I don't need to move". I have worked in 7 Canadian provinces and 24 countries around the world - and from this perspective - I really don't feel there are things "bigger and better" than living and working here in Saskatchewan. Just like its' people, this province is amazing and beautiful. And this is my home. So, that's my story. I'm telling it not because it's special or unique. I tell this to you because my story isn't special and I'm not unique at all within the Saskatchewan film industry. I am intelligent, educated, talented, hard-working, resourceful, determined, and loyal. And so are the 300+ other local (tax paying) film & media technicians whom I'm thankful to know and work with. And so are the (tax paying) people in the 1000+ jobs servicing the industry. And so are the hundreds of (tax paying) business owners that gain significant business income (and pay business tax) from film production investment. Eliminating the SFETC is a decision that I do not understand. Because as working families in Saskatchewan, WE ARE the 'Saskatchewan Advantage'. Just like oil, potash, forests, crops, uranium, and diamonds - WE THE PEOPLE are valuable. And by canceling this program, you will be throwing away these precious resources.”

"I have been working in the film and television industry for 23 years in Saskatchewan and have made a wonderful career here in this province. The reason for this note is plain and simple I do not want to be forced out of my province and work in another province. I am 47 years old and have elderly parents who need me to help them in their day to day lives. I also have many friends who have known me since high school, good friends. I have sisters who have families and to not be part of their lives anymore pains me. To me this is about family and friends, my support system and without them I have nothing. I don't want to leave behind what I love so much."

"Born and raised on a farm in Sask. and have spent 28 years in the film industry, Vancouver and LA and the past 14 years here in Saskatchewan. The film community here is second to none in talent and skills, and are among the nicest people I have ever met. Such a shame the Provincial Gov't has chosen to destroy the considerable efforts by so many over the past of 20+ years in just a few short months. A most unfortunate political blunder in the cultural and economic landscape of this province."

"This was my home, my kids have grown up seeing the film industry regularly because I worked in it. Which developed into their own dreams of being actors. To accomplish their dreams they CANNOT do it in Saskatchewan anymore."

"I spent 6 years working my way up in this industry, too have it killed overnight for right wing ideological reasons is such a slap in the face. I appreciate my time and the expertise I acquired in this province, but just like Canada as a whole it is being run into the ground by a bunch of people who can't see anything but resource extraction and farming as a way too make a province or country viable, the sask boom will quickly go back to a sask bust with leadership like this."

"I was born and raised in Saskatoon. I left for college and was told that once I got out there in the world I would never come back. Well, after college I did come back. I was told I was crazy, but I came back home to Saskatchewan to start my career in film and television anyway. Fourteen years later, along with thirteen Gemini nominations resulting in 5 wins, 7 Golden Sheafs, 5 LA Web Fest wins, and a Kidscreen Award - all for shows that I was a part of making - and here I am packing my belongings and planning a move to Toronto to attend the Canadian Film Centre. I would be going to Toronto to attend the CFC whether or not the SFETC was cancelled, however now I am left wondering will there be a film industry in Saskatchewan for me to come home to? Will there be something to bring my new found experiences, contacts and skills back to? Will I be able to justify coming back home ever again?"

"My family and I were planning to stay in Saskatchewan forever. We are in the middle of building a house in Harbour Landing and our future looked bright. Now, because of the governments decision to abandon the refundable tax credit, I may not even get a chance to live in it. As a result, they are loosing not only myself but my wife and 2 children to another province."

"I was a 'late bloomer' in the industry, and became involved in film/TV during 'Corner Gas'. I was so happy that I didn't have to leave Saskatchewan to pursue work in the industry, I jumped in with both feet. I've acted, been a background performer, a security guard, production asst., set dresser, and grip. I fell in love with the industry, and the variety of jobs it offered to me, and as such have learned, and grown in my own life a great deal. I don't want to stop working in film/TV, and my intent is to seek out those jobs I love, wherever they may be. I'm disappointed, to say the least, in what has happened here in my home province, and no longer feel I have anything left here for me without being able to work in the field of my choice. My daughter has already told me she would visit me wherever I end up, and my mother (in her 70s) is encouraging me to follow my path."

"I planned on growing old in this province and likewise raising my children here, near their cousins and extended family. That dream has been shattered. My 93 year old Grandmother, who currently sees my children every week to two weeks and hears from me a few times a week, will likely only see my kids a couple more times in her entire lives because of the elimination of the tax credit."

"Brad Wall has LIED to his own people, the industry, the people of Sask. and the people of Can. Get this story out across Can. using his own words, explaining in simple language, the TRUTH of our money making industry!!!"

"After being awarded a century family award just a few short years ago for my family maintaining the same land for over a century I still can't believe I am being forced out of the province by the government. I just received a graduate retention check in the mail, but I do not feel very welcome here at home. I am proud of where I come from. I was proud to be nominated for the Best of Saskatchewan award at the Yorkton Film Festival. It was an honor to show my film in Reykjavik Iceland as the only Canadian present between Toronto and Vancouver, and I will be very sad to no longer call Saskatchewan my home. But I don't really see any other choice."

"I was able to move back home to Saskatchewan from Vancouver to continue my career as an actress and produce Saskatchewan stories. We did very well here and it is such a shame that Saskatchewan people now have to leave again becoming skilled exports from our province."