



SASKATCHEWAN MEDIA PRODUCTION
INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

MEDIA ADVISORY

June 27, 2012

Saskatchewan Film Employment Tax Credit Ends

This Saturday marks the deadline for the Saskatchewan Film Employment Tax Credit and the end of the vibrant and successful Saskatchewan film industry as we know it.

The Government of Saskatchewan had announced the elimination of funding to the Saskatchewan Film Employment Tax Credit effective June 30, 2012, at its last provincial budget. A new non-refundable program was later announced, despite the Saskatchewan Media Production Industry Association (SMPIA) argument that this type of model has not worked in any other jurisdiction and will not work here.

“Our industry has worked very hard to reach a workable agreement with government leaders, but despite our best efforts, the government has continued to proceed with a non-refundable program that has proven to be ineffective in the few jurisdictions that have actually pursued such a model,” said Ron Goetz, SMPIA president.

“The limited time constraints that were placed on our industry made it impossible to complete the necessary research needed to develop an alternative solution that could both satisfy the government and meet the needs of the industry,” he continued. “As it stands, the loss of the tax credit has effectively put an end to Saskatchewan’s role as a major market for film and television production.”

In the coming days, film industry workers will be faced with difficult choices as they decide whether to relocate their businesses and families outside of the province, or stay. “Many, myself included, have already decided that the only way to secure a viable future in the industry is to leave the province. Others will remain. We wish them the best, and hope that the government will one-day reverse its decision,” he said. “To us, being a ‘have’ province means making Saskatchewan a place where we all ‘have’ an opportunity to work toward and realize our dreams. This has been, unfortunately, very much a step in the wrong direction.”

SMPIA extends a heartfelt thank you to the numerous national, provincial and local sources that supported, and continue to support, the association and the Saskatchewan film community at large during these trying times. The association plans to host a public celebration to commemorate the Saskatchewan film and television industry’s numerous past achievements, the details of which will be released in the near future.

For more information contact Ron Goetz at (306) 525-6361 or Holly Baird at (306) 529-7880.