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**From:** Colin MacDonald [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 05, 2015 3:01 PM  
**To:** Office of the Legislative Counsel  
**Subject:** Bill 108, the Financial Measures Act

Law Amendments Committee

Bill 108

The Financial Measures Act

My name is Colin MacDonald and I wish to submit my opposition of Bill 108, the financial measures act and changes being made to the film tax credit.

I was born in Nova Scotia and it is where I will always call home. I have been fortunate enough to work in the film and television industry since 2008 after I graduated way from the Nova Scotia Community College Screen Arts program.

I have worked as production assistant, assistant editor and camera operator on feature documentaries and television series. Most of these have gone off to be shown all over the world, win numerous awards and garnish a tremendous amount of exposure for the film industry here in Nova Scotia

On top of all that, I have also had the opportunity to form my own production company under which I have produced award winning short films and collaborated with a number maritime-based musicians and artists to produce and direct their music videos.

I have travelled, have learned new skills and have grown as a person and as a professional craftsman. I have discovered that being a filmmaker is what I am meant to do with my life.

Everything that I have been building towards was attacked on April 9th when Diana Whalen and the Department of Finance tabled a budget that would single handedly destroy this provinces thriving and growing film and television industry. All of which was based on lies and misinformation. Her 'facts' in regards to the amount of revenue that the film industry injects into the Nova Scotian economy was skewed incorrectly, simply because she discounted the millions of dollars brought into the province by the Canadian Media Fund. Please tell me how does that make sense?

They came to wild assumptions of the impacts cutting the tax credit would have on the industry simply because they refused to consult with the industry before making the cuts.

The based their decisions on numbers and studies that were generated as far back as 2004. Please tell me how you can make such drastic changes to an industry with data that is eleven years old. Let's also not forget that there was a socio-economic impact assessment done on the film and television industry in 2008 prepared by Canmac Economics Limited, which called the film industry "an anchor for Nova Scotia's general economic and social prosperity"

While, I recognize that the department of finance has taken the initiative to meet and work with the industry to improve the situation, I personally feel like it's too little too late and I have lost all respect and trust for this government.

I am incredibly proud of what I've accomplished in my career thus far and I have only just begun. All I want is to be able to continue doing what I love where I love to do it. That is why I have been fighting the past month, to save my career, my friends careers and to save a growing, profitable, vital industry and I will continue to do so everyday until this grievous mistake is fixed. If I could convince you to do one thing before you make your decision on the act, is to walk the streets of Halifax and count every single 'I Support NS Film' sign plastered around this city. It's not just film people asking you to fix what you have broken; it is Nova Scotia telling you to fix it.

The people have spoken, now it is your job to listen.

Colin MacDonald