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My name is Megan Wennberg and I work as a writer, director, story editor and script supervisor. Because even when things are going well out here, we need to be versatile.

I'm originally from New Brunswick, and when I was growing up I never dreamed I would get to make movies or television. But after graduating from university, I moved to Halifax and I found out there was a film industry here. I thought that was pretty much the coolest thing ever, and for the past ten years I have been slowly and painstakingly working to be a part of it.

Last year was the first year I was able to do work I love, and be paid a liveable amount of money to do it. And just to be clear, I'm talking under \$50,000. Which is not great, especially since I bought a house, but for me it was still exciting.

And it validated a choice I made a few years ago after graduating from the Canadian Film Centre in Toronto, when I chose to return to Nova Scotia. When I was at the CFC, no one there could understand why I was even considering coming back here. They thought it was career suicide.

But I told them about all the opportunities I've had here. How I've been able to pursue my dreams of writing and directing my own work, while also getting jobs on other shows. And how I've gotten to do this with crews of the most talented, dedicated and hard-working people I've ever met.

But then April 9th happened, and I have never been more ashamed to be Nova Scotian.

And remember – I'm from New Brunswick.

I remember when the Conservative Government there decided to axe the film tax credit, and I watched as a bunch of highly skilled people picked up stakes and moved here. Because no one thought Nova Scotia would pull a more boneheaded move than New Brunswick. Especially not a Liberal Government.

But wow did you prove us wrong.

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And I'm not sure what the worst part is.

That Stephen MacNeil broke an explicit election promise?

That Diana Whalen took 20 minutes to decimate an industry that was over 20 years in the making?

Or that all of this was done without consultation with, or understanding of, the industry they sought to backstab and destroy.

None of that is okay, and going forward the government cannot be allowed to operate in such a callous, clueless fashion. It's bad for everyone, and it needs to change.

In the future, before recklessly destroying an industry, the government needs to have a clear understanding of how that industry operates.

Consultation must take place and studies must be performed to determine the true costs and benefits.

And in the case of cultural industries such as ours, these studies must not only include all financial data, they must also take into account the tremendous value arts and culture bring to our communities, our province and our lives.

I ask that the government suspends implementation of any of the changes affecting the film industry until such study and consultation has taken place.

I also ask that Film and Creative Industries Nova Scotia be reopened immediately.

I'm not a producer, but I know that all the local production companies I work for had ongoing relationships with Film and Creative Industries which made it possible for them to do business here, and hire people like me. The fact that no solid transition plan was made before locking them out is atrocious.

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Film and Creative Industries was also a huge supporter of emerging talent, and without them I'm deeply concerned about our ability to retain, let alone attract, the next generation of filmmakers and industry professionals.

As I hope has become clear by this point in the day, there has been a lot of damage done, and we're all still reeling. But despite everything that has happened, I still have hope that it can be put right. And that's where you all come in.

The film and television industry in Nova Scotia is unique. And it's important. Not just to me, and the others speaking here today, but to the entire province. And as our elected officials, it's your duty to protect it. Please fix this, and put measures in place to ensure it never happens again. Thank you.