



May 5, 2015

The Law Amendments Committee , Nova Scotia Legislature

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Lenore Zann

My Name is Christopher Zimmer and I am a filmmaker, producer, and writer. I live in the Head of St. Margaret's Bay.

First of all as an immigrant to Canada and to Nova Scotia and a proud citizen, I have delighted in promoting the province , its people and stories wherever and whenever I can. I, like many others, have chosen Nova Scotia as a place to live, work, play, raise a family and call Nova Scotia home. I , like many others, have chosen the creative industries as a field of endeavour to contribute to the story of Nova Scotia and to its economy.

Ideas – whether expressed as films, plays, music, visual art, stories, books, blogs, pots, sculpture, are the raw materials of our culture. Our culture is not just in the past, nor it is just what is current and trendy, it is also what is to come in the future.

But when I see this Government, blinders on, choose to ignore this value – both the cultural value and the economic value, choose to dismember a successful arms' length institution and its programs without any debate or consultation with its stakeholders, or serious consideration of what we have and what we, the people of Nova Scotia, are going to lose, I have to question whether there is really a thoughtful plan in place.

It is a privilege to be able to make a movie. It really is. To take an idea, write it down, play it out with actors, record it with skilled filmmakers and present it to the world is a rare challenge and obligation. We are aware of this privilege. Yet we are also aware that this endeavour creates meaning, creates jobs, identity, pride, self- awareness, and we hope, a modest place in history. It also supports families, charities, small businesses, schools, car mechanics, teachers, doctors, dentists, nurses, grocery store

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clerks and tycoons, fishermen, farmers, winemakers and yes even government bureaucrats and politicians.

So what is the future for Nova Scotians? We could look to continue to sell our land, our forests, our minerals, our marine life and eke out a diminishing quality of life as these resources are rapidly sold off and depleted, or we can invest in the renewable human resource of our people, choose to maintain and create a wholesome cultural and economic environment that will attract visitors and investment in our ideas and our Province.

Over the past thirty-three years our company has spent co-production dollars; investment dollars "from away" in Glace Bay, Sydney, Port Hood, New Waterford, English town, Baddeck, Cheticamp, Port Hawksbury, Antigonish, Truro, Wolfville, St Croix, Tantallon, Hubbards, Chester, Mahone Bay, Lunenburg, Riverport, Liverpool, Shelburn, Digby Yarmouth, Annapolis Royal and Halifax. And the images of these places have gone out around the world. Our filmmakers have worked as equals with filmmakers in the UK, Netherlands, Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Poland, Spain, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Venezuela, Mexico, Japan, India, China and this is only on our projects. This network of international business and culture is now at risk.

The ability to continue this work and to pass on to future generations of Nova Scotians the chance to build on this experience has been jeopardized. There are solutions to financial constraints but they will not be found in hasty, reactionary decisions but in careful and imaginative long term planning.

Finally I would like to say that we should celebrate and laud the successes we have had and will have. That an actor such as Ellen Page can go from working in small films in Halifax on to fame and stardom, or that a producer start up a successful international children's' media company as Michael Donovan has done, reflects well on all of us.

The rising tide carries all boats with it. Let's make sure that we can continue to stay afloat.

Chris Zimmer.

Christopher Zimmer is a Nova Scotia Producer and writer who has produced Margaret's Museum, New Waterford Girl, Love and Death on Long Island, and numerous International productions. He has also produced the animated series For Better or For Worse and several Rita Macneil documentaries. Currently the company he owns with Ann Bernier, Vertical Productions inc, is preparing a Mexico-Canada animated film COATI, a Canada-UK- Venezuela feature film drama about human trafficking An Ordinary Seaman, and a Canada- China co- production Delicious! (Zhen Xian!) to be shot in Wolfville and Beijing. They hope to be able to produce these films and more in Nova Scotia.

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