

Law Amendments Committee
Re: Changes to the Nova Scotia Film Labour Tax Credit

I want to introduce my business and myself to you. My name is Cindy D'Orsay I am a Producer and I own and operate a small independent film and television production company. Our company produces and provides support personnel to television series, feature films, movie of the weeks and commercial productions in Nova Scotia, and have done so since 2007.

I have been shocked, angry and sad, these last four sleepless weeks, since the unveiling of the 2015 provincial budget and their changes to the Nova Scotia Labour Tax Credit. These changes have literally killed the film and creative industries.

Yes, it is a hard cold fact that the liberal government has killed the film Industry in our province.

In the last election one of Premier McNeil's campaign platforms was directed at the Arts and Culture Industry. **"Strengthening Nova Scotia's heart and Soul" !!!** The Liberal Party promised to extend the tax credit for the next 5 years and streamline access to the tax credit application. These promises were not kept !!!

We do thank the government for meeting with our representatives from Screen Nova Scotia but I feel that "The Deal" that it has been put forth will not enable the industry to survive and grow. Instead the new grant system now has our industry on life support.

1. Outside broadcasters & producers will no longer come to Nova Scotia, the new rules are just not competitive enough to where they once were. Nova Scotia always had to offer more to bring them to our tiny part of the world.
2. With the closing of Film & Creative Industries Nova Scotia there is no arm of the government with ANY experience in facilitating film production's needs.
3. The gutting of the Labour Tax Credit with no consultation means producers in and outside of Nova Scotia have lost all confidence and trust in our governments plans for any new tax credit/fund system, temporary or permanent.

These three crucial items mean the loss of not just this year's film season but the beginning of the end of our entire industry.

Without the ability to be competitive, to offer knowledgeable film production government resources and have the comfort level to know the rules will not change again, productions will not come. Skilled people will leave, in fact they are already leaving, taking with them the income and tax revenue that the province so desperately needs.

I feel that the Premier and Finance Minister didn't question the Finance Department's recommendations and decisions concerning our industry while preparing this year's budget. They didn't take the time to consider or understand that the drastic changes put forward would impact so many people, businesses and rural communities.

Now we have an industry in turmoil, skilled workers leaving the province and all Nova Scotians much less trusting of the very people we elected.

I am devastated to think that my liberal government, who I have supported my entire life, is now forced me away from my home, family, and all the things that I love. All this could have all been avoided with a little consultation and effort to understand the fragile balance that keeps film production possible in this province

I stand here today before this committee to have my voice heard and my objections on record.

Sincerely

Cindy D'Orsay
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