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From: PunchBuggyBlue [REDACTED] >
Sent: May-05-15 8:11 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Law Amendment Committee - Re: Nova Scotia Film Industry

I have great concern for the proposed changes to the Nova Scotia Film Tax Credit. **I would like for the government to examine the economic and cultural impact that reducing this "tax credit" will have on our province before making any changes to it whatsoever.**

Be sure that when Film Industry Professionals from outside of Nova Scotia decide to come here for production they bring with them 2 things:

- their ideas and
- their money (lots of it.)

Everything else they need, they have to pay for once they get here. And that means millions of dollars into our economy. Isn't that what every government hopes for?

The Film industry provides

- wages to thousands of people from actors, to film crew to agents and casting directors.
- These businesses in turn pay taxes, rent office space, and buy supplies to run their business.
- pays to rent facilities, equipment, catering and supplies. The amount of money spent in these areas is huge! I've heard that the total for last year was \$150M in NS spending, this at a cost to government of \$24M. **(and that's the gross cost, some of that money comes right back to them through Provincial Income Tax and Sales Tax.)**

Show me where I can get a 600% return on my money....I'm in!!

Is the math supportive of changes to the Film Tax Credit? Will Nova Scotians be sacrificing their jobs, industry, and lifestyle for the greater good of the province? It does not seem to be the case. In the end, cutting the tax break will cost this province a lot in lost income tax, business tax, cultural enrichment and prosperity.

A balanced budget is not everything. A balanced lifestyle and a balanced culture are also important. Sometimes you have to spend a little to get a lot.

The Nova Scotia Film Industry is an environmentally friendly, diverse industry. In my opinion it's one worth growing, not strangling by either reducing the refund opportunities, or otherwise capping the amount spent. My dad always said "if it ain't broke, don't fix it." Well, the Film Tax Credit (erroneously named as it is) was thriving, and bringing more and more Film Business to Nova Scotia. This tucked away peninsula in the East.

I am not directly employed by the Film Industry. I am a self-employed Nova Scotian with great concern for our economy, culture and well-being. We need to have productive and pleasing work to be happy.

Perhaps most importantly of all -- Our culture is what defines us as Nova Scotians. **Living "way out East" as we do we have to be creative, artistic and inspired. It's what makes us friendly interesting Nova Scotians, instead of a disgruntled group of call centre workers or government employees.** Working in Film Industries allows us to use these creative gifts to enhance the world we live in. What are we without the Arts?

Most arts don't pay. Film Does.

The Film Industry brings a little bit of Big City to our humble cities and towns. And we are enriched for it. Why should students be studying acting, animation, and digital technologies here at our local colleges and universities if there is no (or very little) future in the industry here at home?

I do not understand at all why you would end our dreams and potential future in this abrupt and unexpected way.

Please give this issue the attention it needs, and delay any changes to investment in the Nova Scotia Film Industry until proper and thorough consultation and economic impact study have been done.

Lisa Pattison

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