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From: Matt Likely [REDACTED]
Sent: May-05-15 4:33 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 108 (Financial Measures Act) Film Tax Credit

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Matt Likely and I work as an Art Director in the Nova Scotia Film Industry.

I grew up in Saint John New Brunswick and had a keen interest in film and television. I have boxes and boxes of old movies that my friends and I used to make growing up. When I was about to graduate high school, one of my media studies teachers suggested that I take a look at going to post secondary school in Halifax to pursue a career in the digital arts.

A friend and I drove to Halifax to tour some schools over a weekend. This turned out to be a very important weekend for me. I saw that there was a vibrant arts community here, schools catering to these skills, and likeminded people.

I decided Halifax, Nova Scotia was where I wanted to be. I moved here at 18 years old to go to school and create a career.

This year marks 10 years that I've made my living working in the film industry. I've moved my up the ladder with hard work. I bought a house in Dartmouth. I plan to have children very soon. I have made Nova Scotia my new home. I was a Nova Scotian success story. That is now in danger.

I am not alone. There are thousands of us feeling this way.

I write you today not because I'm scared that some sort of dream job is being taken away from me -- people that know our industry know that we work long, stressful days, and the time between jobs is even more stressful -- I write to you because I can't understand the ham fisted, backwards approach that this Liberal government has used over the last several months to make these changes. The word 'cruel' keeps coming to mind.

You have caused unnecessary stress on the thousands who work directly in this business, their families and loved ones, the 18 year old who dreams of working in this industry like I did, the students from NSCC and NSCAD who hope to work in the business, and the small business owners who rely on this industry.

The Finance Minister has admitted to learning things about the industry and it's provincial impact through the consultations AFTER she announced the budget. Learning things is great. WHY and HOW was she able to make these drastic changes to the film tax credit without proper consultation prior to making the new budget? This change will have an impact on thousands of people and their families.

I ask that these changes to the Nova Scotia Film Tax Credit be pushed back until a proper economic impact study has been performed. I ask that you listen to the thousands strong that will have their lives uprooted if these changes take place. I ask that you show some compassion.

I want to stay in Nova Scotia. As an only child I want to be close to my parents and be able to take care of them as they age. I want to keep my house in Dartmouth and raise a family in it.

Again, I am not alone.

We want to stay. We want to believe that our government is compassionate and concerned for it's people. Help us believe.

Thank you for your time,
Matt Likely

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Matt Likely



www.mlikely.com