

FILMONTARIO

FILM · TELEVISION · INTERACTIVE

February 28,2008

The Honourable Josee Verner
Minister of Canadian Heritage, Status of Women and Official Languages
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Verner,

Greetings from screen-based industry consortium, FilmOntario.

FilmOntario is a private sector consortium 30,000 strong, of companies, producers, unions, guilds and organizations within the Ontario screen-based sector (film & television and interactive media), and over \$1.5 billion in annual economic direct spend.

We are writing to you to ask that no changes be made to the production certification process as determined by the Canadian Audio-Visual Certification Office (CAVCO) until a fulsome, national industry-wide public consultation has been completed.

The scope and seriousness of the proposed amendments to the Income Tax Act which would allow the Minister of Canadian Heritage to deny eligibility of tax credits on completed productions determined to be contrary to public policy would absolutely devastate the financing structure of the screen-based industry in Ontario and this country.

CAVCO certification is a critical trigger for bond qualification, bank facilities, co-production and other funding access, both Federal and Provincial.

As the majority of screen-based production proceeds only if this condition is in place, the proposed change would leave this national \$5 billion dollar industry uncompetitive, unworkable and effectively stopped in its tracks.

We urge you to suspend the reading in the Senate or pursuing royal assent of C-10 until a comprehensive, national industry-wide public consultation has occurred and its findings incorporated.

We look forward to being of service to you in this consultation process and thank you for your urgent consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Sarah Ker-Hornell
Managing Director
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cc

Her Excellency, the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada
The Honourable James M. Flaherty, Federal Finance Minister
The Premier of Ontario, The Honourable Dalton McGuinty
The Honourable Dwight Duncan, Ontario Finance Minister
The Honourable Aileen Carroll, Ontario Culture Minister
The Honourable Sandra Pupatello, Ontario Minister of Economic Development & Trade
Robert Soucy, Director, CAVCO
Jean-Pierre Blais, ADM Cultural Affairs, Canadian Heritage
Jean-Pierre Gauthier, Director, Film and Video Policy and Programs, Cdn Heritage