

**For immediate release**

**A good first step in ensuring Diversity of Voices in Canadian broadcasting, but the CRTC still has a way to go to ensure appropriate broadcaster support for Canadian programming, says Directors Guild of Canada**

*Toronto, January 15, 2008* - The Directors Guild of Canada (DGC) is very pleased with the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission's (CRTC) Diversity of Voices policy announced today. However, the Commission did not go as far as it could have to ensure that Canadians will have access to a diversity of voices on TV. Maintaining broadcaster transfer benefits was a key component of the DGC's submission last fall. The Commission's recognition of the importance of these benefit monies in the creation of original Canadian programming is an important victory for the television and film industry.

"Benefits monies represent a significant portion of funding for Canadian drama and must remain in place to ensure that we have a diversity of voices on Canadian television," says Brian Anthony, DGC National Executive Director and CEO. "We have seen that where broadcasters are required to support Canadian drama through expenditures, they will support it and they will do it effectively. *Corner Gas* and *Degrassi: the Next Generation*, two leading Canadian drama success stories, have directly benefited from expenditure requirements for Canadian drama – that is, transfer benefits," adds the CEO.

"The new policy, however, overlooks the issue of on-going conventional broadcaster expenditure requirements," says Monique Lafontaine, DGC General Counsel and Director of Regulatory Affairs. These regulatory requirements are essential to the success and vitality of the Canadian broadcasting system. "It is unfortunate that the consideration of these issues has been postponed once again to the time of the licence renewal hearings, which could be a year away," says Lafontaine.

The DGC will appear at the licence renewal hearings to strongly advocate for on-going broadcaster support for Canadian drama.

**About the Directors Guild of Canada**

The Directors Guild of Canada (DGC) is a national labour organization that represents over 3,800 key creative and logistical personnel in the film and television industry covering all areas of direction, design, production and editing. The DGC negotiates and administers collective agreements and lobbies extensively on issues of concern for members including Canadian content conditions, CRTC regulations and ensuring that funding is maintained for Canadian film and television programming.

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