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**For immediate release**

## **Throne speech ignores cultural sector, says Directors Guild of Canada**

*Toronto, October 17, 2007* - The Directors Guild of Canada (DGC) is deeply disappointed by the government's Speech from the Throne delivered yesterday in Ottawa. The speech, delivered by Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, is almost entirely devoid of any mention of Canada's cultural sector. While the DGC is pleased that the speech did mention the need for improved intellectual property rights, it makes no specific mention of Canada's film and television production sector.

"This is a vibrant and growing sector in Canada. In 2005-2006, it was responsible for approximately \$4.80 billion in film and television production, \$1.95 billion in export value, and directly employed 47,000 Canadians. It also generated a further 76,500 jobs in other industries," says DGC president, Alan Goluboff. "This is a valuable sector for Canada both from an economic and cultural perspective. We find it immensely disappointing that the Canadian television and film production sector, which has an incredible potential for growth in the years to come, has not been made a priority for the government," adds the president.

The DGC recently recommended in a written submission to the Standing Committee on Finance that the next federal budget include measures to support Canada's audiovisual sector. "Our recommendations are intended to advance important Canadian cultural and economic policy goals including support for Canada's competitive position in the world," says Monique Lafontaine, DGC General Counsel and Director of Regulatory Affairs. "Increasing federal tax credits, as well as providing stable funding to the CTF, Telefilm and CBC will generate large rewards in productive activity, employment skills, technology development, and export value for our country. Together this positively contributes to our cultural sovereignty," adds Lafontaine.

### **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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