

## **ELECTION QUESTIONS**

### **1) Investment in Film, Television and New Media**

The film, television and new media industry has enjoyed impressive growth and development in the past few decades. However, due to a number of external factors, the industry has been experiencing significant difficulties of late.

WHAT WOULD YOUR PARTY DO TO ENSURE THE FUTURE VITALITY OF THE INDUSTRY?

HOW WOULD YOUR PARTY REINFORCE SUCH PROGRAMS OF DIRECT INVESTMENT AS TELEFILM CANADA AND THE CANADIAN TELEVISION FUND?

HOW WOULD YOUR PARTY STRENGTHEN THE CBC AND THE NFB, KEY CULTURAL AGENCIES IN THIS FIELD?

HOW WOULD YOUR PARTY IMPROVE AND EXPAND THE FEDERAL TAX CREDIT PROGRAM?

WHAT WOULD YOUR PARTY DO TO ENCOURAGE GREATER PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN FILM, TELEVISION AND NEW MEDIA PRODUCTION BY CREATING FEDERAL TAX INCENTIVES?

### **2) Increased Access to Markets**

Canadian film and television productions do not receive adequate exposure in our cinemas and on our television screens. More should be done, too, to increase access to foreign markets, but recent cuts to the Foreign Affairs PromArt program and the Canadian Heritage Trade Routes program will weaken our ability to do so.

IN ORDER TO EXPAND THE DOMESTIC MARKET FOR CANADIAN PRODUCTIONS AND ALLOW CANADIANS TO SEE MORE OF THEMSELVES, WHAT WOULD YOUR PARTY DO TO ENCOURAGE ENHANCED EXHIBITION OF CANADIAN PRODUCTIONS IN OUR CINEMAS AND ON TELEVISION?

WHAT WOULD YOUR PARTY DO TO INCREASE GREATER ACCESS TO FOREIGN MARKETS BY RESTORING FUNDING TO PROMART AND TRADE ROUTES AND BY WAY OF SUCH PROGRAMS AS THE PROGRAM FOR EXPORT MARKET DEVELOPMENT, THE EXPORT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION AND OTHER CULTURAL PROMOTION AND TRADE INITIATIVES?

### **3) Copyright**

The current copyright legislation is long overdue for revision, and amendments to the Act were tabled in the House earlier this year. The new Bill as it currently stands does not, for example, adequately define the author of an audiovisual work to recognize the authorial rights of a director who has had a significant role in the creative process. Other issues affecting creative personnel in this field also need to be addressed.

WHAT WOULD YOUR PARTY DO TO BRING FORWARD NEW COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION WHICH ENSHRINES THE RIGHTS OF DIRECTORS AND OTHER KEY CREATIVE PERSONNEL WORKING IN FILM, TELEVISION AND THE NEW MEDIA?

### **4) Ownership Restrictions**

Current federal policies require strong ownership and control in the broadcasting field, and place stringent limits on foreign involvement. These measures are key to ensuring that this vitally important sector remains in Canadian hands and that the Canadian voice will continue to be heard. Pressures to loosen such restrictions, however, do make themselves felt from time to time.

WHAT WILL YOUR PARTY DO TO ENSURE THAT EFFECTIVE RESTRICTIONS REMAIN IN PLACE TO ENSURE A CANADIAN OWNED AND CONTROLLED SECTOR AND TO THEREBY SAFEGUARD OUR CULTURAL SOVERIGNTY?

### **5) Labour Force Issues**

The film, television and new media work force is a large, predominantly self-employed talent pool and a great national resource. In a rapidly evolving environment, however, issues such as education and training, skills upgrading and professional development need to be addressed, and the recent cancellation of the National Training Program in the Film and Video Sector will reduce opportunities. Similarly, the fluctuating nature of employment in the sector requires general recognition and such specific measures as income averaging for tax purposes and access to social security programs.

WHAT WILL YOUR PARTY DO TO PROVIDE INCOME AVERAGING FOR TAX PURPOSES FOR CREATORS AND CULTURAL WORKERS IN FILM, TELEVISION AND THE NEW MEDIA?

WHAT WILL YOUR PARTY DO TO ENSURE THAT SELF-EMPLOYED INDIVIDUALS WORKING IN FILM, TELEVISION AND NEW MEDIA HAVE ACCESS TO SOCIAL SECURITY PROGRAMS AND LABOUR LAW PROTECTION?

WHAT WILL YOUR PARTY DO TO RESTORE FUNDING TO THE NATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM IN THE FILM AND VIDEO SECTOR AND TO ENSURE THAT THERE ARE

CONTINUING OPPORTUNITIES FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, SKILLS UPGRADING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR THOSE WORKING IN THIS SECTOR?

## **6) Censorship**

This year there has been sustained debate over a provision of Bill C-10 that would deny federal tax credit certification to productions deemed “contrary to public policy”. This measure not only raised the spectre of censorship, but created a cloud of uncertainty that caused some financial institutions to reconsider providing interim financing to productions.

WHAT WOULD YOUR PARTY DO TO ENSURE THAT SUCH SWEEPING POWERS ARE NOT USED TO STIFLE CREATIVITY AND DETER INVESTMENT?