

## **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?**

Individual arts and cultural workers depend on making changes to the tax and benefits programs of the nation so that they may enjoy a standard of living comparable to their fellow Canadians. This is more than merited by the enormous contributions that they make to the whole of Canadian society.

Arts and Culture are at the heart of well-being for the citizens of this nation. The Green Party of Canada is thus committed to strong support for the individuals and organizations in Canada who create, produce, consume, perform, distribute, and market Arts and Culture at all levels of society.

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

We will continue and increase support for those cultural institutions that are within the Heritage Canada portfolio, including Telefilm Canada and the Canadian Television Fund.

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

As previously stated, we will continue and increase support for those cultural institutions that are within the Heritage Canada portfolio: Canada Council, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC), the National Film Board (NFB).

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

The Green Party of Canada would extend income tax relief and incentives to artists (on the very successful models established by Ireland and the city of Berlin).

Doing so will:

- encourage artists to settle in Canada and build businesses here
- result in other (usually) white collar “clean” industries that follow the arts jobs and dollars
- help to provide meaningful jobs to university and college graduates
- enrich schools and their offerings thereby attracting immigrants to settle in rural areas
- revitalize and discover talent in communities where traditional industries are declining and young people are leaving

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

As previously stated and mentioned in the labour section, we encourage greater involvement in Film, Television and New Media production in numerous ways. Offering tax incentives is only one of many options for these productions.

**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?**

We would enact legislation that requires cinemas and video chains to have at least 20 % Canadian content, similar to requirements for television and radio stations in Canada.

**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?**

Canada has developed and international reputation by respecting cultural diversity, and this must continue in the 21st century. The Green party would propose reforms of the World Trade Organization (WTO), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, placing these institutions under the authority of the UN General Assembly, and shift the direction of international trade away from "free trade" to "fair trade" focusing on the global protection of human rights, labour standards, cultural diversity, and ecosystems. We will also ensure that Canada's cultural identity is protected during trade negotiations.

### 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?**

It is imperative that reforms of the copyright act respect the balance of granting privilege to the creators of intellectual works with the needs of the public to interact with, critique and enjoy these works. The Green Party recognizes that the interests often are not always antagonistic: creators of intellectual property can, and have, benefited from controlled and well articulated levels of fluency with the public domain. Copyright legislation needs to be progressive in embracing technological evolution and permitting consumers to continue to exercise their fair dealing rights. We believe that Bill C-61 was not an effective way to protect and stimulate our cultural institutions.

Copyright legislation must evolve with the culture it is protecting, and the rapid evolution in technology has made it pertinent to revisit today. Tantamount to reforming copyright legislation is protecting the interests of Canadian producers and consumers of intellectual property. Responsible and reciprocal treatment of our international partners will follow from clearly defining our domestic interests.

In order to achieve these objectives the Green Party of Canada will:

- Establish a copyright registry that will facilitate tracking and protecting of copyrights where registration is optional for the original author, but mandatory upon the transfer of ownership or death of the author;
- Remove the Levy on Blank Audio Recording Media and replace it with private copying exemptions;
- Introduce a formal notice-and-notice mechanism for dealing with copyright infringement online, thereby affirming common carrier status for Internet Service Providers (ISPs);
- Renounce the Crown Copyright applied to all government produced documents, thereby immediately releasing them into the public domain;
- Hold consultations with music and movie industry artists, producers and distributors along with citizen's assemblies to address the issues of online peer-to-peer networks.

#### **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?**

Canadian cultural activities express Canadian identity at home and internationally, create places for the voices of our aboriginal peoples, our cultural diversity, our two founding nations. Due in large part to the richness of Canadian performing arts, literature, film, and media Canada is perceived abroad as a multi-cultural, creative, tolerant, and dynamic country. Canadian culture is something we need to protect, preserve and promote.

The Green Party of Canada believes that it is critical to maintain Canadian majority ownership of our media and communication sectors and support the current law. We also feel that there needs to be greater diversity of ownership in current private media outlets and greater support for public broadcasting.

The surest way of maintaining our identity is to support and foster a distinctly Canadian culture.

If elected, Green Party MPs would wholly support arts and culture with a Canadian flavour and majority Canadian ownership.

## **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?**

We would also change the Canada Revenue Act to allow arts and culture workers to benefit from a tax averaging plan that will take into account the fact that lean years often precede and follow the good year when a show is produced, a book is published and a grant or a prize is won.

### **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?**

We will follow and implement recommendations of Canadian Conference of the Arts in order to enable artists to access various social programs including Employment Insurance, Worker's Compensation and Canada Pension Plan.

### **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?**

The Green Party believes we must provide incentives to all provinces and territories to restore and improve Arts and Culture components to schools and extra-curricular activities not only in urban but also in rural areas. We also need to equalize federal funding for Arts and Culture among provinces, territories and municipalities to make it consistent with the provinces and municipalities that have the highest current standards. Increased support for community arts

programs and facilities across Canada by establishing stable base-funding at a set percentage of the federal budget is also required.

## **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?**

The Green Party of Canada is totally opposed to Bill C-10. We do not believe that Conservative politicians or appointed bureaucrats ought to be making decisions about what is or is not a worthy art form.

Many of our best filmmakers would be disqualified under C-10 – Egoyen, Arcand for example. Politicians are simply unqualified to be making such judgements. They ought to let creators, producers, and audiences decide what is worthwhile culture or not, decisions that will respect diversity.

Mr. Harper’s Conservatives are undermining one of the historical cornerstones of Canadian democracy with C-10 -that of arm’s length jurisdiction over Canadian cultural and communications institutions. C-10 smacks of the type of control of critical free thinking that we have seen carried out by the Republicans in the USA. Canadians do not want to go in this direction. It would seem that Americans are tiring of such control these days as well.